



basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

NATIONAL SENIOR CERTIFICATE

GRADE 12

RELIGION STUDIES P2

NOVEMBER 2010

MEMORANDUM

MARKS: 150

This memorandum consists of 13 pages.

QUESTION 1

1.1 A brief, relevant introduction:

- Starting the proceedings with a moment's silence to remember those who have become victims of HIV/Aids.
- My dear colleagues, there is a challenge that is robbing our country of its youth and its future. (Referring to the situation of HIV and Aids infection and its spreading in the country, also highlight the challenges brought about by the pandemic.)
- (Calling on religious institutions to participate in the fight against the pandemic.)
- A recent survey in our city of the average lifespan of people indicates that it averages 35 years.
- The leading cause? Aids-related deaths.

NB: Consider originality and relevance.

(6)

1.2 The causes of HIV and Aids:

- Let us be very honest: Aids is spread by sexual contact.
- It is therefore clear that sexual intercourse is not something to be taken lightly. (Just as religions do address human sexuality.)
- The A-B-C approach suggests that Abstain is the first choice, but if one can't, then one must Be Faithful, and if one fails in that, then one must use a Condom. Yes, condoms reduce the chances of HIV transmission, but they are no guarantees. Exposure to the virus just once, is enough to bring about the onset of Aids. (Most religions teach that married partners should be faithful to each other, also discouraging sex before marriage.)
- And there is no cure for Aids.
- Having more than one concurrent sexual partner,
- or having sex with a person much older than yourself,
- or having sex for 'things,' all put you at risk. And who wants to deliberately stand in the path of danger? (Promiscuity and immoral sexual behavior are not encouraged.)
- The moment you become infected, there is no pain, no symptoms. You don't know. So you re-infect yourself, and infect others.
- Blood transfusion of contaminated blood
- Contaminated needles
- Drug abuse or wrong choices
- Using the same (contaminated) razor during circumcision or initiation.

(6)

NB: 3 Originality and relevant points will do. (Please credit the candidate for not writing down the causes)

1.3 Factors contributing to the spread of HIV:

- Poverty is one of the key factors driving the Aids pandemic: women and young girls are forced into sexual relationships out of sheer desperation. (Sharing and the eradication of poverty form part of most religious teachings.)
- Traditionally, most African cultures give males power over women. Women, therefore, are forced into abusive relationships, with physical violence, including rape, exposing the woman to HIV. (Religions encourage caring and loving of children and wives.)
- Lack of knowledge about sexual reproductive health is also a contributing factor. Many people are unaware that anal or oral sex are more risky than vaginal sex. (Religions need to embark on educational awareness programmes.)
- The youth also experience difficulty in accessing sexual and reproductive health clinics.
- Substance and drug abuse is another major contributing factor in the Aids pandemic. (Religions discourage substance and drug abuse.)

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1.4 Reference to the teachings of at least TWO religions to illustrate solutions to the Aids pandemic:

Christianity:

- The Holy Bible states 'Thou shalt not commit adultery'. This is a clear injunction to confine sexual intercourse to the institution of marriage.
- The Bible also states that husband and wife should honour and respect each other. Submit to one another out of reverence of Christ,
- and that 'Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery' (Ephesians 5:1-6:4).
- Marriage is encouraged, in the words 'for this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh (Ephesians 5:1-6:4).

African Traditional Religion (ATR):

- The African adage of Ubuntu puts the community before individual rights.
- Human beings are obliged to protect and promote each other's lives.
- In ATR, evil includes the wilful disruption of community life, as would be the case in the effects of Aids.
- ATR places much emphasis on family ties and history, as described in family and clan praise songs.
- Many sacred stories glorify the institution of marriage, and the family.

Hinduism:

- The Hindu Law of Karma teaches that a person's actions and thoughts will affect the kind of life one would lead in the next life.
- It encourages respect and protection of all forms of life.
- This also encourages people to lead a morally good life that would include:
 1. Good sexual life
 2. Protecting the weak, e.g. children and women
 3. Pro-life actions
- This ensures that the fight against HIV and Aids is addressed within the religion.

