

State Examinations Commission

Marking Scheme

Leaving Certificate Examinations 2005

Religious Education

Ordinary Level

UNIT ONE

CANDIDATES MUST ATTEMPT TWO OF THE FOLLOWING THREE QUESTIONS.

SECTION A THE SEARCH FOR MEANING AND VALUES

QUESTION 1. THE CONTEMPORARY CONTEXT

Marks

- a. State two questions about the meaning of life from any one philosopher you have studied.**

An excellent answer will show an ability to formulate two questions about the meaning of life from one philosopher. The candidate's answer will suggest two questions that form part of a philosopher's search for meaning and values. The answer should show an ability to articulate, recognise and engage with the great questions of life. 10

- b. Outline the answer given to a question about the meaning of life from any one philosopher you have studied.**

An excellent answer will set out information on one philosopher's response to a question about the meaning of life. The candidate's answer should show a familiarity with evidence of the search for meaning and values in philosophical thought. 15

- c. Outline one example of the search for the meaning of life in today's music, art, film or literature.**

An excellent answer will set out information on one example of the search for meaning in today's world from modern culture. The candidate's answer should show an ability to recognise and identify evidence of the search for meaning and values in a contemporary context e.g. music, art, film or literature. 15

QUESTION 2. EVIDENCE OF RELIGIOUS BELIEF

Marks

- a. Describe one rite from the ancient world which shows evidence of religious belief.**

An excellent answer will accurately give information about a rite from the ancient world that shows evidence of religious belief in the use of a set pattern of words and / or symbols. The candidate's answer should show an awareness that from earliest times, human beings expressed their response to the quest for meaning in a variety of spiritualities, symbolic languages and meaning systems. 10

- b. Briefly outline the religious belief suggested by this rite.**

An excellent answer will set out information on the belief in the transcendent / God / Gods that may be suggested by the rite described above. The candidate's answer should show an ability to identify and analyse traces of religion in earliest societies. 15

- c. Describe one other way in which religious belief was expressed in the ancient world.**

An excellent answer will state information on one other way in which belief in the transcendent / God / Gods was expressed in the ancient world. The candidate's answer should show an ability to identify and analyse traces of religion in earliest societies. 15

QUESTION 3. CONCEPTS OF GOD

Marks

a. What does the term “monotheism” mean?

An excellent answer will show a clear understanding of monotheism as a belief system that is centred on the belief that there is only one God. The candidate’s answer should show a familiarity with the concept of monotheism. 10

b. Name two religions that are examples of monotheism.

An excellent answer will name two religions that are based on the belief that there is only one God. The candidate’s answer should show a familiarity with the concept of monotheism and some knowledge of the monotheistic traditions. 10

c. Briefly outline the understanding of God found in one of the religions you have named above.

An excellent answer will accurately set out information on the understanding of God found in one monotheistic religion. The candidate’s answer should show a familiarity with the concept of monotheism and some knowledge of the understanding of God in the monotheistic traditions. 20

UNIT TWO

CANDIDATES MUST ATTEMPT TWO OF THE FOLLOWING THREE SECTIONS.

SECTION B CHRISTIANITY - EARLY CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES

Choose one of the early Christian communities listed below and answer the questions that follow. *Marks*

♦ Corinth ♦ Philippi ♦ Thessalonica

a. Describe the way of life of the community you have chosen above.

An excellent answer will give information about the way of life of the early Christian community chosen above. The candidate's answer should show a familiarity with characteristics of one of the first Christian communities and an appreciation of the significance of the life, teaching, death and resurrection of Jesus for the first Christians. *30*

b. Outline one problem this community had to deal with.

An excellent answer will accurately set out information on one problem which had to be dealt with by the early Christian community chosen above. The candidate's answer should show an awareness of the historical nature of Christianity and the role of the cultural context in the shaping of belief and practice from ancient times. *20*

c. Explain how the religious beliefs of the community helped it to deal with such problems.

An excellent answer will provide reasons that show how the religious beliefs of the community helped it deal with problems. The candidate's answer should show an understanding of the relationship between faith and culture as well as an appreciation of the significance of the life, teaching, death and resurrection of Jesus for the first Christians. *30*

SECTION C WORLD RELIGIONS - TIMES AND SEASONS

Every religion has special days and seasons it celebrates every year.

Marks

a. Choose two of the world religions listed below.

Name a special day or season that each religion you have chosen celebrates every year.

♦ Buddhism ♦ Christianity ♦ Hinduism ♦ Islam ♦ Judaism

An excellent answer will accurately identify one special day or season that is celebrated every year in each of the two chosen world religions. The candidate's answer should show a detailed knowledge of a feature of two major religious traditions. *20*

b. Outline a religious rite associated with one of the special days or seasons you have named.

An excellent answer will set out information about a set pattern of words and / or symbols that mark one day or season for a religion named above. The candidate's answer should show a detailed knowledge of this feature of a major religious tradition. *20*

c. Explain the meaning of this rite for members of the world religion you have chosen.

