



# basic education

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Department:  
Basic Education  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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**GRADE 12**

**RELIGION STUDIES P2**

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**MARKING GUIDELINES**

**MARKS: 150**

**These marking guidelines consist of 15 pages.**

**QUESTION 1**

- 1.1 1.1.1 People between the ages of 15 and 29 commit suicide because of the following contributing factors:
- They indulge in the abuse of alcohol and drugs.
  - During adolescence, they feel that they are in a state of confusion, desperation and lost in life.
  - They become depressed and suicidal when they have not performed well during school examinations.
  - They are often sexually or physically abused.
  - They are often exposed to violence.
  - They are unable to cope with failed relationships, and choose suicide to escape emotional pain.

NOTE: Other relevant responses must be credited.

(10)

1.1.2

**EXAMPLE 1: BUDDHISM**

- According to Buddhist doctrine a person cannot avoid suffering by taking his/her own life.
- One does not escape from the 'wheel of life' by committing suicide.
- The destruction of the physical body merely transfers the entity to other spheres of existence, not resolving the situations.
- Physical life is considered of great importance.
- It is only in the present life that the way to liberation can be followed; there is no liberation after death.
- Try to attain enlightenment which will be the liberation of your life from all suffering.
- Taking your own life is therefore a waste of opportunity.
- Remember the dogma of non-attachment: it will reduce your pain.

**EXAMPLE 2: CHRISTIANITY**

- According to the Bible life is precious.
- God has a plan for everyone (Jeremiah 29:11), including you.
- 'Thou shall not kill.' This means no one has a right to take life, not even your own.
- God is the giver and provider of life.
- Suicide is understood as a major sin, for which there is punishment in the hereafter.
- One needs to know that nothing they have done, and nothing that has been done to them can separate them from the love of God and His plan (Romans 8).
- One needs to know that nothing one can ever do is so bad that the only answer is suicide. Trust in God's mercy.

NOTE: The learner may use different religions in 1.1.2 and 1.2.

(12)

- 1.2 1.2.1 **NOTE: The learner may use different religions in 1.1.2 and 1.2.**  
**EXAMPLE 1: CHRISTIANITY**
- Christians believe in the existence of a Supreme Being known as God.
  - God manifests himself as three persons in one God – God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
  - This doctrine is called the Holy Trinity.
  - God the Father is the Creator of the universe.
  - God the Son is the Saviour and Redeemer of humanity.
  - God the Holy Spirit is the counsellor of Christians. (10)
- 1.2.2
- Christians believe that human beings were created immortal.
  - After death, they will continue to exist in an immortal afterlife.
  - Those who live a chaste life will live in heaven forever,
  - Sinners will be banished to hell forever.
  - Repentance for sins must be done in this world, as there is no repentance beyond the grave.
  - Therefore, Christians will strive to lead a life according to the Bible, so that they can go to heaven.
  - In this way, through belief in Jesus Christ, the Christian hopes to attain heaven in the afterlife. (12)
- NOTE: Other relevant answers must be credited.**
- 1.2.1 **EXAMPLE 2: TAOISM**
- Taoism teaches that 'the Tao that can be told of is not the eternal Tao'.
  - The Tao is eternal.
  - It is impossible to completely describe divinity in Taoism.
  - There is no clear nature of God in Taoism.
  - Tao means 'the path of the universe'.
  - Tao is the majestic way in which the universe works.
- NOTE: Other relevant answers must be credited** (10)

- 1.2.2
- The Taoist point of view on death is that we should appreciate life in order to accept death.
  - When one realises that what makes life wonderful is its cyclical processes, it becomes easier to accept that life.
  - In this religion, death is simply a process of transformation in which one goes from one form to another.
  - It means that one has been part of the universe from the start and will continue to experience both joy and sadness.
  - In the Taoist view, one should not be afraid of death, one should make fun of it.
  - In this religion, one does not need life after death in some kind of heaven or the kind of life after death that is found in Hinduism.
  - Taoism pays little attention to the afterlife. One should live a good life, as an end in itself.
  - One only gets transformed and ends up elsewhere.