(10)

1.5 A plan of action to assist those affected and infected by HIV and Aids:

- Let us learn from successful anti-Aids campaigns,
- such as the one in Uganda (religious organisations and government worked together to bring about moral regeneration).
- Sex outside a stable relationship was made taboo.
- Faith-based organisations all worked together to convey the message of abstinence.
- Sex within marriage only.
- Violence against women was also strongly condemned.
- Those at risk (multiple sexual partners, unprotected sex, etc.) must go for HIV testing, so that ARV treatment, or a change in lifestyle, or both, can take place as soon as possible.
- Aids affects the entire family and the community. FBOs can assist by providing financial and social assistance.
- Awareness campaigns should be planned jointly with FBOs.
- We should target the youth via the media, youth clubs, as well as religious meetings.

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QUESTION 2**2.1 NB: The following themes are guidelines or examples for marking**

Strengthen interreligious dialogue:

- While interreligious dialogue does exist as a result of the previous parliaments, understanding, acceptance, respect and tolerance of various religions must be fostered among lay persons.
- Religious practices should also be understood by those not practising a particular faith.
- Religious leaders should make joint public appearances and media statements in matters affecting more than one religion.
- Strong interreligious dialogue can prevent religion from being exploited by persons with their own agendas.
- Support related organisations such as the World Conference on Religions for Peace (WCRP) and the World Council of Churches (WCC) and the Lutheran World Federation.

Develop a global ethic/respect for human rights:

- Religions form the basis of an ethic/morality.
- The lack of a clear moral system has resulted in global social challenges such as poverty, family breakdown, crime, violence against women and children.
- Respect for the environment shows respect for the creator.
- Religion teaches both rights and responsibilities, not merely entitlement.
- A strong moral system helps the youth to withstand negative peer pressure, thus avoiding risky behaviour.

Greater cooperation between religious organisations and government:

- The religious 'parliaments' are not elected, but nevertheless represent communities united by religious beliefs.
- These communities can wield considerable influence, and therefore should make valuable input into government.
- Religions can and do influence political bodies such as the UN, and other global players such as the World Bank.
- Draw up a best practice manual to address the world's problems.
- Reach agreement with civil society organisations to respect human rights issues better.

Address social challenges:

- Religion provides a united body of worshippers, who can all work together to uphold certain ethics, e.g. no violence against women.
- All FBOs provide humanitarian aid during disasters.
- Upholding a moral code based on religion provides clarity on how one should behave in various situations. (20)
- FBOs have less 'red tape' than government, so that they can provide support faster in crisis situations.

2.2 *Mentioning an outcome-2 marks, discussing each of these-4 marks.*

- Closer cooperation between religions,
- It will be effective if done at community level.
- Greater involvement from governments.
- Formation of a mediating body for the world's trouble spots.
- An information brochure or website explaining the world's religions.
- Working towards the 'greater good of humanity', while not undermining one's own beliefs.

(12)

2.3 My community is homogeneous (all residents practise only one religion). They belong to one race group as a result of apartheid laws. This makes it important for my community to learn more about other religions, as they will interact with them in school, at work and in the marketplace.

OR

My community comprises many religions. In order to live in harmony and peace, it is necessary to understand, respect and tolerate the practices and beliefs different from one's own.

(8)

NB: Please credit any worthy response from the candidates.

- 2.4
- The South African Constitution treats all religions as equal.
 - There may be no discrimination on the basis of one's religion.
 - There is complete freedom of worship for all religious groups-religious dress, places of worship, religious observances are all protected by the Constitution.
 - Government ministers participate in practices of various religions.
 - E.g. wearing traditional ATR dress, praise singers at opening of parliament, wishing Christians, Muslims, Jews, etc. well for their festivals.
 - There is no compulsory attendance at government schools for religious observance or prayer.
 - Government has established an Advisory Body of Religious Leaders,
 - (These people) The body advise parliament on religious matters.
 - There is no state sponsored religion in South Africa.

