



NSW Education Standards Authority

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Centre Number

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Student Number

**2023** HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION

# Studies of Religion II

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## General Instructions

- Reading time – 5 minutes
- Working time – 3 hours
- Write using black pen
- Write your Centre Number and Student Number at the top of this page and pages 5, 7 and 11

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## Total marks: 100

### Section I – 30 marks (pages 2–11)

This section has two parts, Part A and Part B

- Allow about 50 minutes for this section

Part A – 15 marks

- Attempt Questions 1–11

Part B – 15 marks

- Attempt Questions 12–22

### Section II – 30 marks (pages 13–17)

- Attempt TWO questions from Questions 23–27
- You must NOT choose the same Religious Tradition in both Section II and Section III
- Allow about 1 hour for this section

### Section III – 20 marks (pages 18–19)

- Attempt ONE question from Questions 28–32
- You must NOT choose the same Religious Tradition in both Section II and Section III
- Allow about 35 minutes for this section

### Section IV – 20 marks (page 20)

- Attempt Question 33
- Allow about 35 minutes for this section

## Section I

30 marks

Allow about 50 minutes for this section

### Part A — Religion and Belief Systems in Australia post-1945

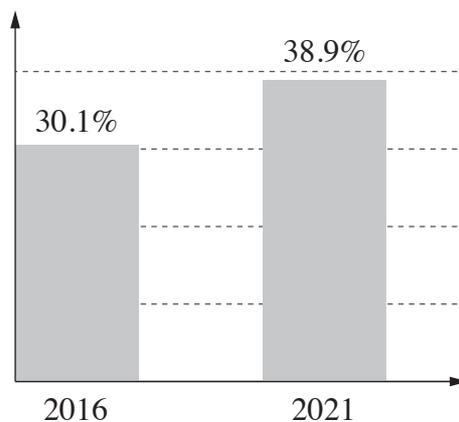
15 marks

Attempt Questions 1–11

Use the multiple-choice answer sheet for Questions 1–10.

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- 1 According to the 2021 Australian Census, which of the following religious traditions is the fastest growing in Australia?
- A. Buddhism
  - B. Hinduism
  - C. Islam
  - D. Judaism
- 2 The graph shows how Australians responded to a question about religious affiliation in the 2016 and 2021 censuses.



Source: 2021 National Census of Population and Housing

Adapted from the 2021 National Census of Population and Housing,  
Religious Affiliation/ABS © Commonwealth of Australia

Which response about religious affiliation is represented by the graph?

- A. No religion
- B. Christianity
- C. Other religions
- D. Aboriginal spirituality

- 3** Which of the following best describes secularism?
- A. The promotion of religion in society
  - B. The allocation of funding for all churches
  - C. The role of government reporting into religious practice
  - D. The separation between government affairs and religion
- 4** Which of the following is an example of denominational switching?
- A. Roman Catholic to Pentecostal
  - B. Uniting Church to Hinduism
  - C. Islam to a New Age religion
  - D. Judaism to Buddhism
- 5** Why is the relationship between ceremonial life and the Dreaming important?
- A. It allows for the worship of ancestral beings.
  - B. It is the most significant aspect of Aboriginal life.
  - C. It is practised in the same manner by all communities.
  - D. It provides a way for Aboriginal people to express their spirituality.
- 6** Which of the following best reflects the main purpose of interfaith dialogue?
- A. To promote the growth of new religious traditions
  - B. To establish a common belief system among all people
  - C. To foster positive attitudes and actions that celebrate religious diversity
  - D. To create networks for Christian leaders to interact and establish joint projects
- 7** A key objective of ecumenism in Australia is to increase
- A. promotion of secularism.
  - B. awareness of sectarianism.
  - C. participation in New Age religions.
  - D. commitment to sharing the values of the Gospel.

**8** Statement 1: Kinship defines where a person fits into their family and community.

Statement 2: Kinship is determined by an individual's choice of totem.

Which of the following is correct?

- A. Both statements are true.
- B. Both statements are false.
- C. Statement 1 is true and Statement 2 is false.
- D. Statement 1 is false and Statement 2 is true.

**9** In May 2022, a group of religious leaders signed a joint statement in response to the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

‘As leaders representing diverse religious communities, we declare our support of the Uluru Statement and its call for a First Nations Voice guaranteed by the Constitution.’

Courtesy of the National Council of Churches in Australia

Through this statement, religious leaders were showing support for the

- A. reconciliation process.
- B. apology for past injustices.
- C. ‘Closing the Gap’ campaign.
- D. land rights claims for different communities.

**10** Which of the following statements best explains why the Stolen Generations have struggled to connect with their Aboriginal spirituality?

