



# basic education

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

## **NATIONAL SENIOR CERTIFICATE**

**GRADE 12**

**RELIGION STUDIES P2**

**NOVEMBER 2016**

**MEMORANDUM**

**MARKS: 150**

**This memorandum consists of 16 pages.**

**QUESTION 1**

1.1.1

**NOTE:**

- **Two marks are awarded if all the branches of the selected religion are mentioned.**
- **In 1.1.1 and 1.1.2, if more than one religion is discussed, credit only the first religion.**
- **If only one of two existing branches is discussed, a maximum of six marks must be awarded.**
- **African Initiated Churches should also be recognised as a branch of Christianity.**

**EXAMPLE 1: Christianity**

- There are three main branches of Christianity, namely the Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox and Protestant Churches.

**Roman Catholic Church**

- This branch sees itself as the original church of Christ.
- They believe that everyone is born in sin, because Adam and Eve disobeyed God's command.
- God is made up of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.(i.e. Trinity)
- The Holy Spirit comes from God the Father and the Son.

**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.
- The supreme authority of the Pope is not recognised.

**Protestantism**

- In Protestantism, the Bible has more authority than the Pope.
- Rituals are less important than belief.
- They believe that faith is the key to salvation.
- Salvation is a gift given freely through the works of Jesus Christ.

**EXAMPLE 2: African Traditional Religion****AmaZulu**

- They believe and acknowledge the existence of a Supreme Being called uMvelinqangi.
- They believe 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.
- They also believe in a ceremony called 'brought back', where the living dead is established as an ancestor.

**Aka (in Central Africa)**

- The Aka believes in creator spirit called Bembe.
- They believe that Bembe retired after the act of creation.
- They believe in the forest spirit called Dzengi.
- They believe that Dzengi assists them in the successful hunting of elephants.

**Yoruba (South West Nigeria)**

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

**NOTE:** *The candidate must mention all branches of the religion chosen. Two marks are awarded for this.*

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1.1.2 **NOTE:** *NO marks should be awarded for repeating the branches of the religion in QUESTION 1.1.2.*

**EXAMPLE 1: Christianity**  
**Roman Catholic Church**

- The Roman Catholic Church practises a number of rituals called Sacraments such as:
  - Eucharist (Holy Communion)
  - Ordination into priesthood
  - Marriage
  - Baptism
  - The last rite before the death of a person
  - Burning of incense
  - Confession of sin to a Priest

**Eastern Orthodox Church**

They practise the following:

- Lighting of candles.
- Holy Communion.
- Kissing of the images of Saints, called icons.
- Burning of incense.
- Baptism.

**Protestants**

- Attendance of Sunday services.
- Holy communion services.
- Healing services
- Revival crusades.

**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 is approached through a pilgrimage to the mountains during natural disasters or drought.
- They practice a 'brought back' ceremony where the deceased is established as an ancestor after a year.

**Aka (Central Africa)**

- They dance and sing in honour of Dzengi.
- They slaughter animals in communication with the ancestors.
- When they go for hunting they perform a ritual which involves animal slaughtering to communicate with the animal spirit.
- They consult ngangas when taking difficult decisions.
- When there is illness or crisis in the family or community, the ngangas (traditional healers) are consulted.

**Yoruba**

- Religious practices focus on Ori Orun (spiritual self).
- 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.

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- 1.2 **NOTE:** *The candidate may give any number of positive and negative consequences. Any other relevant responses should be accepted. A maximum of TWO examples may be credited.*

**Positive consequences**

- Internal differences allow for differences in the interpretation of sacred texts.
- There is potential for religious growth, arising from interaction of subdivisions.
- It is also more accommodating, as human beings are not all the same.
- Internal differences encourage tolerance, as different views are also accepted within the same religion.
- They force the adherents to focus on what is common, rather than the differences.
- Major beliefs remain unchanged, but practices may differ among subdivisions of the same religion.
- E.g. In Islam, the *shahadah* (testimony that Allah alone is worthy of worship, and that Muhammad is His Messenger) is non-negotiable, but differences in jurisprudence and rituals do exist.
- In African Traditional Religion, ancestral worship is non-negotiable, but rituals are very different across the various branches.

