RELIGION STUDIES P2
FEBRUARY/MARCH 2016
MEMORANDUM

MARKS: 150

This memorandum consists of 10 pages.
QUESTION 1

1.1
- Abortion refers to the removal of a foetus from the womb before it can survive outside the womb.
- Abortion can be carried out if the mother's physical or mental health is at risk.
- It can also be carried out if another child will put at risk the mental or physical health of the existing children.
- It is permissible if there is a substantial risk that the child can be born seriously handicapped.
- Abortion can take place within the first twenty-four weeks of pregnancy.
- The law allows abortion on demand for children from the age of twelve.

1.2
- Abortion destroys self-concept of the mother.
- She lives with the guilty conscience that she committed murder.
- She may never get pregnant again.
- She may sustain internal injuries.
- A woman may be stigmatised and be despised by the community.
- Her love life and marriage may be affected negatively.

NOTE: Other relevant points must be credited.

1.3
EXAMPLE 1: CHRISTIANITY
- Life is holy and belongs to God. Only God has the right to end a pregnancy.
- Life begins at conception, as there is no break from conception to birth, abortion is therefore taking life.
- The Ten Commandments say thou shall not kill. Therefore abortion is wrong.
- Every person has a natural right to life.
- The Roman Catholic Church teaches that abortion is wrong whatever the circumstances are.
- In the Book of Jeremiah 1:5 God says: 'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you came to birth I consecrated you.'
- A foetus is a potential person and abortion destroys its right to life.
- Some Christians believe that abortion is wrong but must be allowed in some circumstances.

EXAMPLE 2: ISLAM
- If the birth of a child puts the mother's life at risk, abortion is allowed.
- Kill not your children on a plea of want. We provide sustenance for you and for them, come not nigh to shameful deeds, (Surah 6:151).
- The Islamic teaching permits abortion to be committed up to 120 days of pregnancy.
- It is also permitted if the health of the baby is at risk.
- According to the Shari'ah, the life of the mother always takes precedence to the life of the unborn baby.
- Some Muslims believe that the soul is given at the moment of conception, so the foetus is a human being. This is why they reject abortion.
• The Qur'an says murder is wrong and for that reason abortion is murder, because life begins at conception.
• Some Muslims believe that the Qur'an bans abortion.
• The jurists state that it is permissible to take medicine for abortion as long as the embryo is still unformed in human shape.

EXAMPLE 3: HINDUISM
• There are different attitudes to abortion in Hinduism.
• Some Hindus believe that abortion can never be allowed whatever the circumstances.
• Some Gurus say that all abortion is wrong.
• They believe in the sanctity of life and that taking life gives bad karma.
• Some Hindus believe that abortion is only permissible if the mother's life is at risk.
• They argue that, Hindu teachings on ahimsa state that violence should only be used as a last resort, which would be when mother's life is at risk.
• The sanctity of life means that abortion is wrong unless the foetus threatens the sanctity of the mother's life.
• The teachings of Gita on not being able to harm the soul are taken to mean that abortion will not affect karma.
• They believe that life does not begin until the foetus can survive outside the womb.

1.4
• Religious organisations must organise youth camps to discuss issues around abortion.
• They must also use the health services to assist the youth who threaten to commit abortion.
• Religious organisations must give spiritual support to people who have lost hope because of abortion.
• They must educate the community about the situations that lead to abortion.
• They should also ensure that appropriate facilities for safe abortion are made available in their communities.
• They must teach about abortion in their own places of worship.
• They must teach their adherents not to discriminate against those who have had abortions.

NOTE: All relevant points must be accepted and awarded marks.
QUESTION 2

2.1.1 EXAMPLE 1: TAOISM

- In Taoism, there is no such thing as evil since everything is the Tao.
- The belief is that everything is as it should be.
- The Tao-te Ching has little to say about the existence of evil or about the fight against it.
- The Tao-te Ching has a lot to say about human suffering and how life can be lived in a way that minimises suffering.
- Human suffering arises when human desires are thwarted.
- Taoists believe that there is no reason for us to be in conflict with things.
- According to the Tao, in aligning yourself with the true nature of the Tao, and then a kind of miracle happens – you discover that life has an almost miraculous power to be engaging and enriching because that is its nature.

EXAMPLE 2: JUDAISM

- The members of the Jewish Religion believe that people are born good.
- Each person has a holy spark, a divine soul with the unlimited potential for good.
- God gives everyone free will to choose whether or not to retain this goodness.
- It is most important to do what GOD wants you to do.
- Through personal growth we can overcome evil.
- Judaism believes that God is all loving and that all things that emanate from Him are good.
- The study and practice of the Torah are seen as the antidote to evil.
- When one commits a sin, through repentance one is able to draw close to God and improve oneself.