**NOTE: Other relevant responses must be credited**

(12)

- 1.3      1.3.1
- Grammar and historical context means you must use the rules of grammar and historical facts to interpret sacred texts.
  - The rules of grammar imply that you must look at the exact meanings of the words used in their most ordinary sense.

(2)

- 1.3.2
- You need to view a piece of writing as a whole.
  - What was the author's purpose in writing the text?
  - Without the proper context, you would not know what the author was trying to explain.

(2)

- 1.3.3
- The meanings of words change over time and in different places.
  - Try to find out what the meanings of words were, when they were originally used in the normative source.

(2)

**[50]**

**QUESTION 2**

2.1 2.1.1

NOTE: A maximum of FOUR marks may be awarded if only ONE branch is discussed.

**EXAMPLE 1: CHRISTIANITY**

- **Roman Catholic Church**
- The Roman Catholic Church practises a number of rituals called sacraments (such as the Eucharist).
- They practise the last rite before the death of a person.
- The last anointing of the body with holy oil prepares the soul for death and life hereafter.
- They also practise the burning of incense in their services.
- They confess their sins to a priest.
- They use the rosary in their prayers.
- The clergy are required to remain celibate (unmarried).
- **Eastern Orthodox Church**
- They engage in the kissing of the images of saints, called icons.
- The Eucharist is combined with the “Cycle of Prayer.”
- These prayers are sung at sunrise and sunset.
- Personal prayer (including the Jesus Prayer) plays an important part in the Eastern Orthodox Church.
- **Protestantism**
- They practise healing services.
- They have revival crusades.
- They regard charity as being an outward sign of inner grace.

**NOTE: 4 of the 14 marks are allocated to the naming of the two branches.**

**Other relevant responses must be credited.**

(14)

2.1.2

NOTE: A maximum of FOUR marks may be awarded if only ONE branch is discussed.

**Roman Catholic Church**

- Catholics believe that everyone is born in sin, because Adam and Eve disobeyed God's command.
- They believe that the Holy Spirit comes from God the Father and the Son.
- They believe that they are the original church of Christ.

**Eastern Orthodox Church**

- According to the Eastern Orthodox Church, the Holy Spirit comes from God the Father only, and not the Son.
- They believe that they are the rightly guided church.
- They believe that no one has the power to change Christian teachings and traditions.
- They see the Bible as canonical.

**Protestantism**

- In Protestantism, they believe that rituals are less important than belief.

(10)

- They believe that faith is the key to salvation.
- They believe that salvation is a gift given freely through the work of Jesus Christ, who died for sinners.

NOTE: Other relevant responses must be credited.

2.1.1 NOTE: A maximum of FOUR marks may be awarded if only ONE branch is discussed.

### **EXAMPLE 2: AFRICAN TRADITIONAL RELIGION**

- **AmaZulu**
- They burn incense during communication with the ancestors.
- When there is illness or misfortune, they consult the traditional healer or diviner.
- UNomkhubulwana (goddess) is approached through a pilgrimage to the mountains during natural disasters or drought.
- They practise a 'brought back' ceremony where the deceased is established as an ancestor after a year.
- **Aka**
- They dance and sing in honour of Dzengi.
- When they go hunting they perform a ritual which involves animal slaughtering to communicate with the animal spirit.
- They consult ngangas (traditional healers) when taking difficult decisions.
- When there is illness or crisis in the family or community, the ngangas are consulted.
- **Yoruba**
- Religious practices focus on Ori Orun/Olorun.
- Spiritual contact is made via various intermediaries, including Orisas (lesser divinities).
- Each town has its own oris and a temple dedicated to it.
- Sincere meditation and veneration strengthens one's links with the spiritual realm.