**Negative consequences**

- Internal differences weaken religions.
- It causes division in communities and even families.
- People become intolerant, as they expect all persons from one religion to be the same.
- Internal differences have led to major wars.
- E.g. Iran-Iraq war/ Northern Ireland, etc.
- People become confused, and lose interest in religion.
- They may convert to another religion altogether.

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1.3

**Historical context**

- This means that the writings must be understood within the context of the time and circumstances in which the text was written.

**Clearest meaning/Meaning of words**

- The meaning that is clearest (or most obvious) to the reader should be considered.

**Plan, purpose and context**

- The writing plan or structure of the whole document must be taken into account.
- An extract must be seen as part of the whole.
- For example, is the writing in the form of poetry or prose?

**Meanings of words**

- The meanings of words often change over time and context.
- For correct interpretation, the original meaning must be used.

**Figurative language**

- Figurative language is used widely in some sacred texts. This must be identified as such, so that it is not interpreted literally.
- Figurative language requires the application of all other hermeneutical principles, in order for it to be correctly interpreted.

**Other sacred texts**

- Sacred texts may be used to interpret other sacred texts on the same topic.
- This is because there is consistency among teachings of a religion and its sacred texts.

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**QUESTION 2****2.1 EXAMPLE 1: Hinduism**

- The highest concept of God in Hinduism is Brahma, the Supreme Being.
- Brahman is everywhere and the source of our existence.
- Hinduism believes that God can be experienced in graded stages according to the spiritual development of the devotee.
- The first level or experience of God under Brahman is Ishwara, the formless God, who is everywhere and formless.
- Hinduism's nature of divinity is illustrated in the belief in reincarnation, which is a spiritual evolution, since one can experience Brahman in gradual stages.
- The Creator can be either in an active or passive state.
- The passive state of the Creator is a state of rest when nothing happens. The active state was when the Big Bang happened.
- Since God is seen in many forms, Hindus believe that all religions lead to one truth.
- In Hinduism the universe is the Creator, so they do not have a problem with the theory of evolution.

**EXAMPLE 2: Islam**

- Muslims believe in a universal God called Allah.
- Allah is beyond physical description and is referred to by a wide range of titles reflecting His divine attributes (al-Rabb, al-Malik, al-Rahman and al-Rahim).
- Belief (*iman*) in Allah is the foundation of Islam.
- Humans must affirm and acknowledge the existence of Allah and live according to His divine will.
- His divine will is expressed in the teachings contained in the divinely revealed scriptures, the Qur'an.
- The Muslim understanding of the nature of God, of the universe and of humanity is shaped essentially in the Qur'an.
- The titles al-Rabb and al-Malik reminds us that Allah owns the universe and will dispense justice on the Day of Judgement.
- The above titles are reflected in Islamic belief in the Judgement Day.
- Two fundamental doctrines in Muslim teaching, which complement each other, are tawhid and shirk.
- Tawhid is arguably the defining doctrine of Islam, and affirms the oneness of God.
- Allah must be venerated above all other beings and above animals; He is one and has no son.
- Of all major sins in Islam, shirk (associating partners with God) is the gravest, because no gods, being or object has the attributes of Allah.

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**2.2 EXAMPLE 1: Hinduism**

- According to the traditional Hindu view, human beings may be divided into four categories called varnas/ castes.
- These varnas serve the purpose of organising society.
- Individuals then know their place or role in society.
- The resultant division of labour moulds the relationship between the community and the individual.
- Varnas is to categorise people according to their intrinsic qualities.
- The highest caste consists of Brahmanas, the spiritual teachers, priests, philosophers and law-makers.
- They must provide spiritual guidance and intellectual sustenance to society.
- The second caste is the Ksatriyas, rulers and warriors, whose duty is to govern the nation and to protect it against aggression.
- They must use their power to protect the weak and punish the wicked.
- The third category is the business persons. They must earn wealth.
- They must spend their wealth in charity and for the welfare of society.
- The fourth caste is Sudras, or labourers who must be active and honest.

