



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission

Leaving Certificate Examination 2023

Religious Education

Ordinary Level

Tuesday 27 June Afternoon 2:00 – 4:00

Total Marks 320

General Directions for Candidates

Candidates must answer the following —

- **One** Question from Unit One
- **Two** Sections 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 three questions.

(All questions carry 80 marks each)

Section A The Search for Meaning and Values (80 marks)

Question 1 The Search for Meaning

Answer (a) and (b).

(a) Describe **two** examples of how Socrates' ideas played a part in the development of philosophical thinking in Ancient Greece. (40)

(b) Using examples, outline how questions about the meaning of life are expressed today in **two** of the following:

● Art ● Literature ● Music ● Youth Culture (40)

Question 2 Concepts of God

Answer (a) and (b).

(a) Describe **two** examples of how the understanding of the relationship between the divine and the human person influences the behaviour of members in a major world religion. (40)

God

(b) Using an image can communicate certain qualities about someone's character.

Profile the understanding of God that is being expressed in **one** long-established image of God and **one** modern image of God. (40)

Question 3 The Response to the Search for Meaning

Answer (a) and (b).

(a) ● Rite of Burial ● Rite of Sacrifice

Describe an example of the actions people performed in **each** of the above rites in ancient times. (40)

(b) Since ancient times people have used rites to express ideas about the meaning of life.

Explain how evidence of religious belief can be seen in either a rite of burial or a rite of sacrifice that was performed by people who lived in ancient times.



(40)

Unit Two

You must answer **two** of the following three sections.

(All sections carry 80 marks each)

Section B Christianity: Origins and Contemporary Expressions (80 marks)

Answer any two of parts: (a), (b), (c).

- (a) Describe examples of the tensions experienced by Christians when first establishing a community in **one** of the following places: ● Corinth ● Philippi ● Thessalonica (40)
- (b) Outline the key points about Jesus of Nazareth and the meaning of his life that were put forward by **two** of the following:
● An Evangelist – Matthew or Mark or Luke or John ● Josephus ● Saint Paul (40)
- (c) Outline the implications of Jesus of Nazareth's teaching on **two** of the following characteristics of the Kingdom of God for the Jewish people of his time:
● Equality ● Inclusion ● Sharing (40)

Section C World Religions (80 marks)

Answer any two of parts: (a), (b), (c).

- (a) Choose **one** religion from List A and **one** religion from List B below:
List A: ● Christianity ● Judaism List B: ● Buddhism ● Hinduism ● Islam
Examine how believers in the religions chosen above are organised around the world as a community. (40)
- (b) Particular times in the history of a religion are recalled by members each year in ceremonies and festivals.
Choose **one** religion from List A and **one** religion from List B below:
List A: ● Christianity ● Judaism List B: ● Buddhism ● Hinduism ● Islam
Examine how a particular time in the story of each religion chosen above is marked today by their members in a ceremony or festival. (40)
- (c) Using examples, describe **two** differences between religious movements that have been described as 'cults' and traditional religions. (40)

Section D Moral Decision-Making (80 marks)

Answer any two of parts: (a), (b), (c).

- (a) Imagine that you have been asked to write a note for a teenage magazine about Jesus of Nazareth's teaching on living a moral life.
Outline the points you would make referring to how Jesus' teaching on 'right relationship' and the law of love could influence the lives of Christians today. (40)
- (b) Explain how there has been a change in thinking, since the Enlightenment, about the understanding of right and wrong in relation to **two** of the following issues:
● Capital Punishment ● Child Labour ● Slavery ● War (40)
- (c) Name a moral theorist and outline **two** of their key ideas about the moral development of a person. (40)

Unit Three

You must answer **one** of the following four sections.

(All sections carry 80 marks each)

Section E Religion and Gender

(80 marks)

Answer any two of parts: (a), (b), (c).

- (a) ● Founders & Reformers of Religious Orders ● Religious Writers
 ● Social Reformers ● Spiritual Thinkers

Describe an example of how the work of **one** woman, associated with any of the above categories, continues to have an impact on members of a religious tradition today. (40)

- (b) Outline a similarity and a difference in the roles women play within **two** of the following religions: ● Buddhism ● Christianity ● Hinduism ● Islam ● Judaism (40)

- (c) World religions regard men and women as equal.

Examine the evidence for this statement in a sacred text associated with **one** of the following religions: ● Buddhism ● Christianity ● Hinduism ● Islam ● Judaism (40)

Section F Issues of Justice and Peace

(80 marks)

Answer any two of parts: (a), (b), (c).

- (a) Outline **two** ways that the members of a major world religion could be inspired by its teaching to address the causes of **one** of the following issues:

● Discrimination in Ireland ● Poverty in Ireland ● World Hunger (40)

- (b) Describe an example of how **one** commentator on religion and the environment has highlighted an environmental issue through their work.



(40)

- (c) Trace how the 'greening' of religion has influenced the lifestyle of members in a religious group/organisation that you have studied. (40)

Section G Worship, Prayer and Ritual

(80 marks)

Answer any two of parts: (a), (b), (c).

- (a) Describe how mantra and sacred text are used in meditation today as a form of prayer by the members of a major world religion that you have studied. (40)

- (b) Examine how **two** particular features mark a space as sacred for the members of **one** of the following religions:

● Buddhism ● Christianity ● Hinduism ● Islam ● Judaism



(40)

- (c) Contemplative communities include the Carmelites, Cistercians, Taizé etc.

Outline the origins of **one** contemplative community that you have studied and trace how it has developed into its present form. (40)

Section H The Bible: Literature and Sacred Text

(80 marks)

Answer any two of parts: (a), (b), (c).

- (a)** Using examples, describe how the influence of the Bible can be seen today in **two** of the following:



● Art



● Literature



● Music

(40)

- (b)** Explain **two** reasons why the Book of Job can be described as an example of storytelling from the Hebrew Bible. (40)

(c)



- Luke 16:1-13 The Unjust Steward ● Matthew 20:1-16 The Labourers in the Vineyard
- Matthew 13:1-9 The Sower ● Matthew 25:1-13 The Ten Wedding Attendants

Examine the impact that **two** of the above parables had when Jesus of Nazareth first told them to his followers.

(40)

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Acknowledgements

Images

Image on page 2: <http://www.carrowkeel.com/files/dolmens.html>.

Images on page 4: First Picture: <http://clipart-library.com/world-globe.html>
Second Picture: <https://fineartamerica.com/featured/1-praying-hands-csa-images.html>.

Images on page 5: First Picture: <https://www.metuchenlibrary.org/artists-palette-clipart>.
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