



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission

Leaving Certificate Examination 2021

Religious Education

Higher Level

Friday 25 June Afternoon 2:00 – 4:30

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 TWO QUESTIONS.

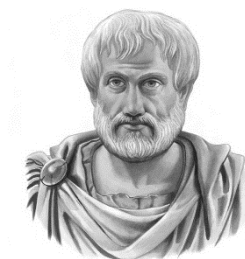
(All questions carry 80 marks each)

SECTION A THE SEARCH FOR MEANING AND VALUES

QUESTION 1.

- a) *Imagine you have the chance to talk with Aristotle about the impact of his ideas on philosophy and scientific thinking.*

Outline **two** points that you would make about the way Aristotle's ideas contributed to philosophy and scientific thinking. (40 marks)



(Source: <https://literariness.org>)

- b) Explain how questions about the meaning of life were expressed in **two** myths associated with people who lived in ancient times. (40 marks)

QUESTION 2.

- a) *The development of philosophy can be traced back to Ancient Greece.*

Explain why **two** other points in time can be described as key moments in the development of philosophical thought. (40 marks)



(Source: Adapted from <https://tremendouslifebooks.wordpress.com>)

- b) *In religious traditions an image of God is sometimes used to express a particular understanding of God.*

Outline the ideas about God that are expressed in **two** traditional images of God that you have studied. (40 marks)

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) Assess the reliability of the evidence for the existence of Jesus of Nazareth found in the writings of **two** of the following:
- | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------|-------------|------------|
| ● AN EVANGELIST | ● JOSEPHUS | ● PLINY | ● TACITUS |
| – MATTHEW OR MARK OR LUKE OR JOHN | | THE YOUNGER | (40 marks) |
- b) Examine the impact that Jesus' resurrection had on his first disciples' understanding of him as 'Saviour' and their sense of mission. (40 marks)
- c) Outline the main features of Christian living that were emphasised by Saint Paul in his writings to **one** of the following first Christian communities:
- | | | | |
|-----------|------------|----------------|------------|
| ● CORINTH | ● PHILIPPI | ● THESSALONICA | (40 marks) |
|-----------|------------|----------------|------------|

SECTION C WORLD RELIGIONS

- a) Examine the origins and purpose of inter-faith dialogue today between **two** of the following religions: ♦ BUDDHISM ♦ CHRISTIANITY ♦ HINDUISM ♦ ISLAM ♦ JUDAISM (40 marks)
- b) *Religious belief can inspire people at key moments in life - birth, death etc.*
Outline how the influence of religious belief can be seen in the way a key moment in life is marked by members of **one** religion from List A and **one** religion from List B below:
LIST A: ♦ CHRISTIANITY ♦ JUDAISM LIST B: ♦ BUDDHISM ♦ HINDUISM ♦ ISLAM
(40 marks)
- c) Compare the way that local communities of believers are organised within **one** religion from List A and **one** religion from List B below:
LIST A: ♦ CHRISTIANITY ♦ JUDAISM LIST B: ♦ BUDDHISM ♦ HINDUISM ♦ ISLAM
(40 marks)

SECTION D MORAL DECISION - MAKING

- a) Using examples, discuss the role 'virtue' can play in a person's growth towards moral maturity. (40 marks)
- b) *In moral decision-making individual rights need to be balanced with 'the common good'.*
Discuss the evidence for this statement making reference to an example from Irish civil law that attempts to balance individual rights with 'the common good'. (40 marks)
- c) Profile how there has been a change in thinking, since the Enlightenment, about the morality of **two** of the following issues:
- | | | | | |
|----------------------|----------------|-----------|-------|------------|
| ● CAPITAL PUNISHMENT | ● CHILD LABOUR | ● SLAVERY | ● WAR | (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) Discuss the contribution **two** of the following have made to the understanding of gender in society today:

● BIOLOGY ● PHILOSOPHY ● PSYCHOLOGY ● SOCIOLOGY (80 marks)

or

- b) Examine how the ideas or actions of **two** women, from different categories listed below, impacted on the society of their day:

● FOUNDERS OF RELIGIOUS ORDERS ● RELIGIOUS WRITERS
● SOCIAL REFORMERS ● SPIRITUAL THINKERS (80 marks)



(Source: <https://www.depositphotos.com>)

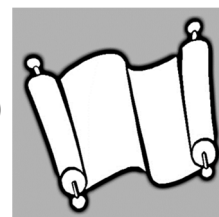
SECTION H THE BIBLE: LITERATURE AND SACRED TEXT

- a) Explain how **two** archaeological discoveries have contributed to the current understanding of how the Bible came to be written. (80 marks)

or

- b) *The Bible has been described as a 'classic' text.*

Discuss the evidence for this statement, making reference to examples of how the Bible has been recognised over time to be of established value for a wide audience. (80 marks)



(Source: Softkey Multimedia Inc)

SECTION I RELIGION: THE IRISH EXPERIENCE

- a) Profile the way that **two** Pre-Christian rituals have been adapted by a Christian tradition in Ireland today. (80 marks)

or

- b) Discuss the impact that secularism and secularisation have had on the pattern of religious belief and practice in Ireland today. (80 marks)



(Source: images-wixmp.com)

SECTION J RELIGION AND SCIENCE

- a) Outline how **two** of Descartes' ideas had implications for the relationship between religion and science. (80 marks)

or

- b) Examine the similarities and differences in the approach taken by religion and science to **one** of the following debates:

● THE DEBATE ABOUT THE ORIGINS OF THE UNIVERSE

● THE GENETICS DEBATE

(80 marks)



(Source: <https://www.patheos.com>)

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