



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission

Leaving Certificate Examination 2025

Religious Education

Higher Level

Tuesday 24 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) Outline **one** philosophical idea put forward by the Sophists in ancient Greece.

(20)



- (ii) Assess the impact of **one** idea put forward by the Sophists in ancient Greece on the development of philosophy.

(20)

- (b) • Christianity • Islam • Judaism

Examine how the understanding of God in **one** of the above religions could influence a person's belief about their purpose in life in the world today.

(40)

Question 2

Answer (a) and (b).

- (a) • Agnosticism • Atheism • Reductionism

Choose **two** of the above viewpoints and explain how a person's religious faith could be challenged by each of the points of view you have chosen.

(40)

- (b) (i) Outline **two** images of God that you have studied.

(20)

- (ii) Compare the ideas about God that can be seen in the **two** images described in part (b), (i) above.

(20)

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) Explain the new understanding of Jesus that developed among his disciples because of each of the following: ● The death of Jesus ● The Resurrection of Jesus (40)
- (b) Discuss the reliability of the key points of evidence for Jesus of Nazareth put forward by any **two** of the following sources:
● Josephus ● Pliny the Younger ● Saint Paul ● Tacitus (40)
- (c) Describe how the way of life of members of **one** of the early Christian communities listed below was influenced by the teaching of Jesus that all people are equal and welcome in the Kingdom of God: ● Corinth ● Philippi ● Thessalonica (40)

Section C World Religions (80 marks)

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

- (a) Trace an example of how inter-faith dialogue developed between members of **two** of the following religions:
● Buddhism ● Christianity ● Hinduism ● Islam ● Judaism (40)
- (b) Describe the religious ceremonies used by **two** of the following religions to mark an important moment in their founding stories:
● Buddhism ● Christianity ● Hinduism ● Islam ● Judaism (40)
- (c) Compare how the community of believers is structured in **two** of the following religions:
● Buddhism ● Christianity ● Hinduism ● Islam ● Judaism (40)

Section D Moral Decision-Making (80 marks)

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

- (a) Explain how a balance between personal and communal values can be seen in **one** example of a secular moral code you have studied. (40)
- (b) ● Deontological Ethics ● Hedonism ● Modern Perspectives on Natural Law
● Right Relationship ● Teleological Ethics ● Utilitarianism ● Virtue Ethics
Outline the approach to deciding what is right and wrong put forward in **two** of the above moral theories. (40)
- (c) Compare the understanding of moral failure found in **one** Christian denomination with how it is understood in **one** of the following religions:
● Buddhism ● Hinduism ● Islam ● Judaism (40)

Unit Three

You must answer **one** of the following four sections.

(All sections carry 80 marks each)

Section F Issues of Justice and Peace (80 marks)

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

- (a) Describe how the understanding of stewardship in the Genesis creation texts could influence the response of a person of faith to an environmental crisis in the world today. (40)
- (b) (i) Outline **one** of the following approaches to justice:
● Justice as fair play ● Justice as the upholding of human rights (20)
- (ii) Choose either justice as fair play or justice as the upholding of human rights and explain a strength and a weakness that approach might have in responding to **one** of the following:
● Discrimination in Ireland ● Poverty in Ireland ● World Hunger (20)
- (c) Examine how **one** of the following understandings of justice could influence people of faith to address an issue of injustice in the world today:
● The Eightfold Path of Buddhism ● The Four Varnas of Hinduism ● The Zakat of Islam (40)

Section G Worship, Prayer and Ritual (80 marks)

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

- (a) Compare the meaning of 'sacrament' in **two** different Christian denominations you have studied. (40)
- (b) Describe **two** ways in which an experience of awe could influence the way people participate in worship. (40)
- (c) Outline the main characteristics of a mystical tradition found in **one** of the following religions:
● Buddhism ● Christianity ● Hinduism ● Islam ● Judaism (40)

Section I Religion: The Irish Experience

(80 marks)

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

- (a) ● Irish Archaeological Evidence ● Irish Myths and Sagas
Using an example from **one** of the above, trace how it shows evidence of Pre-Christian religious belief in ancient Ireland. (40)
- (b) Outline **two** distinctive features that were part of 'Irish Christianity' in the time immediately after St Patrick. (40)
- (c) Compare **two** features of religious practice in Ireland today with the features of religious practice found in another European country. (40)

Section J Religion and Science

(80 marks)

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

- (a) Explain why **one** of Newton's discoveries in mathematics was seen by some people to be a moment of conflict in the relationship between science and religion. (40)
- (b) Describe the response of **one** major world religion when Charles Darwin first put forward his theory of evolution. (40)
- (c) Compare the understanding of creation found in a scientific theory about how the universe began with the understanding of creation found in **one** of the following religions: (40)
- Buddhism ● Christianity ● Hinduism ● Islam ● Judaism



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Acknowledgements

Images

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