**NOTE: 4 of the 14 marks are allocated to the naming of the two branches.**

**Other relevant responses must be credited.**

(14)

2.1.2 NOTE: A maximum of FOUR marks may be awarded if only ONE branch is discussed.

#### **AmaZulu**

- They believe and acknowledge the existence of a Supreme Being called uMvelinqangi.
- They teach that his status is so high that one cannot directly approach him.
- Communication with uMvelinqangi is done through the ancestors.
- The AmaZulu also believe that there is a feminine goddess called uNomkhubulwane.

#### **Aka**

- They believe in a creator spirit called Bembe.
- They teach that Bembe retired after the act of creation.

- They believe in the forest spirit called Dzengi.
- They teach that Dzengi assists them in the successful hunting of elephants.

#### **Yoruba**

- They believe that Olodumare is the creator spirit.
- They teach that each human possesses a fate or destiny.
- They also teach that life is cyclical (reincarnation in human form).
- The aim of reincarnation is spiritual improvement.
- They teach that good spirits become one with Olodumare.

**NOTE: Other relevant responses must be credited**

(10)

- 2.2
- Bahá'í is a relatively new religion.
  - It is governed by a uniquely democratic structure, which allows for differences of opinion.

(4)

#### 2.3 **EXAMPLE 1: CHRISTIANITY**

- In spite of differences in religious content, Christianity reveals the same pattern in the development of a written tradition as Judaism.
- Christianity accepted the Hebrew tradition encapsulated in the Tenach.
- Christianity re-interpreted it from its own religious perspective.
- This is called the Old Testament.
- It then compiled its own collection of texts, accepted as divine revelation (New Testament).
- The New Testament was first an oral tradition from the disciples of Jesus Christ.
- It was later written down and circulated to different Christian churches.
- Christianity was forced to define its boundaries against other views.
- The decision on a corpus of absolutely true and divinely inspired writings was taken.
- The inspired books were accepted as Christian canon, and referred as the Bible.

#### **EXAMPLE 2: BUDDHISM**

- In Theravada Buddhism, the very large canonical tradition was orally transmitted for centuries.
- It was later written down.
- Buddhist scriptures are not seen as divine dictates.
- They are not necessarily considered to be divinely inspired.
- Theravada Buddhism has produced an ever-growing body of commentaries.
- These commentaries are based on the canonical tradition.
- Mahayana Buddhism also makes a distinction between primary scriptures (sutras) and secondary commentaries and philosophical interpretations (sastras).
- Sastras were often linked to individual scholars and schools.
- Oral tradition preceded sacred text, and had flexibility in meaning.

**NOTE: Other relevant responses must be credited.**

(14)

## 2.4 YES

- The sacred books are fixed, whereas oral traditions are fluid and can be easily manipulated.
- Written sacred books become yardsticks of measuring right and wrong.
- In the religions of the 'Book', sacred scriptures are central to their beliefs.
- They are seen as authoritative by adherents of these respective religions.
- The sacred books are canonical in nature.
- The Abrahamic religions do indeed regard their sacred books as their greatest source.

## NO

- Other religions, such as Hinduism and Taoism, lay greater emphasis on practices rather than on sacred books.
- In such religions, sacred books are less important, or have no significance (e.g in African Traditional Religion).
- Sacred books may lose their original meaning when they are translated and interpreted over time.
- Teachings are transmitted orally.
- Such teachings are fluid, and readily adapted into local culture.

**NOTE: Other relevant responses must be credited.**

**The candidate may offer a combination of YES and NO answers.**

(8)  
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**QUESTION 3**

- 3.1 NOTE: If the candidate mentions the country of conflict even in 3.2 or 3.3 , credit must be given for the whole of Question 3. However, credit must be given ONLY for the first country mentioned.