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QUESTION 3**Chosen religion: Islam (As an example)**

3.1 How all living and non-living things are related:

- Numerous verses in the Qur'an point out that Allah (God) is the 'Creator of all that is in the heavens and on earth' (Qur'an).
- This shows that all of creation is from one source.
- The weather and earth are related in providing fruits and fodder for our livestock. It is God who sends or withholds life-giving rain.
- Insects such as the ant and the bee are mentioned, to illustrate that even these tiny creatures are part of God's plan.
- These creatures obey the grand plan, and so should man.
- The evolution theory argues that everything in the universe comes from a common origin, the gases that exploded in the big bang.
- Charles Darwin conducted extensive research that proved the inter-relationship between living and non-living things.
- Living organisms adapt to changing environments, and evolve in this way into other life forms.

NB: Please credit the candidates for any religion as an example

(10)

3.2 Creation, and how human beings made their appearance in the world:

- There is one perfect God.
- He created the heavens and earth, and all that is in it.
- The first human was Adam, whom God made from clay.
- God breathed His spirit into Adam, and he came to life.
- These humans were given the highest status of all of God's creations.
- Eve (Hawwa) was then created from Adam's rib.
- They originally lived in paradise.
- Humans were created that they may 'worship Allah'.
- According to the big bang theory, the universe came into being millions of years ago with a massive explosion of gases.
- We do not know if anything existed before the big bang.
- The theory does not mention any creator.
- Human beings evolved from lower life forms into modern man, over millions of years.
- Humans therefore have much in common with other animal forms, and have no special place in creation.

(20)

NB: Please credit the candidates for any religion as an example

3.3 The status of human beings in the world:

- Man is referred to as God's 'vice gerent' (representative) on earth.
- All of creation is for man's use.
- He may eat of that which is 'permissible and palatable'.
- He may sew garments from animal skin and plants.
- There must be no wastage in the use of these resources, as 'God loves not those who are wasteful'.
- Man can raise himself to the highest status by submitting his will to Allah's, or he can sink to the lowest levels of morality if he disregards God's laws.

- The Qur'an cites examples of both, the prophets as exemplars of good conduct, and tyrants such as Pharaoh who are exemplars of evil.
- Man is accountable for his actions, and will be judged on the Day of Reckoning.
- According to the scientific view, man has evolved from other life forms.
- Man is an animal, and has no special status. (10)

NB: Please credit the candidates for any religion as an example

3.4 How and when the world will end (if at all):
The Qur'an and Hadith both describe in detail how the world (and universe) will end.

- The conflict between good and evil will result in pitched battles.
- The mahdi spiritual leader will become the leader of the 'rightly guided'.
- The 'dajjal' (personification of evil) will lead the evil-doers into battle.
- After many battles, the righteous will be successful.
- Jesus will then return, and there will be peace for a long time.
- Long after Jesus' death, the world will again descend into evil and chaos.
- The universe will end suddenly, with terrifying natural disasters.
- All living things will die.
- Human beings will be resurrected on the Day of Judgement.
- In the scientific view, the future of the universe is disputed, as some scientists predict that the universe will stop expanding and implode.
- Others claim that there is no end to the universe, and eventually everything will be isolated in a vast space. (10)

Chosen religion: Hinduism

3.1 How all living and non-living things are related:

- Brahma is the creative principle.
- He is the creator of the entire universe.
- He is the 'world soul' that exists everywhere and everything is part of it.
- There is no beginning or end of the universe – it is cyclical, and the past, present and future are all interrelated.
- The Hindu greeting 'namaste' means 'I greet the spirit of God who resides in you'.
- This shows that all of creation contains the spirit of Brahma, and is thus related. (10)

NB: The scientific view as presented in the Muslim section is relevant under the Hindu section of the marking guideline

3.2 Creation, and how human beings made their appearance in the world:

- To Hindus, the universe itself is the creator.
- The creator is ever-existing, without beginning or end.
- The creator (Brahmin) is not a supreme being, but a 'world soul'. That is part of all creation.
- Brahmin can be in an active or passive state.
- When Brahmin stirs and becomes active, 'creation' begins.