An excellent answer will provide accurate reasons accounting for the meaning of the set pattern of words and / or symbols that are associated with the religious celebration of one day or season outlined above. *40*

a. What is conscience?

An excellent answer will give an accurate description of conscience as a person's awareness or understanding of what is right and wrong with regard to her / his own thoughts and actions. 20

b. Describe two ways in which a person can inform his / her conscience.

An excellent answer will accurately give information regarding two ways in which a person can inform his / her awareness or understanding of what is right and wrong. The candidate's answer should show an ability to engage with the process of conscience development by enquiry, understanding and reflection. 20

c. Religious or civil authorities can sometimes find themselves in conflict with a person's individual conscience. Describe a situation in which such a conflict might arise and explain why this conflict might have arisen.

An excellent answer will accurately give information regarding one situation that could give rise to conflict between a person's conscience and a religious or civil authority. The candidate's answer should provide reasons accounting for such conflict and show an ability to identify and assess the values proposed by a variety of sources and traditions. 40

UNIT THREE

CANDIDATES MUST ATTEMPT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING FOUR SECTIONS.

SECTION E RELIGION AND GENDER

◆ Buddhism ◆ Christianity ◆ Hinduism ◆ Islam ◆ Judaism

Marks

Compare the roles of men and women in one of the above world religions.

An excellent answer will accurately present the roles men and women in one of the above world religions showing the similarities and / or differences between them. The candidate's answer should show knowledge of the roles of women and men and an ability to trace the development of the role of gender in a religious tradition.

80

SECTION F JUSTICE AND PEACE

◆ Justice as Right Relationship

◆ Justice as Fair Play

Marks

◆ Justice as the Upholding of Human Rights

a. Outline one of the above visions of justice.

An excellent answer will accurately set out information on one of the above understandings of justice.

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b. Explain the relationship between justice and peace.

An excellent answer will provide accurate reasons for the links between justice and peace. The candidate's answer should be able to identify the links between justice and peace, and the absence of peace.

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SECTION H THE BIBLE AND SACRED TEXT

Marks

The Ten Wedding Attendants
“At that time the Kingdom of heaven will be like this. Once there were ten girls who took their oil lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and the other five were wise...”

(Matthew 25:1 - 2
Good News Bible)

The Ten Wedding Attendants
“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise...”

(Matthew 25:1 - 2
New Revised Standard Version)

The Ten Wedding Attendants
“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this: Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were sensible...”

(Matthew 25:1 - 2
The Jerusalem Bible)

a. What is a parable?

An excellent answer will accurately identify that a parable is a story drawn from everyday life which conveys religious or moral teaching in a vivid and memorable way and aims to evoke a response, a decision, an action or a change of heart. The candidate's answer should show a familiarity with parable as a literary genre found in the Bible.

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b. i. Outline the story of *The Ten Wedding Attendants*.

An excellent answer will accurately set out information in the parable of *The Ten Wedding Attendants*. The candidate's answer should show a detailed knowledge of the given text. 20

ii. In what way is this story of *The Ten Wedding Attendants* a good example of a parable?

An excellent answer will accurately identify one or more ways in which the story of *The Ten Wedding Attendants* is a good example of the genre of parable. The candidate's answer should show an ability to identify the literary genre of parable found in the Bible. 20

c. Explain how the parable of *The Ten Wedding Attendants* has meaning for Christians today.

An excellent answer will provide accurate reasons as to how the parable of *The Ten Wedding Attendants* has meaning for Christians today. 30

SECTION J RELIGION AND SCIENCE

Commenting on the ecological crisis Pope John Paul II remarked:

“Man, especially in our time, has without hesitation devastated wooded plains and valleys, polluted waters, disfigured the earth's habitat, made the air unbreathable ... and turned luxuriant areas into deserts.”

a. What is the ecological crisis facing today's world?

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An excellent answer will accurately recall information on the breakdown of the relationships between the people, the earth and the cosmos.

b. Explain how the understanding of creation in one of the following world religions might help in finding a solution to the ecological crisis.

◆ Buddhism ◆ Christianity ◆ Hinduism ◆ Islam ◆ Judaism

An excellent answer will provide accurate reasons as to how a world religion's understanding of creation could help in finding a solution to the ecological crisis. The candidate's answer should show openness to the insights of religion in the current debate on the ecological crisis. 30

c. Taking the views of one of the world religions named above, explain what those views have in common with the views of science on the crisis.