**EXAMPLE 2: Islam**

- Islam creates a balance between the rights of individuals and the rights of the community.
- If there is conflict between the right of individuals and that of the majority, the community's right takes precedence.
- Individual rights must not cause harm to or violate the right of the majority.
- The individual has specific rights which cannot be denied, but with those rights comes obligations to the family, community and state.
- Islam believes that its followers are obliged to provide support and assistance to weak members of the community.
- The community should create a context in which the physical and intellectual capabilities of all its members can flourish.
- The community must encourage all that is good or beneficial and forbid or discourage all that is evil.
- The collective affairs of the community should be run on a basis of mutual consultation.
- Muslims have social obligations not just to their communities, but towards all humanity.

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**2.3 EXAMPLE 1: Hinduism**

- Hindus do not deny the reality of pain, misery and evil in the world.
- They believe that evil is not inherent in the human being.
- Evil is like a cloud throwing its shadow over the passing sun.
- The cloud passes but the sun does not change.
- In Brahman there is no evil.
- According to Hinduism, suffering and evil are caused by a perception of duality between man and the universe, between us and God.
- If we become one with Brahman, there will be no evil.

**EXAMPLE 2: Islam**

- Evil is linked with Satan or the devil.
- Allah created Adam and commanded all of creation to bow before him.
- Satan refused to bow claiming that he was better than Adam because he was created from fire, whereas Adam was created with clay.
- That pride led Satan to fall from grace.
- Satan vowed that forever, he would use his power to mislead people and dissuade them from obeying God.
- Human beings have a natural moral sense given to them by Allah, which enables them to distinguish between good and evil.
- Every individual is obliged to avoid what is evil and do what is good.

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2.4

**EXAMPLE 1: Hinduism**

- Humans are trapped in the circle of birth and rebirth known as Samsara.
- When a person dies, the soul is reborn (reincarnated) into another body.
- The spiritual goal of humans is to liberate the soul from continual rebirth of the body.
- The soul can be liberated once it has found its oneness with Brahma.
- The soul can only be truly happy when this liberation is achieved.
- This liberation is called moksha.

**EXAMPLE 2: Islam**

- According to Islam, life does not cease with death, but continues beyond the grave.
- Those who die enter a new phase, called barzakh, till the Day of Resurrection.
- In this phase (barzakh), the soul is in a state of either contentment or torment.
- On the Day of Resurrection, all people will be called by Allah to account for their lives on earth.
- On the Day of judgement, those who believe in Allah and have fulfilled their obligations to the Creator as well as to humanity, will be rewarded.
- They will be admitted to paradise (jannah).
- Those who deny the existence of Allah will be punished and consigned to hell (jahannam).
- Death is not the end of life, but a phase in the journey of human kind.

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**QUESTION 3**

- 3.1
- AIDS is a disease caused by the HI virus.
  - This virus is passed mainly through unprotected sexual intercourse.
  - HIV and Aids can also be acquired through the sharing of medical needles (e.g. in drug abuse).
  - It can also be acquired through blood transfusion.
  - Substance abuse exposes a person to HIV and AIDS, as addicts have an increased risk of engaging in risky sexual behaviour.
  - Older men (Sugar daddies/'Blessers') who may already be HIV positive, sleep with younger women.

**NOTE:** Any other relevant point must be accepted.

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- 3.2
- There is a high mortality rate of young individuals in society.
  - This has a negative impact on the economy, as economically active people are affected.
  - The death of young individuals also results in child-headed families.
  - This in turn leads to an increase in poverty stricken families.
  - There is also an increase in orphans and vulnerable children.
  - The economy of the country is also affected, since more people are dependent on social grants.
  - Unfair discrimination among community members is experienced.
  - People who are suffering from HIV and AIDS are forced by their health conditions to take early retirement or medical boarding.

**NOTE:** Any other relevant answers should be accepted.

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3.3 **EXAMPLE 1: African Traditional Religion**

- This religion teaches followers about abstinence from sexual intercourse before marriage.
- The young maidens are encouraged to preserve their virginity.
- Virginity testing takes place on regular basis in order to promote good sexual behaviour among the youth.
- This religion believes in 'ubuntu', which is central to nation building as it emphasizes right living in the society.
- African Traditional Religion believes that young men should go to the mountain to be moulded and prepared for manhood and responsible adulthood.
- They are taught different aspects of life: they also undergo circumcision which becomes the climax of their training towards manhood.
- Young male circumcision is also encouraged in ATR as another way of protection against HIV and Aids.
- It is expected that the eldest must play a leading role in the community by protecting the young ones, rather than sleeping with them.
- There are also rites of passage that are conducted for the young men and women to encourage good behaviour.
- Communal way of life encourages everyone in the community to be in harmony with the values and customs of the community, including abstinence.