**EXAMPLE 1**

- Sri Lanka
- Since 1983, there has been war on the island state of Sri Lanka.
- Over the years more than 60 000 people were killed.
- The conflict was between two groups: the Sinhalese-speaking Buddhist community and the Tamil-speaking Hindus.
- Buddhists and Hindus had lived together for centuries harmoniously.
- They influenced each other's beliefs and practices.
- They worshipped some of the same deities and shared some common rituals.
- The tension between the two groups started when Sri Lanka became independent from British rule.
- Hindu families felt that the government favoured the majority Buddhist Sinhalese community.
- The government was accused of discriminating against the minority Hindus.

(18)

- 3.2
- The main cause of this religious conflict was basically political in nature.
  - Hindus claimed that, because they were in the minority, they did not have the same education and employment opportunities as the Sinhalese Buddhist community.
  - The conflict was further aggravated by the government, by passing an Act in 1956 that declared Sinhala to be the only official language in Sri Lanka.
  - The Act effectively excluded the Tamil-speaking Hindus from the Sri Lankan society.
  - They believed that the main aim of the government was to establish Buddhism as a state religion.
  - In essence the government used the religious differences for political gain.

(10)

- 3.3
- There is some power-sharing in government.
  - The current situation is calm but volatile.
  - In February 2018, anti-Muslim riots broke out in the town of Ampara.
  - Muslim citizens, mosques and other properties were attacked by mobs of Sinhalese Buddhists.
  - The Muslim mobs then attacked Buddhist temples and Sinhalese citizens.
  - The riots immediately spread to other districts of Sri Lanka.
  - Sri Lankan government imposed a state of emergency and deployed soldiers to assist the police.
  - Buddhist monks and many Sinhalese rallied to protect and help Muslims and their mosques in Sri Lanka.
  - It is clear that religious tensions are still simmering in the country.

(12)

- 3.4
- Inter-faith religious organisations need to engage the religions in conflict in dialogue.
  - They must promote mutual respect of all religions.
  - They need to promote religious tolerance between Hindus, Muslims and Buddhists.
  - Religious organisations themselves must be impartial in their approach to this conflict.
  - They must be mediators in this conflict and agents of peace.
- (10)

3.1 **EXAMPLE 2**

- Ayodhya in India.
  - Over 500 years ago, a beautiful mosque was built in Ayodhya, in the province of Gujarat in India.
  - Hindus always maintained that the site of the Mosque was the birth place of their revered god, Lord Rama.
  - Hindus maintain that their temple was torn down by Muslims in order to build the Mosque.
  - Today there is some archaeological evidence that this might be true.
  - Over many years, there has been tension about the site between Hindus and Muslims.
  - The tension exploded in 1992, when thousands of radical Hindus destroyed the ancient mosque.
  - Muslims retaliated by attacking Hindus, and thousands of people died.
  - The World Hindu Council announced that a temple in honour of Rama would be built on the site.
  - In 2002, a train carrying Hindus who had visited the site was fire-bombed by Muslims.
  - The courts in India banned any activity at the site until the matter was resolved.
- (18)

- 3.2
- Religion is indeed part of the conflict to a great extent.
  - For many Hindus, Rama is the most important god, and Ayodhya is the holiest of all the cities in India.
  - Devout Hindus see the destruction of the Babri mosque as a 'release' of the birthplace of Rama.
  - The Viswa Hindu Parishad leaders had declared that they wanted the construction of the temple to start sooner.
  - They also declared that no judicial verdict would be accepted by them if it was against their wishes.
  - Leaders of the Babri Mosque Action Committee and Muslim Personal Law Board also declared that they were not prepared for any compromise about a plan to rebuild the mosque.
  - They are prepared to fight those who do anything to the detriment of Islam, such as destroying a mosque.
- (10)

