VICTORIAN CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY

Victorian Certificate of Education
2015

SUPERVISOR TO ATTACH PROCESSING LABEL HERE

STUDENT NUMBER | | | | | | | | | Letter | |

RELIGION AND SOCIETY

Written examination

Monday 16 November 2015

Reading time: 11.45 am to 12.00 noon (15 minutes)
Writing time: 12.00 noon to 2.00 pm (2 hours)

QUESTION AND ANSWER BOOK

Structure of book

Section	*Number of questions*	*Number of questions to be answered*	*Number of marks*
A	5	5	20
B	2	2	40
C	3	1	20
			Total 80

- Students are permitted to bring into the examination room: pens, pencils, highlighters, erasers, sharpeners and rulers.
- Students are NOT permitted to bring into the examination room: blank sheets of paper and/or correction fluid/tape.
- No calculator is allowed in this examination.

Materials supplied
- Question and answer book of 20 pages.
- Additional space is available at the end of the book if you need extra paper to complete an answer.

Instructions
- Write your **student number** in the space provided above on this page.
- All written responses must be in English.

Students are NOT permitted to bring mobile phones and/or any other unauthorised electronic devices into the examination room.

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SECTION A

Instructions for Section A

Answer **all** questions in the spaces provided.

Question 1 (3 marks)
State **three** possible ways in which significant life experiences relate to religious belief.

Question 2 (3 marks)
Describe briefly the connections between religious beliefs and rituals.

Question 3 (4 marks)

Explain briefly **two** ways in which religions use sacred texts and other religious writings to maintain continuity of religious beliefs.

Question 4 (5 marks)

Identify an aspect of religion, other than beliefs, and explain why this aspect may be challenged.

Question 5 (5 marks)
Why do religious traditions involve themselves in contemporary society?

END OF SECTION A

SECTION B

Instructions for Section B

Answer **all** questions in the spaces provided.

Question 1 (20 marks)

1. You know, I often wonder if something exists beyond us. Maybe a god or some type of ultimate reality.

2. I suppose there could be, but what does it matter?

3. Well, of course it is possible and it matters. Look around you and see the signs that tell you it is possible.

a. Examine the comments in the speech bubbles above and describe the points being made about ultimate reality. 4 marks

b. How would a religious tradition that you have studied respond to the points being made in the speech bubbles? 8 marks

c. Explain how the beliefs about ultimate reality in the religious tradition that you referred to in **part b.** find expression in **two** other aspects of that tradition. 8 marks

Question 2 (20 marks)

Religious traditions are subject to various forces and challenges, both from within and outside the tradition.

a. Outline **two** types of historical challenges that have faced religious traditions generally. 4 marks

b. Outline **three** examples of historical challenges faced by a religious tradition that you have studied. 6 marks

c. With reference to a religious tradition that you have studied, discuss the response of the tradition to a particular historical challenge and comment on the impact of that response. 10 marks

END OF SECTION B
TURN OVER

SECTION C – Essay

Instructions for Section C

Answer **one** of the following questions in the space provided.

Question 1 (20 marks)

'Religious beliefs are used like crutches[1].'

Discuss the extent to which this statement applies to the religious beliefs of a person or group in a religious tradition that you have studied.

OR

Question 2 (20 marks)

'Contemporary society presents many challenges to religious traditions. How the traditions respond demonstrates the important role that religions play in society.'

Discuss the extent to which this statement applies to a contemporary challenge faced by a religious tradition that you have studied.

OR

Question 3 (20 marks)

'Within religious traditions, a tension exists between a desire to keep things the same and a desire to adapt to particular circumstances and attitudes.'

Analyse how a religious tradition that you have studied has responded to this tension.

[1]**crutches** – supports for walking when legs are injured

Question No.

END OF QUESTION AND ANSWER BOOK

TURN OVER

Extra space for responses

Clearly number all responses in this space.

An answer book is available from the supervisor if you need extra paper to complete your answer. Please ensure you write your **student number** in the space provided on the front cover of the answer book.
At the end of the examination, place the answer book inside the front cover of this question and answer book.

State Government Victoria