2.1.2 EXAMPLE 1: TAOISM

- According to the Tao, the world is in line with its concept of the divine or the universe.
- The world came into existence automatically as part of the activity of the Tao.
- Along with everything else, the world simply emerged.
- The world consists of processes of creation and destruction, or oscillation between the yang and the yin.
- To the Taoist, the truest description of the observable world is that it seems to consist of opposites that alternate between each other, and, this is the nature of the universe.
- Because it is incredibly difficult to pinpoint when processes change direction, Taoists say that this unpredictability is what is fundamentally true of the Tao.
EXAMPLE 2: JUDAISM
• God created the heaven and the earth in six days and rested on
  the seventh day.
• In Judaism the seventh day is a Sabbath or day of rest.
• The world was created perfect for human and animal life to live
• The earth and all living things belong to God.
• Man was created after God's image to rule the world on His
  behalf.
• Adam and Eve were the first people created by God at the
garden of Eden.

EXAMPLE 1: TAOISM
• According to the Taoists, death is simply a process of
  transformation in which you go from one form to another.
• In this religion, the faithful are encouraged not to be scared of
death and that they should make fun of it.
• The Taoists do not mind death, they are taught to appreciate it.
• Death is also understood as a stage in the ongoing process of
  transformation which characterises the universe as a whole.
• The belief is that one does not need life after death or the kind
  of heaven.

EXAMPLE 2: JUDAISM
• The thirteen articles of faith say that in the time of the Mashiach,
  there will be resurrection of the dead.
• Judaism maintains that when people die, their souls move on to
  another existence.
• The Torah does not discuss this world but just hints at it.
• The oral tradition expands on the understanding of this world yet
  a number of mysteries as to the exact details remain.
• It is also stated in their belief that a person attains a place or
  portion in the world to come by performing good deeds.
• The belief in the world to come is based on the belief that the
  soul returns to a place of spiritual closeness to its source i.e.
  from God.

2.2
• 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 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.
EXAMPLE 1: HINDUISM
- To the Hindus, the universe is the creator; the creator has existed and will exist for all times.
- The creator has no limitations and therefore is not a he or she or anything else.
- The creator is simply the creator. The creator exists in either active or passive state.
- After a very long time the creator becomes active. This is when parts of the universe look and are different from other parts and creation begins.
- Humans are a product of creation.

EXAMPLE 2: MIDDLE EASTERN RELIGIONS
- The scriptures of the Middle Eastern religions (Judaism, Christianity and Islam) are said to be inspired by God or to be the direct word of God.
- They share a similar view of creation.
- There is one omnipotent, omniscient and perfect being.
- He created human beings as the centrepiece creation.
- Creation took six days. It started by separating light from darkness.
- It was made from nothing and there were only two humans to start with.
- The human beings had been made from clay.

NOTE: Credit should be given for any one Abrahamic faith.

QUESTION 3

3.1 3.1.1 EXAMPLE 1: ISLAM

Sunni:
- There is no clergy in Sunni Islam.
- Any faithful member can serve on a community board
- In governance the sunnah of the Prophet is observed.
- Scholars of Islam and community members serve on governing board of mosques, madrassas and schools.

Shi'a:
- The Shi’a revere the descendants of the Prophet, and believe that they have divine right to lead them.
- Government is in the hand of mullahs.
- The mullahs also have considerable political influence.
- They reserve the title 'imam' for certain past leaders who were believed to be chosen by God.

EXAMPLE 2: HINDUISM
- Traditional Hinduism has no central control.
- Reformers worked within the existing system. There was no breakaway movement.
- Traditional governance was centred around the home and local temple.
- In India, each temple is independent in terms of governance.
Local priests determine rituals to be practised within that community.

Today in countries with major Hindu presence outside of India, there are structured Hindu movements.

In South Africa such body is the South African Hindu Maha Sabha.

There are also regional organisations with linguistic and cultural focus (for example Gujarati, Telegu).

3.1.2 EXAMPLE 1: ISLAM

Sunni:
• Religious practices are strictly in accordance with the Sunnah of the Prophet, as laid down in the Hadith.
• An 'imam' is simply the leader of congregational prayer.
• Imam does not denote formal training in Sunni Islam.
• The concept of Muttah (temporary marriage) is not recognised in Sunni Islam.

Shi'a:
• The teachings of Ali and Fatima, daughters of the Prophet are given more prominence.
• The shrine of Husain in Karbala is an important pilgrimage for Shi'a.
• Muttah is allowed in Shi'a Islam.
• There are two schools of legal opinion – Akbari and Usuli.