- 3.3
- The Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu National Baratiya Janata Party has been scaling up to build a Hindu temple in Ayodhya.
  - Walls in the districts surrounding the site have been plastered with posters that show Lord Rama going to war.
  - Other posters contain slogans that are essentially war cries against the inability by the previous government to get the temple constructed.
  - The situation has prompted a sense of panic and fear among Ayodhya's Muslim residents.
  - The Hindu National Baratiya Janata Party appears to be attempting to galvanise Hindus in Uttar Pradesh province along religious lines.
  - The Supreme Court has awarded the land to the Hindus, and alternative land has been given to the Muslims.
- (12)
- 3.4
- Both Hindus and Muslim leaders must be committed to an everlasting solution in Ayodhya.
  - They should construct a national monument for peace, love and inter-religious harmony on the site instead of their places of worship.
  - They must welcome people of all faiths for prayer and meditation in that monument.
  - Inter-faith religious organisations must choose a neutral mediator who will preside in every meeting.
  - Terrorists from both sides must be handed to the law enforcement agencies.
  - They must discourage political interference in religious conflict.
  - The government should not be allowed to exploit religion for political gain.
- (10)  
**[50]**

**QUESTION 4**

- 4.1      4.1.1
- In the 15th century, Martin Luther set in motion certain changes that led to the splintering of Christianity.
  - This led to decades of religious wars in Europe.
  - Various Christian groups fought for dominance.
  - At the time, the church was very influential both politically and socially.
  - Most countries were not democratic, as they were ruled by emperors, kings, queens or nobility.
  - These rulers used the church to establish their power.
  - In return religious leaders also influenced rulers to promote the interpretation of their beliefs.
  - All warring parties thought that a society would be peaceful if everyone shared the same beliefs.
  - Protestant reformers were not tolerant of religious diversity.
  - Catholics and Protestants imposed their beliefs on each other.
  - People began a quest for a state where there would be religious tolerance.
  - The intellectuals concluded that religions were divisive rather than uniting.
  - A government which was based purely on reasoning and understanding of human nature was then a solution.
  - Thus government and morality were divorced from religion.
  - Secular humanism was thus established. (12)
- NOTE: Other relevant responses must be credited
- 4.1.2
- The signing of the Treaty of Westphalia in 1648 settled most of the European religious conflict.
  - The Treaty is important for Western political and religious history; because it was the first time that the nation state was recognised, independent of religion.
  - Secular states have human rights and religious freedom at the heart of society.
  - There are no religious wars in, or between, secular states.
  - People in secular states are free to follow any religion of their choice.
  - Religious leaders from different faith communities are forced by the constitution to work as equal partners on religious issues.
  - As a result religions developed respect for and tolerance of each other.
  - Different religions have developed their understanding of one another's beliefs and practices. (12)
- NOTE: Other relevant responses must be credited.
- 4.1.3
- Secularism is a belief that government and morality should not be based on religion.
  - It does not reject religion, but does not give religion the final say on morality or government.
  - Instead, secularism sees human intellect as the solution to all challenges.
  - Secularism advocates ethics based on reasoning about human nature, without referring to God or gods.
  - Secularism advocates freedom of speech, and freedom of religion.
  - Secularism understands the universe without appealing to religious explanations, such as Creationism myths. (10)

**4.2 ATHEISM**

- Atheists reject the belief that divine or supernatural powers exist.
- There are different degrees of atheism.
- Soft or neutral atheists do not actively reject the existence of a supernatural being.
- Strong or positive atheists believe that, there is evidence to support their atheistic views.
- In some cases soft atheists reject both theism and strong atheism.
- This is because they feel both world views depend on proof to support their claims.
- Atheists often turn to science to explain the nature of the universe rather than relying on faith.

**AGNOSTICISM**

- This term was first used by a philosopher called T.H Huxley in 1869.
- Darwin's theory of human evolution challenged the idea of a supreme Creator.
- Agnostics believe that it is not possible to either prove or disprove the existence of God or a supernatural being.
- Agnosticism comes from Greek, 'a' meaning 'without' and 'gnosis' meaning 'knowledge'.
- This refers to uncertainty about knowledge of God.
- Agnostics are sceptical of religious teachings.
- They reject religious doctrine, especially religions that claim they have spiritual knowledge.

