



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission

Leaving Certificate Examination 2023
Religious Education
Higher Level

Tuesday 27 June Afternoon 2:00 – 4:30

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 **one** of the following two questions.

(All questions carry 80 marks each)

Section A The Search for Meaning and Values

(80 marks)

Question 1

Answer (a) and (b).

- (a) (i) Imagine Plato was giving a talk about the nature of reality for people today.

From your knowledge of Plato's ideas about the nature of reality outline **one** point that you think he would emphasise for people today.

(20)



- (ii) Explain why you think Plato would emphasise for people today the point about the nature of reality outlined in part (a), (i) above.

(20)

- (b) (i) Outline a key idea that was taught by **one** person associated with the development of the humanist tradition.

(20)

- (ii) Profile how a humanist idea could help people searching for the meaning of life in the world today.

(20)

Question 2

Answer (a) and (b).

- (a) Using examples, trace how the religious practice of believers is influenced by the understanding of divine revelation in **two** major world religions that you have studied.

(40)

- (b) Explain **two** reasons why people could become indifferent to the search for the meaning of life in the world today.

(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) (i) Outline the understanding of Jesus of Nazareth presented today in an example from **one** of the following: ● Art ● Film ● Music (20)
- (ii) Explain why the understanding of Jesus that you have outlined in part (a), (i) above is relevant for Christians today. (20)
- (b) Describe **two** examples of the different ways that Jesus of Nazareth taught his followers about the Kingdom of God through his words and actions. (40)
- (c) Profile how **one** Christian denomination is trying to carry on the mission of Jesus through their work in the world today. (40)

Section C World Religions (80 marks)

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

- (a) (i) Trace how the influence of **two** ideas associated with primal religion can be seen in a major world religion that you have studied. (20)
- (ii) The number of different religions in Ireland has increased in recent years. Describe **another** trend within religion in Ireland that has emerged in recent years. (20)
- (b) Compare how the founding stories of **one** religion from LIST A and **one** religion from LIST B below are recalled today in religious festivals:
List A: ● Christianity ● Judaism List B: ● Buddhism ● Hinduism ● Islam (40)
- (c) Outline how inter-faith dialogue could play a role in helping to resolve a conflict situation that you have studied. (40)

Section D Moral Decision-Making (80 marks)

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

- (a) Describe an example of the moral issues that were a concern for people living in **each** of the following ancient civilisations: ● The Hebrews ● The Romans (40)
- (b) ● Buddhism ● Hinduism ● Islam ● Judaism
Choose **two** of the above religions and trace how a basic principle from their teaching could influence their members' understanding of what is right and wrong behaviour in a situation. (40)
- (c) Explain how having an informed conscience could guide a person to behave in a morally mature way in a decision-making situation. (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 one of parts: (a), (b), (c), (d).

- (a) Describe **two** examples of how an image of God is reflected in the roles played by men and women within salvation history, as outlined in the Hebrew Scriptures. (80)

or

- (b) (i) Describe what happened during an encounter between Jesus and a woman that is outlined in **one** of the following Gospels:
- The Gospel of John
 - The Gospel of Luke
 - The Gospel of Mark
 - The Gospel of Matthew
- (40)
- (ii) Explain the implications that the encounter described in part (b), (i) above has for Christians today. (40)

or

- (c) Examine the difference in the way Mary, the mother of Jesus, is portrayed in **two** of the following Gospels:
- The Gospel of John
 - The Gospel of Luke
 - The Gospel of Mark
 - The Gospel of Matthew
- (80)

or

- (d) Describe examples from a Christian tradition of how a person's gender could affect their experience of the following:
- Empowerment or Freedom
 - Exclusion or Oppression
- (80)

Section F Issues of Justice and Peace

(80 marks)

Answer (a) or (b).

- (a) Justice can be understood as – ● Fair Play
- The Promotion of Equality



Explain the main strengths and weaknesses that **each** of the above understandings of justice have in promoting good relationships between people. (80)

or

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

Using examples, describe how the teaching of **two** of the above religions could influence their members to work for peace in the world today. (80)

Section G Worship, Prayer and Ritual

(80 marks)

Answer (a) or (b).

- (a) (i) 'Symbols are powerful because they are the visible signs of invisible realities.'
Discuss the evidence for this statement, referring to the way symbols are used within the sacrament/sacramental celebrations of **two** Christian denominations today. (40)

- (ii) ● Reflection ● Religious Experience
Using examples, describe the role that **each** of the above can play in the prayer life of people of faith today. (40)

or

- (b) Examine how religious belief is reflected in the features that mark a space as sacred for members of **two** of the following religions:
● Buddhism ● Christianity ● Hinduism ● Islam ● Judaism (80)

Section H The Bible: Literature and Sacred Text

(80 marks)

Answer (a) or (b).

- (a) (i) Explain **two** reasons why the Psalms can be described as poetry, referring to an acrostic or parallelistic Psalm that you have studied. (40)
- (ii) Discuss the importance of storytelling in the Bible, referring to the story of Job and its relevance for people of faith today. (40)

or

- (b) (i) Describe **two** examples of how oral traditions are preserved in any of the following Gospels:
● The Gospel of John ● The Gospel of Luke
● The Gospel of Mark ● The Gospel of Matthew (40)
- (ii) Using examples, explain how the 'Q' document is believed to have played a role in the formation of the synoptic Gospels. (40)



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Acknowledgements

Images

Images on page 2: First Picture: <https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.istockphoto.com%2Fillustrations%2Fperson-giving-a-speech-silhouette&psig=AOvVaw2RFGFg0ZAZWr7SyfUruBWC&ust=1674123372952000&source=images&cd=vfe&ved=0CA0QjRxqFwoTCJnxexjx0PwCFQAAAAAdAAAAABAW>.
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Texts

Text on page 5: <https://www.azquotes.com/quote/1341910>.

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