**EXAMPLE 2: Christianity**

- Christianity believes that there should be no sex before marriage.
- The adherents of Christianity are taught to preserve their virginity and undergo religious engagement, which is the last step before marriage.
- In Christianity, the followers are expected to follow the Ten Commandments that include teachings like, 'thou shall not commit adultery.'
- Christians are taught to live a holy life.
- Promiscuity is abhorred.
- Some of the Christian denominations teach against blood transfusion which is one of the causes of HIV and Aids, e.g. Jehovah's Witnesses.
  
- Christianity believes that the body is the temple of the Lord, so they must not practise any form of immorality.
- 'Love your neighbour as you love yourself' means that you should not harm any fellow human being, which includes not infecting him/her with HIV.
- We must care for all human beings and protect them against contaminated needles and other materials, because God is Love.
- Rewards after death encourage Christians to abstain from sex before marriage and remain faithful to their partners.

**NOTE:** Any other relevant answer should be accepted.

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3.4

**YES**

- Interfaith organisations in South Africa organise workshops and conferences in different communities to teach them about HIV and AIDS.
- 'Love Life' is an NGO that is supported by all religions to raise awareness about HIV and AIDS.
- In each and every church conference, HIV and AIDs is included in the agenda. and that has led to a decline in infections.
- Most church goers who have undergone character building processes within their churches display strong moral values and assertiveness.
- Most churches are now equipped with HIV advisers who regularly raise the awareness about HIV and AIDS. Hence a reduction in the HIV and AIDS infection rate.

**OR****NO**

- Some organisations have made a considerable effort. However, the impact is little and not visible in society.
- There are still many reported cases of teenage pregnancy among school girls.
- Although learners receive life skills training, conducted by certain organisations such as 'Star for Life', they (learners) still engage in sex irresponsibly which results in unplanned pregnancies.

- Sexually transmitted diseases are still prevalent among the youth and adults.
- There is still disagreement with the Department of Education about the distribution of condoms, which is favoured by most non-governmental organizations.
- Sexuality education is often taught by unqualified Life Orientation teachers. They are unable to do justice to this important topic.
- The influence of religious organisations is decreasing. (low attendance)
- Religious organisations therefore have little influence on society, and even less among the youth.

**NOTE:** Any combination of YES and NO responses is acceptable.  
Any other relevant answer should be accepted.

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#### QUESTION 4

4.1 **NOTE:** If a candidate has discussed only 'how' or 'why', a maximum of EIGHT marks may be awarded.

• **EXAMPLE 1: Materialism**

- Materialism originated in various areas within Europe and Asia.
- It originated during the Axial Age from 800 - 200 BCE.
- Materialism expresses itself in ancient Indian philosophy; in Buddhism and Confucianism.
- Baron d'Holbach (1723–1789) claimed that initially nothing existed except nature.
- In the West, materialism was first developed by Greek philosophers, the Atomists, and was revived in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.
- An elaboration of the concept of 'materialism' was made by Karl Marx during the 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- Marx included human history and economic activity into materialism.
- It was at this time that the Protestant movement was gaining ground in Europe.
- This emboldened secularists, including materialists, to develop world views other than religion.

• **EXAMPLE 2: Secular Humanism**

- Secular humanism as a concept was first used in the 1950s.
- Secular humanism is a branch of humanism.
- The term humanism was originally a religious term.
- In the Renaissance a humanist was anyone who studied the classical literature and education.
- In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the meaning of humanism shifted to mean atheism to most English speakers.
- Secular humanism originated because particular philosophers needed to put forth their own theory, which would replace religion.
- The Council for Secular Humanism was founded in 1980.

- The Council for Secular Humanism issued a declaration reflecting its members' beliefs-'A Secular Humanist Declaration.'
- The twenty-fifth anniversary of the Council for Secular Humanism was celebrated in 2005.
- It was during the celebration that the World Congress was held.
- At the World Congress, the secular humanists called for a 'new Enlightenment.'
- The new Enlightenment was meant to spread to the Middle East and other parts of the world.

