



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission

Leaving Certificate Examination 2024
Religious Education
Higher Level

Tuesday 25 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 parts (a) and (b) from **one** of the following two questions.

(All questions carry 80 marks each)

Section A The Search for Meaning and Values

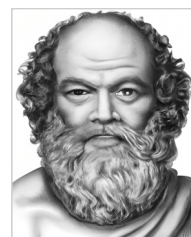
(80 marks)

Question 1

Answer (a) and (b).

- (a) (i) Imagine you are working in a group choosing a person who could be honoured for the part their ideas played in the development of philosophy.

Explain a reason why Socrates could be selected for the part any **one** of his ideas played in the development of philosophy. (20)



- (ii) From your knowledge of Socrates' thinking outline the points he might emphasise for people today on **one** of the following ideas:

● The moral good ● The importance of essence (20)

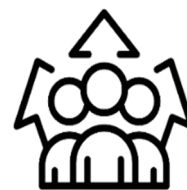
- (b) Describe **two** examples of how an interest in the spiritual can be seen in the lives of people who lived in an ancient society. (40)

Question 2

Answer (a) and (b).

- (a) 'There is an unprecedented spiritual hunger in our times.'

Assess the evidence for this statement, referring to **two** different ways that an interest in spirituality could help a person in their search for the meaning of life. (40)



- (b) The development of a secular value system can be traced back to particular points in time, such as how a focus on human rights followed the French Revolution, etc.

Describe **two** other examples, from different points in time, of how a secular value system developed. (40)

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) ● Essenes ● Pharisees ● Sadducees
Outline a similarity and a difference in the reaction of **two** Jewish groups listed above to Roman rule in Palestine at the time of Jesus of Nazareth. (40)
- (b) Describe two examples of how the teaching of Jesus of Nazareth is remembered by Christians today in **one** of the following ways:
● The search for Christian unity ● Rites of Christian worship (40)
- (c) Examine the effect that returning to the original teaching of Jesus of Nazareth had on members of **two** of the following Christian movements:
● Céli Dé ● Early 19th Century Protestantism ● Liberation Theology
● Luther's Reforms ● Mendicant Orders ● The Second Vatican Council (40)

Section C World Religions (80 marks)

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

- (a) (i) Describe a religious ceremony that marks the entry/initiation of a new member into **one** of the following religions: ● Buddhism ● Hinduism ● Islam (20)
- (ii) Outline a similarity in how the entry of a new member is marked in the religion described in part C (a), (i) above and the way this is celebrated in either Christianity or Judaism. (20)
- (b) Suggest a similarity and a difference between the religious practice of members in a major world religion and the lifestyle of believers in **one** of the following:
● An African Traditional Religion ● A New Religious Movement ● Baha'i Faith
● Chinese Religion ● Sikh Religion (40)
- (c) Describe **two** examples of how the sense of awe and mystery associated with the 'sacred' can be communicated through individual people within a religion. (40)

Section D Moral Decision-Making (80 marks)

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

- (a) Imagine you are taking part in a discussion group with young Christians in your area. From your knowledge of Jesus' teaching on 'right relationship' and the law of love, outline **two** points that Jesus might emphasise for Christians living in the world today. (40)
- (b) Examine how a balance between 'the common good' and 'individual rights' is encouraged in **two** examples of Irish civil law. (40)
- (c) Name a moral theorist and describe what is involved in **two** stages of moral development they suggest a person might go through before reaching moral maturity. (40)

Unit Three

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

(All sections carry 80 marks each)

Section E Religion and Gender

(80 marks)

Answer (a) or (b).

- (a) • Buddhism • Christianity • Hinduism • Islam • Judaism

Explain how roles men and women play within **two** of the above religions are connected to their image of God/gods/the transcendent.

(80)

or

- (b) • Founders & Reformers of Religious Orders • Religious Writers
• Social Reformers • Spiritual Thinkers

Outline a similarity and a difference in the way **two** women, from different categories listed above, contributed to the development of their religious traditions.

(80)

Section H The Bible: Literature and Sacred Texts

(80 marks)

Answer (a) or (b).

- (a) (i) • The Sower (Matthew 13:1-9) • The Unjust Steward (Luke 16:1-13)

Describe the context in which **each** of the above parables was first told by Jesus of Nazareth, as outlined in a Gospel.

(40)

- (ii) • The Labourers in the Vineyard (Matthew 20:1-16) • The Ten Wedding Attendants (Matthew 25:1-13)

Explain the impact that **each** of the above parables had on listeners when they were first told by Jesus of Nazareth, according to Matthew's Gospel.

(40)

or

- (b) (i) Outline **two** ways that there are similarities in how the life-story of Jesus of Nazareth is presented in all of the synoptic Gospels.

(40)

- (ii) Examine **two** differences that exist between any of the synoptic Gospels.

(40)



Section I Religion: The Irish Experience

(80 marks)

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

(a) Describe the pattern of Christian belief and practice found in another part of Europe at the time that Saint Patrick came to Ireland. (40)

(b) Using examples, explain the difference between secularism and secularisation and how each can be seen in Ireland today. (40)

(c) • Contemporary Ireland • Monasticism • Spirituality and Land
• Spirituality and Reform • The Enlightenment

Discuss the reasons why **two** of the above have been described as key moments in the development of Christianity in Ireland. (40)



Section J Religion and Science

(80 marks)

Answer (a) or (b).

(a) (i) Explain **two** reasons why the work of Descartes could be seen as supporting the view that religion and science exist in harmony with each other. (40)

(ii) Science is 'an activity of a community of motivated believers ...'

Discuss the evidence for this statement, referring to the role being part of a community plays in both religion and science. (40)

or

(b) Outline a similarity and a difference in the concerns that religion and science each bring to current debates on an issue to do with **one** of the following:

- The origins of the universe/natural world
- Genetics

(80)



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Acknowledgements

Images

Images on page 2: First Picture: <https://www.creativefabrica.com/product/socrates-hyper-realistic-watercolor-coloring-page/>
Second Picture: www.vecteezy.com/vertpr-art/15091049

Image on page 4: <https://pngtree.com/free-school-clipart/book>

Images on page 5: First Picture: <https://www.publicdomainpictures.net/en/view-image.php?image=153185&picture=celtic-cross>
Second Picture: <https://civility.co/uncategorized/>

Texts

Text on page 2: Anam Chara, John O'Donohue (1997) HarperCollins e-books (2008) ISBN:9780061865855

Text on page 5: Adapted from Religious Education Leaving Certificate Ordinary Level and Higher Level Guidelines for Teachers © 2005 Government of Ireland ISBN 0-7557-1378-8 p. 102; Southgate, Christopher and others (1999) God, Humanity and the Cosmos: A textbook in Science and Religion T & T Clarke Limited/Trinity Press International p.22.

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Leaving Certificate – Higher Level

Religious Education

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