- Like everything in existence, human beings are a by-product of Brahmin's dance.
- When the creator stops dancing, the universe collapses.
- When the creator starts 'dancing' again, the whole cycle of creation and destruction repeats itself.
- Hindus believe that there must be an 'intelligent designer' because the creation is too perfect and complex just to be created by chance.
- Hindus have no problem with evolution, as they believe the universe is based on evolution.
- In fact, the Hindu version is seen as more advanced, as it includes spiritual evolution as well.
- Hindus believe that evolution does not occur by chance, but that each person determines his/her own spiritual and physical evolution.

(20)

NB: The scientific view as presented in the Muslim section is relevant under the Hindu section of the marking guideline

3.3 The status of human beings in the world:

- The status of human beings is determined by the individual.
- The soul is more important than the physical self.
- The body will die, but he who dwells within the body is said to be deathless ... (Bhagavad Gita)
- This is encapsulated in the Law of Karma.
- Living a good life will result in better rebirths, eventually becoming one with God.
- Within the status of humans, there are four castes.
- These were originally developed for division of labour (Rig Veda), but led to abuse of the lower castes.
- Each person's life is also divided into four stages, or ashramas.
- A person progresses to the final stage of renouncing life, and being totally devoted to God.

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NB: The scientific view as presented in the Muslim section is relevant under the Hindu section of the marking guideline

3.4 How and when the world will end (if at all):

- In Hinduism, time is cyclical.
- Each of these cycles is divided into four aeons or yugas.
- As each yuga progresses, goodness diminishes and evil becomes dominant.
- The universe will not have a sudden end.
- Instead, it goes through recurrent phases of manifestation and dissolution.
- There is greater emphasis placed on spiritual birth and rebirth, than on the physical world.

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NB: The scientific view as presented in the Muslim section is relevant under the Hindu section of the marking guideline

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QUESTION 4

4.1 4.1.1 Inspiration:

Selected Religion: African Traditional Religion:

- Immediate contact with the dimension beyond everyday life lies at the root of African Religion.
- In this tradition people communicate with their ancestors, even today, and receive messages.
- Mediums and diviners specialise in communicating with the ancestors and spirits.
- Such mediums go through a process of 'death and rebirth' during their training.
- In southern Africa the priestly function usually rests with the head of the family.

Other Religions:

- Inspiration is an extremely important normative source in many religions.
- The term 'contemporary inspiration' refers to inspiration that still takes place today.
- In most religions there are figures with followers who believe they were inspired by higher power or wisdom.
- The founding figures in religious history generally claim to be inspired.
- We do not know the names of all the inspired figures, such as early African Traditional Religion or Hinduism.
- However, many famous figures who were inspired were Abraham, Moses, Confucius, Vedvyas, the Buddha, Jesus, Mohammed and Baha'u'llah.
- These figures are believed to have stood face to face with God.
- In African Traditional Religion people communicate with their ancestors and receive messages.
- In the Abrahamic faiths they believe that their prophets received divine inspiration which was written down as their holy scriptures.
- In the Eastern religions divine inspiration occurred to a number of people who became divine teachers.

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4.1.2 Hermeneutical principles that apply to the interpretation of normative sources:

- There are specific rules for the interpretation for both the primary and secondary sources.
- The procedure differs from community to community.
- However, in general the maternal brother and the paternal sister are the key to opening the sacred lineage text.
- They must be the first to open the text by invoking the dead of the lineage, in order of seniority and familiarity.
- Once they have opened communication, the other members of the lineage present at the occasion have a chance to provide their own interpretation and express their wishes.
- The family's traditional healer ensures that the wishes of the living and those of the living dead are expressed according to the specific requirements of the particular occasion.
- When interpreting secondary sacred texts the king or chief takes the lead.