- A. There is disruption to the maintenance of kinship groups.
- B. There are no Elders to pass on essential knowledge of the Dreaming.
- C. There are fewer sacred sites on the land to carry out initiation ceremonies.
- D. There is limited understanding about totems to give meaning to individuals.



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Centre Number

## Studies of Religion II

### Section I (continued)

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Student Number

#### Part B — Religion and Non-Religion

15 marks

Attempt Questions 12–22

Use the multiple-choice answer sheet for Questions 12–21.

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- 12 Religious traditions do NOT aim to
- A. separate morals and individual actions.
  - B. promote the importance of faith within society.
  - C. provide sacred texts and writings for reflection.
  - D. teach individuals about challenging social issues.

- 13 Statements about four people are shown.

Alex struggles with religious teachings on reproductive health.

Jo has a weekly stall at the markets reading Tarot cards.

Mel sees importance in making money and buying new things.

Sam connects with people through social media.

Which person is most likely to be materialistic?

- A. Alex
- B. Jo
- C. Mel
- D. Sam

**14** Wellbeing events are held regularly in Australia. Over the past ten years, the most popular aspects of these events have been in the spiritual and personal development sector.

What does this popularity reflect?

- A. Scientific progress
- B. The rise of materialism
- C. Search for individual fulfilment
- D. Growth of environmental awareness

**15** Which of the following is a feature common to both monotheism and polytheism?

- A. The acknowledgement of many transcendent deities
- B. The acknowledgement of a supernatural dimension to life
- C. The belief that making offerings will win favour with the divine
- D. The belief that humans accept ultimate responsibility for their own destiny

**16** Four people make the following statements.

DREW:	I find inspiration in nature and in connecting with my spirit animal.
HUONG:	I do not believe in God because I have one life to enjoy.
LEE:	I am really not sure what I believe, but I hope there is something to this life.
RANIA:	I believe my actions in this life will be judged and rewarded in the afterlife.

Which of the following is correct?

- A. Lee is animist and Drew is theist.
- B. Huong is theist and Lee is atheist.
- C. Drew is agnostic and Rania is atheist.
- D. Rania is monotheistic and Huong is atheist.

- 17** Which of the following best explains why religious traditions seek ways to build community in the modern world?
- A. To achieve social cohesion
  - B. To raise ecological awareness
  - C. To replace traditional worldviews
  - D. To contribute to social transformation
- 18** Statement 1: Religion provides a sense of purpose for all individuals.  
Statement 2: The religious dimension is a significant element of human history.
- Which of the following is correct?
- A. Both statements are true.
  - B. Both statements are false.
  - C. Statement 1 is true and Statement 2 is false.
  - D. Statement 1 is false and Statement 2 is true.
- 19** Which of the following best describes the difference between a religious and non-religious worldview?
- A. Applying a moral framework
  - B. Advocating for environmental sustainability
  - C. Searching for answers from transcendent beings
  - D. Celebrating traditions that mark significant milestones
- 20** Which country has the largest number of Buddhist adherents?
- A. China
  - B. India
  - C. Indonesia
  - D. Malaysia
- 21** Which of the following is true of religious affiliation?
- A. Judaism is the largest tradition in Spain.
  - B. Islam is the dominant religion in Indonesia.
  - C. Buddhism is the largest religion in the United States of America.
  - D. Christianity is practised by less than half of the population in Canada.

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## Studies of Religion II

### Section II — Religious Tradition Depth Study

**30 marks**

**Attempt TWO questions from Questions 23–27**

**Choose DIFFERENT Religious Traditions in Section II from the one you choose in Section III**

**Allow about 1 hour for this section**

Answer both questions in the Sections II and III Writing Booklet. Extra writing booklets are available.

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#### Question 23 — Buddhism (15 marks)

- (a) *Set your heart on doing good.* **5**

GAUTAMA BUDDHA

With reference to the stimulus, explain how ONE ethical teaching in Buddhism is applied in order to encourage adherents to do good.

In your answer, refer to ONE of the following:

- bioethics
- environmental ethics
- sexual ethics.

- (b) Analyse the importance of ONE significant practice to the adherents of Buddhism. In your answer, refer to ONE of the following: **5**

- Pilgrimage
- Temple Puja
- Wesak.

- (c) How is the contribution of ONE significant person or school of thought, other than the Buddha, evident in Buddhism today? **5**

**Question 24 — Christianity (15 marks)**

- (a) *For we are ... created in Christ Jesus to do good works.* **5**

Ephesians 2:10

Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV® Copyright ©1973, 1978, 1984,  
2011 by Biblica, Inc.® Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

With reference to the stimulus, explain how ONE ethical teaching in Christianity is applied in order to encourage adherents to do good.