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#### 4.2 **EXAMPLE 1: Materialism**

- Materialism as a secular worldview believe that matter is the only reality.
- Materialism teaches its followers that there is no supernatural realm.
- This worldview is opposed to the religious worldviews that are based on the beliefs that affirm the existence of any form of spiritual reality.
- Materialism propagates that nothing exists but nature.
- According to materialism, any being that is viewed as beyond nature is a creature of imagination.
- Materialism forbids its followers to subject themselves to any spiritual dependency.
- New terms were developed from materialism, namely: Dialectical materialism and Historical materialism.
- In dialectical materialism, matter is regarded as the fundamental cause of everything.
- Economics and the relationships between workers and owners as the basic structure in the community is referred to as historical materialism.
- However, contemporary physicists and neuroscientists are challenging the materialist explanations of reality.

#### **EXAMPLE 2: Secular Humanism**

- Like other forms of humanism, Secular humanism holds a common belief that attaches prime importance to humans.
- To the Secular humanist, the divine does not exist.
- Secular humanism rejects religious belief and the existence of the supernatural.
- In its teachings, the Council for Secular Humanism highlights the following:
  - A need to test beliefs – A conviction that traditions, ideologies and dogmas should be weighed and tested by each individual and not by faith.
  - Reason, evidence, Scientific method – A commitment to the use of critical reason, factual evidence and scientific method of inquiry in seeking solutions to human problems and other questions.
  - Fulfilment, growth and creativity – A primary concern with fulfilment, growth and creativity.

- Search for truth – a constant search for objective truth.
- This life – A concern for this life as opposed to an afterlife.
- Ethics – A search for viable individual, social and political principles of ethical conduct.
- Justice and fairness – An interest in securing justice and fairness in society.
- Building a better world – A conviction that with reason, an open exchange of ideas, goodwill and tolerance can be used to build a better world.

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4.3 *NOTE: A discussion on only ONE normative source is an adequate response to this question.*

*If a religion and normative source are not mentioned, a maximum of 16 marks may be awarded*

**EXAMPLE 1: Hinduism**

- In Hinduism, the original sound of the spoken word is awarded absolute priority.
- The oral and written texts originate from the inspiration that can be traced back to 4000 years ago.
- The original inspiration was transmitted orally for centuries and even millennia before the advent of heard writings (Shruti)
- The heard writings are distinguished from secondary, derived, humanly-composed writings such as philosophical interpretations.
- This distinction above is not absolute.
- The Brahmanas and Upanishads later become compositions, commentaries and interpretations of the earlier collections.
- The compositions, commentaries and interpretations were later included in the sacred tradition of the Vedas.
- As time went by there was development from the original to the derived, towards the different classical philosophical schools.
- Examples of the classical philosophical schools that have developed are the Nyaya, Vaisheshika, Sankhya, Purva-Mimamsa, Yoga and Vedanta.
- Over the years there have been more innovative and authoritative commentators and re-interpreters.
- Examples of the innovative and authoritative commentators are Shankara and Vivekananda.

**EXAMPLE 2: Judaism**

- Like in many religions, the original inspiration was largely spread first by oral tradition.
- Such an oral tradition was transmitted faithfully for hundreds and even thousands of years.
- The primary scriptures in Judaism are collectively known as the Tanach.
- The Tanach is made of the Torah, Nevi'im and Ketuvim.
- The first group of the primary scriptures began to enjoy canonical status by the fifth century BCE.
- The second group of the primary scriptures gained the canonical status by the third century BCE.

- The third group of scriptures was finally accepted into canon in the last decade of the first century CE.
- The corpus of these scriptures was decided by the scholars after careful deliberation, to be the revealed Word of God.
- The Apocrypha were not included as divinely revealed books.
- The canon was thereafter supported strictly as a secondary source.
- The Talmud consists of the Mishnah and the Gemara.
- The Talmud was completed by the end of the fifth century CE.
- On the third tier were further detailed, rabbinical explanations of the Torah.
- The most important of these rabbinical explanations were written down (Midrash).