**SECULAR HUMANISM**

- This movement initially encouraged people to use their intellect to understand scripture.
- Later, it became secular, non-religious and atheistic.
- It teaches that supernatural beings are not a necessity for teaching right from wrong.
- Humans can work this out for themselves, using their reasoning skills.
- It rejects religious beliefs and the existence of the supernatural.

**MATERIALISM**

- This secular worldview believes that matter is the only reality.
- It denies the existence of a spiritual or supernatural realm.
- It is therefore incompatible with religious worldviews which are rooted in belief in a deity or spiritual reality.
- According to Karl Marx, the concept of materialism describes human history and economic activity.
- Dialectical materialism means matter as the fundamental cause of everything.
- Historical materialism means economics and relationships between workers and owners as the fundamental structure in society.

NOTE: Other relevant responses must be credited.

(16)

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**QUESTION 5**

- 5.1 5.1.1
- The scientific answer to the question comes from Darwin's theory of evolution.
  - It states that all forms of life are connected and go back to a common origin.
  - Different types of life occurred in one single continuum.
  - Life evolves in a process, leading from simple to complex.
  - Organisms change gradually, to adapt to changing environments.
  - Those that suit the environment best, become dominant.
  - This is called 'natural selection'.
  - The process started many millions of years ago, and is still continuing.
  - Human beings also emerged over a long process, spanning millions of years, until 'modern' humans finally emerged about 100 000 years ago.
  - The theory of evolution asserts that humans evolved from a common primate ancestor with apes.

(16)

NOTE: Other relevant responses must be credited.

5.1.2

**CHRISTIANITY**

- Christianity teaches that God is the Creator of the universe and all that is within it, including humans.
- Adam was created by God from the dust of the earth
- God breathed His Spirit into Adam and he came to life.
- Eve was created from Adam's rib.
- Adam and Eve were the first humans.
- All people are descendants from Adam and Eve.
- Furthermore, each person is created in the image and likeness of God, and, as such, is unique and deserving of human dignity.
- Humans represent the climax of God's creation and were put in charge to be stewards of creation, that is, to take care of it.
- Christian teaching about creation is found in the book of Genesis in the Bible.

**TAOISM**

- In Taoism, there is no concept of creation, but humans are merely a pattern of the universe.
- There is nothing special about the creation of man.
- Humans are a by-product of the interaction of Yang and Yin.
- Yin and Yang represent opposing forces of nature.
- These include light and dark, active and passive, and of course male and female.
- Taoism asserts that if the one could produce 10 000 things, then it could produce everything, including human beings.

**HINDUISM**

- According to Hinduism the universe is based on evolution.
- However, Hinduism believes it has a more advanced theory of evolution than the scientific view.
- The scientific view is based on observable facts. Hinduism provides a more comprehensive view because it includes the spiritual.
- Scientists see evolution as a process that happens by chance. Hindus believe that you have control over both physical and spiritual evolution.
- By the laws of karma, a good life leads to gradual evolution to a more advanced form.
- Ultimately, you achieve liberation from the physical (moksha) and become one with God.
- Hinduism does not have a problem with evolution because Darwin's theory is not in conflict with Hindu thought and belief.
- In fact, Darwin's theory contributes to the understanding of evolution towards moksha.

NOTE: Other relevant responses must be credited.

(24)

- 5.2
- The Big Bang Theory is currently the most popular scientific theory about the creation of the universe.
  - This scientific theory maintains that before the Big Bang, it was not known what existed.
  - After the Big Bang, the universe appeared and filled out to an enormous size.
  - The Big Bang occurred about 15 billion years ago.
  - Small temperature differences in the first explosion led to varying densities throughout the universe.
  - These eventually formed into clusters throughout the universe.

(10)

**[50]**

**TOTAL: 150**