In your answer, refer to ONE of the following:

- bioethics
- environmental ethics
- sexual ethics.

- (b) Analyse the importance of ONE significant practice to the adherents of Christianity. In your answer, refer to ONE of the following: **5**

- baptism
- marriage ceremony
- Saturday/Sunday worship.

- (c) How is the contribution of ONE significant person or school of thought, other than Jesus, evident in Christianity today? **5**

**Question 25 – Hinduism (15 marks)**

- (a) *The person who is always involved in good deeds experiences divine happiness.* **5**

RIG VEDA

With reference to the stimulus, explain how ONE ethical teaching in Hinduism is applied in order to encourage adherents to do good.

In your answer, refer to ONE of the following:

- bioethics
- environmental ethics
- sexual ethics.

- (b) Analyse the importance of ONE significant practice to the adherents of Hinduism. In your answer, refer to ONE of the following: **5**

- marriage ceremony
- pilgrimage
- temple worship.

- (c) How is the contribution of ONE significant person or school of thought, other than the Vedas, evident in Hinduism today? **5**

**Please turn over**

**Question 26 — Islam** (15 marks)

(a) *Serve Allah and do good.* **5**

*Qur'an 4:36*

With reference to the stimulus, explain how ONE ethical teaching in Islam is applied in order to encourage adherents to do good.

In your answer, refer to ONE of the following:

- bioethics
- environmental ethics
- sexual ethics.

(b) Analyse the importance of ONE significant practice to the adherents of Islam. **5**  
In your answer, refer to ONE of the following:

- Friday prayer at the mosque
- funeral ceremony
- Hajj.

(c) How is the contribution of ONE significant person or school of thought, other than Muhammad and the Four Rightly Guided Caliphs, evident in Islam today? **5**

**Question 27 — Judaism (15 marks)**

- (a) *Trust in the Lord, and do good.* **5**

Psalm 37:3

Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV® Copyright ©1973, 1978, 1984,  
2011 by Biblica, Inc.® Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

With reference to the stimulus, explain how ONE ethical teaching in Judaism is applied in order to encourage adherents to do good.

In your answer, refer to ONE of the following:

- bioethics
- environmental ethics
- sexual ethics.

- (b) Analyse the importance of ONE significant practice to the adherents of Judaism. **5**  
In your answer, refer to ONE of the following:

- death and mourning
- marriage
- synagogue services.

- (c) How is the contribution of ONE significant person or school of thought, other than Abraham or Moses, evident in Judaism today? **5**

**Please turn over**

## Section III — Religious Tradition Depth Study

**20 marks**

**Attempt ONE question from Questions 28–32**

**Choose a DIFFERENT Religious Tradition in Section III from the ones you chose in Section II**

**Allow about 35 minutes for this section**

Answer the question in the Sections II and III Writing Booklet. Extra writing booklets are available.

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Your answer will be assessed on how well you:

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding relevant to the question
  - incorporate significant aspects of religion to illustrate your answer
  - communicate using language and terminology appropriate to the study of religion
  - present ideas clearly in a cohesive response
- 

### **Question 28 — Buddhism (20 marks)**

How does Buddhism guide adherents towards living a better life? Make reference to at least TWO of the following:

- significant person or school of thought
- ethics
- significant practices.

### **Question 29 — Christianity (20 marks)**

How does Christianity guide adherents towards living a better life? Make reference to at least TWO of the following:

- significant person or school of thought
- ethics
- significant practices.

**Question 30 — Hinduism (20 marks)**

How does Hinduism guide adherents towards living a better life? Make reference to at least TWO of the following:

- significant person or school of thought
- ethics
- significant practices.

**Question 31 — Islam (20 marks)**

How does Islam guide adherents towards living a better life? Make reference to at least TWO of the following:

- significant person or school of thought
- ethics
- significant practices.

**Question 32 — Judaism (20 marks)**

How does Judaism guide adherents towards living a better life? Make reference to at least TWO of the following:

- significant person or school of thought
- ethics
- significant practices.

**Please turn over**

## Section IV — Religion and Peace

**20 marks**

**Attempt Question 33**

**Allow about 35 minutes for this section**

Answer the question in the Section IV Writing Booklet. Extra writing booklets are available.

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Your answer will be assessed on how well you:

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding relevant to the question
  - incorporate significant aspects of religion to illustrate your answer
  - communicate using language and terminology appropriate to the study of religion
  - present ideas clearly in a cohesive response
- 

**Question 33** (20 marks)

*There will never be peace on earth until we find peace in ourselves.*

With reference to the stimulus, evaluate the response of TWO religious traditions to the issue of peace.

**End of paper**