



**Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit**  
**State Examinations Commission**

LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION, 2015

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION — HIGHER LEVEL**

FRIDAY, 19 JUNE — MORNING, 9.30 to 12.00

Total Marks: 320

***General Directions for Candidates***

CANDIDATES MUST ANSWER THE FOLLOWING:

- **ONE QUESTION FROM UNIT ONE**
- **TWO QUESTIONS FROM UNIT TWO**
- **ONE QUESTION FROM UNIT THREE**

YOU SHOULD SPEND APPROXIMATELY 30 MINUTES COMPLETING THIS UNIT.

YOU MUST ANSWER ONE OF THE FOLLOWING TWO QUESTIONS.

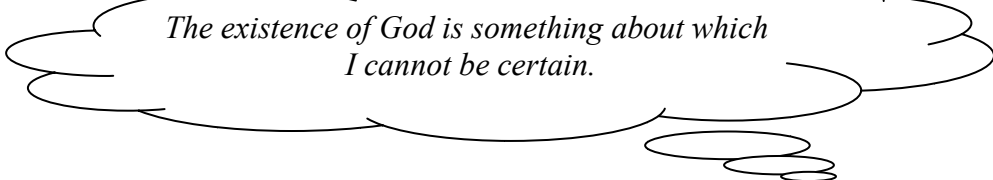
(All questions carry 80 marks each)

SECTION A THE SEARCH FOR MEANING AND VALUES

Question 1.

Answer a) and b).

- a) Profile the understanding of God/gods/the divine that can be seen in **two** myths from ancient times which you have studied. (40 marks)

- b)   
— *An Agnostic*

Outline what you think Anselm and Aquinas would **each** say in response to the above statement. (40 marks)

Question 2.

Answer a) and b).

- a) Identify **two** key moments in the development of philosophy and outline the way that philosophical thinking changed at each of these key moments. (40 marks)



(Source:bobhaa.com)

- b) Outline the understanding of how God/the transcendent is revealed to people, in **two** major world religions that you have studied. (40 marks)

YOU SHOULD SPEND APPROXIMATELY 60 MINUTES COMPLETING THIS UNIT.

YOU MUST ANSWER TWO OF THE FOLLOWING THREE SECTIONS.

(All sections carry 80 marks each)


**SECTION B CHRISTIANITY: ORIGINS AND CONTEMPORARY EXPRESSIONS**

Answer a) and b).

- a) i. Outline **four** key characteristics of the Kingdom of God that Jesus emphasised in his preaching. (20 marks)
- ii. Compare **two** of the characteristics of the Kingdom of God preached by Jesus with the Jewish understanding of the Kingdom of God. (20 marks)
- b) *Imagine that you are interviewing some of the first disciples after the death and resurrection of Jesus.* Outline what you think they would say about the impact of Jesus' death and resurrection on their religious beliefs and practices. (40 marks)

**SECTION C WORLD RELIGIONS**

Answer a) and b).

- a) i. Describe the general world-wide distribution of members today in **each** of the following religions:
- 

(Source: Coloringhub.com)
- ◆ BUDDHISM ◆ CHRISTIANITY ◆ HINDUISM ◆ ISLAM ◆ JUDAISM (20 marks)
- ii. Profile the origins of **one** of the following:
- ❖ AN AFRICAN TRADITIONAL RELIGION ❖ A CHINESE RELIGION
- ❖ A NEW RELIGIOUS MOVEMENT ❖ BAHÁ'Í FAITH ❖ SIKH RELIGION (20 marks)
- b) Explain how inter-faith dialogue can present both an opportunity and a challenge for the members of major world religions today. (40 marks)

**SECTION D MORAL DECISION - MAKING**

Answer a) and b).

- a) i. Describe an example of how moral failure has both personal and social implications for the members of **one** Christian denomination that you have studied. (20 marks)
- ii. Compare the understanding of moral failure in a Christian denomination with the way that it is understood in **one** of the following world religions:
- ◆ BUDDHISM ◆ HINDUISM ◆ ISLAM ◆ JUDAISM (20 marks)
- b) Outline the role **two** of the following can play in a person's growth towards moral maturity:
- MORAL FREEDOM ● MORAL PRINCIPLES ● VIRTUE (40 marks)

YOU SHOULD SPEND APPROXIMATELY 30 MINUTES COMPLETING THIS UNIT.

YOU MUST ANSWER ONE OF THE FOLLOWING FOUR SECTIONS.

(All sections carry 80 marks each)

**SECTION E RELIGION AND GENDER**

Answer a) or b) or c) or d).

a) Compare the part played in salvation history by **one** woman and **one** man whose stories are told in the Hebrew Scriptures.

*or*

b) Compare the roles that were given to women and to men in the first Christian communities.

*or*

c) Examine the way in which Mary, the mother of Jesus, is portrayed in **one** Christian denomination that you have studied.

*or*

d) Examine how a person's gender influences the roles he/she can have within a major world religion.

(80 marks)

**SECTION H THE BIBLE: LITERATURE AND SACRED TEXT**

Answer a) and b).

a) Compare what **two** of the following texts, from the Hebrew Scriptures, say about the relationship between God and people:

- HANNAH'S SONG OF THANKS (1Sam 2:1 — 10)
  - ISRAEL RESTORED (Is 52:13 — 53:12)
  - THE TEN COMMANDMENTS (Ex 20:1 — 21)
- (40 marks)

b) Discuss the importance of the 'Q' source in the formation of **two** Synoptic Gospels. (40 marks)

**SECTION I RELIGION: THE IRISH EXPERIENCE**

Answer a) and b).

a) Describe **two** of the main characteristics of Christianity found in another part of Europe, at the time that Saint Patrick came to Ireland.

(40 marks)

b) Outline **two** examples of how inculturation contributed to the development of Christianity in Ireland at the time of Saint Patrick.

(40 marks)



## SECTION J RELIGION AND SCIENCE

Answer a) and *either* b) *or* c).

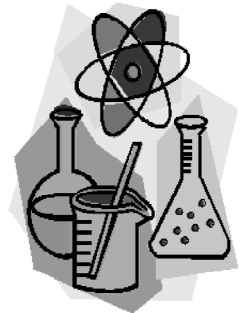
a) Compare the response that is given by religion and by science to a question about the meaning of life. (40 marks)

b) Explain the implications that the work of Werner Heisenberg on quantum theory may have for the understanding of God/the transcendent in a major world religion. (40 marks)

*or*

c) Explain why ethical concerns could arise for members of a major world religion because of modern scientific advances in relation to **one** of the following:

- ARTIFICIALLY CREATED LIFE
- CLONING
- GENETICALLY MODIFIED LIFE
- THE ENDING OF LIFE



(40 marks)

(Source: Clipartbest.com)

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