An excellent answer will provide reasons for what is in common between the views of a world religion and science on the ecological crisis. The candidate's answer should show openness to the insights of science and religion in the current debate on the ecological crisis. 30

STATE EXAMINATIONS COMMISSION

Marking Scheme

Leaving Certificate Examination 2005

Religious Education Coursework

Ordinary & Higher Levels

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COURSEWORK

Aims of coursework for Leaving Certificate Religious Education are:

- To allow students an opportunity for personal engagement on an issue of interest or concern
- To develop students' knowledge, understanding, skills and attitudes as outlined in the objectives of the section designated for coursework
- To provide an opportunity for students to engage in extended research, analysis and reflection on a chosen topic
- To develop skills of research, analysis, evaluation, critical thinking, communication and reflection

The inclusion of coursework as an element of the assessment procedure for Religious Education in the Leaving Certificate examination arises from the nature of the subject. The development of skills of research, critical thinking, analysis and reflection are key objectives in the teaching of Religious Education at senior level. Coursework is designed to allow students opportunities to develop these skills further through detailed investigation of a chosen topic.

(Religious Education Leaving Certificate Guidelines for Teachers - NCCA page 142)

Prescribed Titles for Religious Education Coursework for Leaving Certificate 2005

SECTION G: WORSHIP, PRAYER AND RITUAL

- The origins, the development and the influence of one contemplative tradition.
- The origin and function of private and communal prayer in one of the following world religions: Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism.

SECTION I: RELIGION: THE IRISH EXPERIENCE

- Ireland has many archaeological sites which contain evidence of religious belief. Research one of these sites and the religious beliefs and practices associated with it.
- Many monasteries in Europe were founded by Irish monks. Research one such case and its contribution to Christianity in Europe.

- Candidates are required to submit coursework on **one** title only.

- Titles for coursework are **common to Ordinary Level and Higher Level**. A candidate's Coursework Booklet should be **marked at the level at which he/she took the examination**.

- Candidates wishing to illustrate their coursework, may do so in the blank spaces provided at the foot of each page. All graphics or images used by the candidate must be drawn or scanned directly onto the booklet. Material should not be attach or affix to the Coursework Booklet.

PART A - A SUMMARY OF THE INVESTIGATION ON THE CHOSEN TITLE

40 MARKS

Ordinary Level Assessment Criteria:

In the treatment of the set points in Part A of the Coursework Booklet an excellent answer will -

- Provide a summary of the findings from the investigation of the chosen title, with supporting evidence given for the conclusions drawn
- Provide information on the steps taken and the skills used in investigating the chosen title
- Show evidence of personal engagement with the chosen title
- Show evidence of the knowledge, understanding, skills and attitudes stated in the objectives of the section chosen for coursework
- Show evidence of research, analysis, evaluation, critical thinking, communication and reflection skills
- Show evidence that sources of information were used in completing coursework on the chosen title
- Etc.

PART B - PERSONAL REFLECTION ON THE LEARNING, SKILLS AND EXPERIENCES GAINED THROUGH UNDERTAKING COURSEWORK

40 MARKS

In the treatment of the set questions in Part B of the Coursework Booklet an excellent answer will –

- Give a detailed explanation as to why the chosen title was of interest showing clear evidence of personal enthusiasm / concern related to the chosen title
- Give a detailed description of the personal insights gained through doing coursework on the chosen title
- Identify different perspectives encountered and refer to questions that arose through doing coursework on the chosen title
- Explain what has been the most valuable part of doing coursework on the chosen title
- Show evidence of being able to balance different perspectives
- Show evidence of the skills of judgement and evaluation
- Etc.

Higher Level Assessment Criteria:

In the treatment of the set points in Part A of the Coursework Booklet an excellent answer will -

- Provide a summary of the findings from the investigation of the chosen title, with supporting evidence given for the conclusions drawn. The summary will reflect one or more of the following:
 - The ability to select, analyse and evaluate information
 - The ability to sort and edit information
 - The ability to present ideas concisely and cogently
- Set out in detail the main points of information on the steps taken and the skills used in investigating the chosen title
- Show evidence of personal engagement with the chosen title
- Show substantial evidence of the knowledge, understanding, skills and attitudes stated in the objectives of the section chosen for coursework
- Show evidence of extended research, analysis, evaluation, critical thinking, communication and reflection
- Show evidence that a range of sources of information were used in completing coursework on the chosen title
- Etc.

In the treatment of the set questions in Part B of the Coursework Booklet an excellent answer will –

- Give a detailed explanation as to why the chosen title was of interest showing clear evidence of personal enthusiasm / concern related to the chosen title
- Give a detailed description of the personal insights gained through doing coursework on the chosen title showing evidence of –
 - The ability to reflect on one's own learning
 - Understanding of the effect of that learning on one's ideas, attitudes and experience
- Approach the chosen title from a variety of perspectives that reflect one or more of the following:
 - The ability to interpret, contrast and evaluate different opinions / approaches to a topic
 - The ability to develop counter-arguments
- Identify questions that arose through doing coursework on the chosen title and show evidence of the ability to question the authority of different sources of information as well as the ability to distinguish between fact and opinion
- Explain what has been the most valuable part of doing coursework on the chosen title giving evidence of -
 - Personal, critical reflection on the learning gained through coursework
 - Balancing different perspectives
 - Showing the skills of judgement and evaluation
- Etc.

Coursework Total: 80 marks

