



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission

Leaving Certificate Examination 2022

Religious Education

Higher Level

Friday 24 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

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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

(80 marks)

Question 1

- (a) Outline how **two** myths, from ancient cultures, attempted to answer key questions about the meaning of life. (40)



- (b) Compare how a key question about life is treated in an ancient myth with the way it is answered from a scientific point of view today. (40)



Question 2

- (a) ● Buddhism ● Christianity ● Hinduism ● Islam ● Judaism

Explain how the understanding of God/gods/the transcendent in **two** of the above religions influences the way sacred texts are interpreted by their members today. (40)



- (b) Imagine you had a chance to talk with Anselm and Aquinas about their understanding of God.

Outline what you think **each** would say about how belief in the existence of God could help a person searching for the meaning of life today. (40)

God

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 (80 marks)

- (a) Outline how **each** of the following were affected by Roman rule in Palestine, during Jesus of Nazareth's lifetime:
- Political System ● Religious System (40)
- (b) Describe how Jesus of Nazareth's words and actions showed an awareness of what was involved in **two** of the following Jewish expectations of the Messiah:
- Davidic ● Priestly ● Prophetic (40)
- (c) (i) Describe **two** examples of what has been achieved in the search for unity between Christian Churches today. (40)
- or
- (ii) Profile how Jesus of Nazareth's words and actions are remembered in **two** ceremonies that are part of Christian worship today. (40)

Section C World Religions (80 marks)

- (a) Examine how the relationship between the 'sacred' and 'profane' aspects of life can be communicated through the role individual people play within a religion. (40)
- (b) Compare the way that the community of believers is structured and organised in **one** religion from LIST A and **one** religion from LIST B below:
- List A: ● Christianity ● Judaism List B: ● Buddhism ● Hinduism ● Islam (40)
- (c) Outline the origins of the relationship between Christianity and Judaism using **each** of the following headings:
- Vision of Salvation ● A Celebrating Tradition (40)

Section D Moral Decision-Making (80 marks)

- (a) 'Morality is so deeply rooted in our everyday lives that it seems hard to imagine a society without any moral rules.'
- Investigate the evidence for this statement making reference to **two** examples of how morality can be seen as a natural human feature in the lives of people today. (40)
- (b) Outline what is involved in **two** stages of personal moral development put forward by a moral theorist that you have studied. (40)
- (c) Trace how the influence of the Covenant and the Decalogue can be seen in **two** examples of Jesus of Nazareth's preaching. (40)

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 F Issues of Justice and Peace (80 marks)

- (a) (i) During his life Mahatma Gandhi promoted a non-violent lifestyle and used non-violence as a form of protest in conflict situations.

Describe what was involved in **another** example of how peace was brought about in a conflict situation that you have studied. (40)

- (ii) ● The Eightfold Path of Buddhism
 ● The Judaeo-Christian Vision of Justice
 ● The Four Varnas of Hinduism
 ● The Zakat of Islam



Explain how **two** of the above religious teachings could influence believers to work for justice and peace in the world today. (40)

or

- (b) (i) Outline the key principles of the 'Just War' theory and explain how they could apply to **one** conflict situation that you have studied. (40)

- (ii) Name **one** commentator on religion and the environment and outline how an environmental issue has been highlighted through their life and ideas. (40)



Section G Worship, Prayer and Ritual (80 marks)

- (a) (i) ● Religious ● Secular

Examine the importance of **each** of the above types of ritual for those who participate in them, using examples from society today. (40)

- (ii) Describe examples of mystical experiences that featured in the lives of **two** mystics associated with any of the following religions:
 ● Buddhism ● Christianity ● Hinduism ● Islam ● Judaism (40)

or

- (b) ● Mantra ● Sacred Text

Examine how **each** of the above first became associated with meditation as a form of prayer and describe examples of how they are used in meditative prayer today. (80)



Section I**Religion: The Irish Experience****(80 marks)**

(a) (i) Explain how Pre-Christian religious belief or practice can be associated with an archaeological site in Ireland. (40)

(ii) Describe **two** examples of how religious practices found in Ireland today can be traced back to Pre-Christian times. (40)

or

(b) (i) Name a religious movement new to Ireland and describe its main characteristics making reference to **two** of the following:
● Central Beliefs ● Forms of Worship ● Moral Codes (40)

(ii) Outline **two** trends that can be seen in the pattern of religious belief and practice in Ireland in recent years. (40)

**Section J****Religion and Science****(80 marks)**

(a) (i) Compare the understanding of creation/the natural world that is found in the teaching of **two** of the following religions:
● Buddhism ● Christianity ● Hinduism ● Islam ● Judaism (40)

(ii) Outline how **one** of the following religions reacted to the ideas Charles Darwin put forward about evolution.
● Buddhism ● Christianity ● Hinduism ● Islam ● Judaism (40)

or

(b) Discuss the implications of **two** different images of God for the relationship between religion and science. (80)



There is no examination material on this page

Acknowledgements

Images

- Images on page 2: First Picture: <https://www.spreadshirt.ie/shop/design/question+mark+sticker-D5c8a93f62225090d702855f0?sellable=2LGG0kY0Qlu0E9IVwX4g-1459-215>
Second Picture: <https://www.shutterstock.com/image-illustration/3d-people-man-person-talking-arguing-145304311>
Third Picture: <https://www.istockphoto.com/illustrations/virtuous>
- Images on page 4: First Picture: <https://www.quotesgram.com/quotes-about-peace-and-justice/>
Second Picture: https://www.clipartkey.com/view/iiiTxxJ_environment-clipart-school-environment-environmental-science-logo/
Third Picture: <https://www.istockphoto.com/illustrations/praying-hands>
- Images on page 5: First Picture: <https://www.rpubs.com/PsycheShaman/ReligiousTextAnalysis>
Second Picture: Adapted from <https://www.religiousnaturalism.org>

Texts

- Text on page 3: Adapted from 'Our Brains are Wired for Morality: Evolution, Development, and Neuroscience' by Jean Decety and Jason M. Cowell;
<https://www.kids.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/frym.2016.00003>

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