RESPONSES BASED ON CHRISTIANITY AND ISLAM:

- The word 'hermeneutics' means to interpret.
- Taken in its traditional context, 'hermeneutics' meant the attempt by men and women of either secular or religious view point or bias to interpret scripture primarily in the light of their own beliefs and secondly in its historical context.
- The principles of hermeneutical interpretation are:
 1. Grammar and historical context
 2. Clearest meaning
 3. Plan, purpose and context
 4. Meaning of words
 5. Figurative language
 6. The consideration of other sacred texts
- The Christian Bible consists of the Old and the New Testaments.
- These scriptures were declared authoritative by the previous faith communities.
- Never in the history of the Bible has there been only one way of interpreting Biblical texts.
- According to Islam, the Qur'an is a sacred scripture which contains divine revelation from God to his messenger.
- Muslim scholars refer to interpretation, commentary, hermeneutics as 'tafsir'.
- The 'tafsir' is a complex term and refers to the comprehensive understanding and knowledge of the Qur'an.
- It also refers to the process of finding its meaning and to the process of stating and applying its rules, wisdom and maxims.
- For the Qur'an's interpretation, the understanding and knowledge of the Arabic language is a key.

NB” Please credit candidates that discuss hermeneutical principles.

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4.2 4.2.1

The nature of divinity:

African Traditional Religion:

- Africans do not claim to have seen, touched, smelled, heard or had any kind of physical contact with the Supreme Being.
- Africans have given many different names to the Supreme Beings, for example: Modimo, UNkulunkulu, Mambo, Qamata, etc.
- Many indigenous African religions simply honour the demand of reason to believe that there is a Supreme Being.
- They do not go further to describe this being or define his specific qualities.
- God is not knowable as you would know a cat or a cow.
- Thus the African attitude towards the divine Supreme Being is to maintain silence about the unknowable.

Christianity:

- Christians believe in the existence of a Supreme and Divine Being known as God.
- God manifests Himself as three persons.
- God the Father as Creator of the universe.
- God the Son as Saviour and Liberator of humanity.
- God the Holy Spirit as Counsellor of Christians.

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4.2.2

African Traditional Religion:

- The African understanding of life is based on the idea of the intricate, complex relationships between animal or living beings.
- For the traditional African the principle is: I am related, therefore I am.
- The community is an inescapable source from which the individual derives the meaning of life.
- The community consists of three dimensions. The first is living beings, the second is the living dead, referred to as ancestors, and the third is the yet to be born.
- Memory is the cement that binds the three groups together.

Christianity:

- Man is seen as the climax of God's glory.
- When God created Adam, He realised that Adam needed a companion.
- He then created Eve.
- The three persons of the Holy Trinity communicate with each other.
- Similarly, humanity should have a relationship of mutual respect and love.
- Individuals have to look after one another and protect one another.
- No person should dominate or exploit another.

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4.2.3. ***NB: The following are marking guidelines or examples. Candidates should be credited if they presented a different religion.***

Life after death:

African Traditional Religion:

- When a human being dies he/she departs to the land of the spirits.
- This world after death is understood as a place; a space that is occupied by the living dead.
- From this world they keep watch over the deeds of the living and protect or punish them and sometimes appear to them.
- Death takes them away from planet Earth but does not take away life from them.
- Death turns them into invisible but living beings.
- There is no heaven or hell in the traditional understanding of life.
- But this does not mean that after death all automatically are the same.
- It is believed that after a year of the dead or departed, a home bringing ceremony is performed to let the spirit to function as an ancestor. (This is called uMbuyiso in IsiZulu).

Christianity:

- Christians believe that human beings were created immortal.
- However Adam and Eve disobeyed God's commands.
- The penalty for this sin was death for the human race.
- Even after this condemnation, God still tried to liberate humanity from evil and death.
- After death Christians envisage a new community that will be marked by love, sharing and caring.

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TOTAL: 150