



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission

Leaving Certificate Examination 2021

Religious Education

Ordinary Level

Friday 25 June Afternoon 2:00 – 4:00

Total Marks 240

General Directions for Candidates

CANDIDATES MUST ANSWER THE FOLLOWING

- **ONE QUESTION FROM UNIT ONE**
- **ONE SECTION FROM UNIT TWO**
- **ONE SECTION FROM UNIT THREE**

UNIT ONE

YOU MUST ANSWER PARTS *a)* AND *b)* FROM **ONE** OF THE FOLLOWING THREE QUESTIONS.

(All questions carry 80 marks each)

SECTION A THE SEARCH FOR MEANING AND VALUES

QUESTION 1. THE QUEST FOR MEANING

- a) ● THE GOAL AND PURPOSE OF LIFE ● THE MEANING OF GOOD AND EVIL

Describe **two** examples of how people asking questions about *either* of the above issues can be seen today in art, literature, music or youth culture.

(40 marks)



(Source: blog.tcea.org)

- b) *People of all times have used art and artefacts to express ideas about the meaning of life.*

Outline how the human search for the meaning of life can be seen in **two** works of art or artefacts from an ancient culture that you have studied.

(40 marks)

QUESTION 2. THE TRADITION OF SEARCH

- a) Explain **two** reasons why a person could become indifferent to the search for the meaning of life in society today.

(40 marks)

- b) ◆ CHRISTIANITY ◆ ISLAM ◆ JUDAISM

Examine how the religious practice of members, in **two** of the above religions, is influenced by their particular understanding of God.

(40 marks)

QUESTION 3. PHILOSOPHY

- a) ● THE DUALITY OF HUMAN NATURE ● THE IMPORTANCE OF IDEAS ● THE NATURE OF REALITY

Outline the thinking of Plato on **two** of the ideas listed above.

(40 marks)

- b) Describe an example of how Aristotle further developed any **one** of Plato's ideas.

(40 marks)



(Source: illimvemedeni.yet.com)

UNIT TWO

YOU MUST ANSWER ANY *TWO* OF PARTS: *a), b), c)* FROM **ONE** OF THE FOLLOWING
THREE SECTIONS.

(All sections carry 80 marks each)

SECTION B CHRISTIANITY: ORIGINS AND CONTEMPORARY EXPRESSIONS

- a) Describe **two** examples of how Jesus taught his followers about the characteristics of the 'Kingdom of God' through his words or actions. (40 marks)
- b) Explain **two** ways that Jesus' preaching about the Kingdom of God was different to how it was understood by the Jewish people of his time. (40 marks)
- c) Examine how **one** Christian denomination today tries to carry on the mission of Jesus through its work. (40 marks)

SECTION C WORLD RELIGIONS

- a) Describe what is involved in **each** of the following features of primal religion:
● MANA ● SHAMAN ● TABU ● TOTEM (40 marks)
- b) Examine the general world-wide distribution of members today in **each** of the following religions: ♦ BUDDHISM ♦ CHRISTIANITY ♦ HINDUISM ♦ ISLAM ♦ JUDAISM (40 marks)
- c) Choose **one** religion from List A and **one** religion from List B below:
LIST A: ♦ CHRISTIANITY ♦ JUDAISM LIST B: ♦ BUDDHISM ♦ HINDUISM ♦ ISLAM
Compare the understanding of salvation/liberation found in the teaching of the **two** religions chosen above. (40 marks)

SECTION D MORAL DECISION-MAKING

- a) Describe a moral issue that was a major concern for people living in **each** of the following ancient civilisations: ● THE HEBREWS ● THE ROMANS (40 marks)
- b) Discuss the role that moral freedom can play in helping a person's growth towards moral maturity. (40 marks)
- c) Explain how there has been a change in thinking, since the Enlightenment, about the morality of **one** of the following issues:
● CAPITAL PUNISHMENT ● CHILD LABOUR ● SLAVERY (40 marks)

UNIT THREE

YOU MUST ANSWER *EITHER PART a) OR PART b)* FROM **ONE** OF THE FOLLOWING FOUR SECTIONS.
(All sections carry 80 marks each)

SECTION E RELIGION AND GENDER

- a) *World religions regard men and women as equal.*

Examine the evidence for this statement in the sacred texts associated with **two** of the following religions:

◆ BUDDHISM ◆ CHRISTIANITY ◆ HINDUISM ◆ ISLAM ◆ JUDAISM (80 marks)

or

- b) *The contribution of women to religious traditions can be seen in the life stories of —*

● FOUNDERS & REFORMERS ● RELIGIOUS WRITERS ● SOCIAL REFORMERS ● SPIRITUAL THINKERS
OF RELIGIOUS ORDERS

Choose **one** woman from any of the above categories and describe her life story using **each** of the following headings:

- i. Her faith/commitment. (40 marks)
ii. Questions raised by her life and work. (40 marks)



(Source: Adapted from cerisnet.org)

SECTION H THE BIBLE: LITERATURE AND SACRED TEXT

- a) Describe **two** examples of how oral traditions have been preserved in the Hebrew Scriptures. (80 marks)

or

- b) ● THE PROLOGUE (JOHN 1:1-18)
● THE SERMON ON THE PLAIN (LUKE 6:20-49) ● THE TRANSFIGURATION (MARK 9:2-13)

Examine **one** of the above New Testament texts using **each** of the following questions:

- i. What was the original background/context of the text? (40 marks)
ii. What does the text say about the relationship between God and people? (40 marks)



(Source: JFJFP.com)

SECTION I RELIGION: THE IRISH EXPERIENCE

- a) Describe **two** examples of the way that Saint Patrick adapted Pre-Christian practices during his mission in Ireland. (80 marks)

or

- b) i. Describe **two** features of the Christian Church that had been developed in Europe at the time of Saint Patrick. (40 marks)
ii. Profile **two** ways that the Christian Church in Ireland contributed to the development of Christianity in Europe in the centuries immediately after the time of Saint Patrick. (40 marks)



(Source: irish history links.net)

SECTION J RELIGION AND SCIENCE

- a) i. Describe the understanding of creation/the natural world that is found in **one** of the following religions:
◆ BUDDHISM ◆ CHRISTIANITY ◆ HINDUISM ◆ ISLAM ◆ JUDAISM (30 marks)
- ii. Discuss the reasons why Darwin's theory of evolution was seen as being in conflict with a religious understanding of creation/the natural world. (50 marks)

or

- b) i. Outline the way in which *either* the origins of the universe *or* death and dying are approached from a scientific point of view. (40 marks)
- ii. Compare the approach taken to *either* the origins of the universe *or* death and dying in the teaching of a major world religion with that found in a scientific point of view. (40 marks)



(Source: Adapted from www.religiousnaturalism.org)

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