EXAMPLE 2: HINDUISM
• In traditional Hinduism, performance of domestic and temple ritual is obligatory for all.
• Much time is taken up by these rituals
• Hindu believers engage themselves in the lighting of lamps and the correct preparation of food.
• In Neo-Hindu movements, less emphasis is placed on rituals.
• In Neo-Hindu movement emphasis is placed more on individual and group devotion (bhakti)
• Devotion is also directed to a specific form of God.
• In many cases such devotional sessions involve a formal ritual element.
• Worship takes place at home and in the temple.
• Debates and exchange of ideas are encouraged between schools and traditions.
3.2 EXAMPLE 1: HINDUISM

- Hinduism originated in India in the Indus Valley from about 2500-1700 BCE.
- The term 'Hinduism' and 'Hindu' were derived from the name of the river Sindhu which rises in the Himalaya Mountains in northern India.
- The Persian immigrants referred to the river as 'Indus' and people living alongside it as 'Hindus'.
- Consequently their religion and culture later came to be known as Hinduism.
- The sacred books for Hinduism are Veda the old version and the common one, the Bhagavad Gita.
- They are divided into two main categories, namely Shruti and Smriti.
- Shruti literally means what is heard and Smriti means what is remembered.
- Shruti form the core of all Hindu thought and therefore it is the most important body of scripture.
- The Guru (spiritual teachers) has played a major role of being the transmitters of wisdom.
- Those who had received divine revelations (shruti) traditionally handed it down to their generation orally.
- The origin of this sacred knowledge veiled in the mist of time.
- They have been in circulation for a long time before their codification and compilation.
- It is impossible to establish the authorship of these scriptures.

EXAMPLE 2: BUDDHISM

- The sacred scripture for Buddhism is the Pali Canon.
- Originally passed along by the oral tradition, it was finally written down in Prakrit language.
- Sometimes they call their book Tripitaka, meaning 'three baskets'.
- It was first written on palm leaves, which were put in three baskets.
- Verses from the Pali Canon (Dhammapada) are of high moral and earnestness.
- It is generally considered poetic and beautifully written.
- It contains many truths that people of various religions can appreciate.
- It is divided into three sections, Vinaya Pitaka, Abhidhama Pitaka and Sutta Pitaka.
- Vinaya Pitaka – describes right conducts and rules of monastics discipline.
- Abhidhama Pitaka – contains philosophy, poetry, commentaries and doctrines.
- Sutta Pitaka – contains the teachings of Buddha.
QUESTION 4

4.1 Divine inspiration
- It refers to the breath (power and knowledge) of an extra ordinary being that have been breathed into a person.
- The extraordinary being or power comes into an ordinary person and taking that person's own breath.
- Divine inspiration is a very significant normative source in various religions.
- Divine inspiration is believed to have taken place to those people who stood face to face with God or divine power.
- The founders of various religions were inspired to establish the different religion e.g. Moses, Jesus, The Buddha, Muhammad and Baha'u' llah.

Contemporary inspiration
- Contemporary Inspiration means a current inspiration that is taking place at this era.
- The religious leaders and other ordinary members of religions who are being inspired during this era are conducting contemporary inspiration.
- Contemporary inspiration is used as a guidance to the followers of a particular religion.
- Today we still find people who get inspired to write books and hymns.
- These individuals usually commit themselves to a particular life and experience.

4.2 Grammar and historical context
- Clearest meaning
- Plan, purpose and context
- Meaning of words
- Figurative Language
- Other sacred text

4.3 YES
- Secularism is the belief that government and morality should not be based on religion.
- Most modern western democracies are secular states.
- Misconduct by religious leaders causes people to be disillusioned with religion.
- The split between the Roman Catholic and Protestants was one of the causes for the rise of secularism in the west.
- Most people thought that society would only be peaceful if there is separation between religion and the state.
- The development of printing contributed to the spread of secularism as more people became literate.
- The unfair distribution of economy which resulted in class struggle also contributed as most higher class were clergy.
NO

- In the East, religion is still a very powerful unifying factor.
- Examples are India, Indonesia and Japan.
- In all these cases, culture is closely associated with religion,
- This reinforces religious beliefs and practices.
- There is a more harmonious relationship between religion and technology in eastern civilisations.
- This is illustrated by Eastern religions having no problem with Darwin's theory and the Big Bang Theory.

NOTE: Other relevant points must be credited.

4.4 EXAMPLE 1: ISLAM

- Islamic religion teaches that Allah is the creator of all that is in heaven and on earth.
- The first human was Adam, whom God made from clay.
- Allah breathed His spirit into Adam, and he came to life.
- These humans were given highest status of all Allah's creations.
- Eve (Hawwa) was then created from Adam's rib.
- They originally lived in Paradise.
- Humans were created that they may worship Allah.
- According to theory of evolution man were not created perfect.
- Man like all other species gradually evolve (change its form) and become more complex by developing along the path of successfully variation.
- Darwin believed that man was not given higher status but, in fight for survival, man adapted better and was favoured while those that are not was struggling to survive.
- Both the world and species change over time.

EXAMPLE 2: HINDUISM

- Hindus have no problem with evolution because the universe is based on evolution.
- Hinduism is the only religion that shows relationship with evolution.
- They have more advanced theory of evolution than the scientific, because the scientific 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.
- Good life leads to gradual evolution to advanced form.
- Ultimately, you will achieve liberation from the physical and become one with God.
- Darwin's theory did not create a conflict with Hindu thought and belief.
- Darwin's theory contributed to the understanding of evolution towards Moksha.

TOTAL: 150