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## QUESTION 5

- 5.1
- In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, when Darwin's *Origin of Species* was published, the response of the Church was total rejection.
  - It was seen as blasphemy.
  - Today there are more liberal views in Christianity, as well as in Judaism and Islam.
  - Liberal believers believe that there is common ground between religion and science.
  - They re-interpret part of their own tradition so as to accommodate evolution.
  - They argue that at a deep level, teachings about nature in the holy books must be understood allegorically, or figuratively.
  - For example, some Christian theologians have argued that the account of creation in Genesis must not be interpreted in the physical sense.
  - Liberal believers say there is no conflict between science and religion, so long as one sees science as uncovering God's laws.
  - They also explain creation through the terms 'creation science' or 'intelligent design'.
  - These concepts incorporate evolution into the creation plans of the Supreme Being.
  - That is, organisms were designed by God to be able to adapt to changing environments, thus leading to new species.
  - Liberal believers thus argue that natural selection is part of God's intelligent design.
  - The attitude of liberal believers has certainly become more accepting of the theory of evolution
  - Amongst the orthodox believers of the Abrahamic faiths, the traditional religious view is seen as absolutely true.
  - Everything in scriptures is equally timeless and eternal, and true in a literal sense.

- Creationism as it is explained in the book of Genesis is regarded as true, and in a literal sense.
- God created Adam and Eve who were the first humans.
- Adam and Eve were created perfect in the image of God.
- They did not evolve from other life forms, but were created as a unique species.
- They are above all God's creation.
- Orthodox believers refer to the famous 'watch analogy' of William Paley.
- Paley argued that a watch is a complicated piece of engineering, and cannot come into being by chance: It must have an intelligent designer. As the universe is far more complicated, it too, must have an intelligent designer (God).
- Orthodox believers argue that God does not change His plans: He is still in charge of creation.
- Therefore, the attitude of orthodox/fundamentalist believers has not changed at all. Religion deals with God and science deals with nature.
- However, other religions, such as Hinduism and Buddhism, have always accepted the theory of evolution.
- Hinduism has no problem with evolution: they have a more advanced theory of evolution which incorporates spiritual evolution.
- The evolution theory did not create a conflict with Hindu thought and beliefs for it contributed to the understanding of evolution towards Moksha.
- Therefore, in these religions (Hinduism and Buddhism), there is no change in attitude.
- In African Traditional Religion, there has been no objection to evolution theory, as the universe is seen as interconnected parts.
- However, the status of man is clearly seen as above all other creation.

**NOTE:** *Relevant changes discussed in other religions should be accepted. If a candidate discusses only one religion, a maximum of 20 marks may be awarded.*

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## 5.2 **EXAMPLE 1: Hinduism**

- To Hindus, the universe itself is the creator.
- This does not contradict the Big bang Theory.
- In Hinduism the Creator is not male or female.
- The creator is simple the Creator.
- No creator is mentioned in the Big Bang theory.
- Hindus believe that Big Bang is the alternative way of explaining how the universe came about.
- In Hinduism, the Creator exists in either active or passive state.
- The passive state is a state of rest, when nothing happens.
- Scientifically the passive state was before the Big Bang.

- After a very long time the creator becomes active again.
- This is when part of the universe becomes different from other parts, and creation begins.
- According to scientific view when a creator becomes active that is when the Big Bang took place.

**EXAMPLE 2: Taoism**

- In Taoism, the world and everything in it comes into being automatically as part of the activity of the Tao.
- It is not planned, but it is not unplanned.
- The Tao did not intend the world to exist, nor did it not want the world to exist.
- Taoism does not contradict the Big Bang Theory.
- Scientifically the world was not created by any God or gods, but it happened by chance. The world simply emerged as a tiny speck in the enormous 'bowl' of creation as the Tao continued on its path.
- According to Taoism the world consists of processes of creation and destruction.
- This is in line with the Big Bang Theory which states that there was an enormous explosion. Within a second, the universe had appeared and filled out to an enormous size.
- According to science, the universe is ever expanding. There is no rest period.
- The Taoist view of the universe is based very much on their observation of the natural and human world.
- The Big Bang Theory is also based on observation of the natural and human world.
- Hence Taoism's acceptance of the Big Bang Theory.

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**TOTAL: 150**