

SA's Leading Past Year

Exam Paper Portal



You have Downloaded, yet Another Great  
Resource to assist you with your Studies 😊

Thank You for Supporting SA Exam Papers

Your Leading Past Year Exam Paper Resource Portal

Visit us @ [www.saexampapers.co.za](http://www.saexampapers.co.za)



**SA EXAM  
PAPERS**



# basic education

Department:  
Basic Education  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

## **NATIONAL SENIOR CERTIFICATE**

**GRADE 12**

**RELIGION STUDIES P2**

**NOVEMBER 2015**

**MEMORANDUM**

**MARKS: 150**

**This memorandum consists of 12 pages.**

**QUESTION 1**

1.1 1.1.1

**EXAMPLE 1: HINDUISM**

- For a long time, Hinduism did not really have subdivisions, since there was no central control.
- Different languages were used and different gods were worshipped
- However, across India beliefs and rituals did vary.
- There are four different streams or sects of Hinduism.
- These are Shaivism, Vaishnavism, Shaktism and Smartism.
- All share common beliefs and traditions, but differ in practices.
- Shaivism is monotheistic. Shiva is worshipped as the Supreme Being. Shiva is seen as both creator and destroyer.
- Vaishnavites worship Vishnu the supreme god.
- He is seen as a loving and kind deity.
- Vaishnavism is also monotheistic, but adheres more closely to the ancient texts of the Vedas.
- Shaktism is the only school that worships a supreme goddess, Shakti.
- Smartism is an all-encompassing belief: it teaches all paths lead to the one god.
- In the twentieth century three major reform movements emerged.
- Such movements are termed neo-Hindu movements.
- These are the Brahmo, the AryaSamaj and the Ramakrishna missions.
- Neo-Hindu movements give more importance to serving humanity (seva).
- Traditional Hinduism teaches that the proper performance of rituals is of paramount importance.

**EXAMPLE 2: CHRISTIANITY**

- There are three main branches of Christianity
- These are the Catholic, Eastern Orthodox and Protestant Churches.
- African Indigenous Churches are a sub branch of Christianity unique to Africa.
- The Catholic Church sees itself as the original church of Christ.
- It teaches that everyone is born in sin, because Adam and Eve disobeyed God's command.
- God is made up of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit (i.e. Trinity).
- The Holy Spirit comes from God the Father and the Son.
- According to the Eastern Orthodox Church, the Holy Spirit comes from God the Father only, and not the Son.
- They believe that they are the 'rightly guided' Church.
- The supreme authority of the Pope is not recognised.
- In Protestantism the Bible has more authority than the Pope.
- Rituals are less important than belief.

- It teaches that faith is the key to salvation.
- Salvation is a gift given freely through the works of Jesus Christ.

NOTE: If a candidate has not discussed ALL the subdivisions of the selected religion, a MAXIMUM of 12 marks may be awarded. Other relevant facts should be accepted.

(16)

### 1.1.2 EXAMPLE 1: HINDUISM

- Originally every temple was independently governed by the local community.
- This was in line with Hinduism being an 'umbrella' of related, but varied, beliefs and practices.
- Rituals were also not prescribed, but were determined by local priests.
- Differences in governance are more evident in Hindu communities outside India.
- These comprise both traditional and neo-Hindu movements, and both are represented by a common governing body.
- In South Africa such a body is the Hindu Maha Sabha.
- This body represents both North and South Indian Hindu communities.
- There are also regional organisations with a linguistic and cultural focus (e.g. Gujarati, Telugu, Hindi, etc.).

### EXAMPLE 2: CHRISTIANITY

- In the Catholic Church Rome (the Vatican) is seen as the centre of political control.
- The head of the church is the Pope.
- The first Pope is said to be Saint Peter.
- The Catholic Church has many orders of monks, nuns, friars and priests.
- These orders are strictly controlled by the Vatican.
- A parish is an area over which a particular priest and church have authority.
- The Eastern Orthodox Church traditionally looked to Constantinople as the centre of political control.
- Their influence is mainly in the Middle East, Eastern Africa, Greece and Russia.
- The church structure comprises priests and bishops.
- There is no single leader.
- Authority within the church is in the hands of a group of bishops.
- It is believed that authority and the grace of God are directly passed down to Orthodox bishops and clergy through the 'laying of hands'
- A diocese is a group of parishes under the leadership of a bishop.

NOTE: If a candidate has not discussed ALL the subdivisions of the selected religion, a MAXIMUM of 10 marks may be awarded.

(14)

Other relevant facts should be accepted.

- 1.2
- In some religions, these differences will become wider.
  - An example of this is Islam.
  - The Sunni/Shi'a conflict is influencing all the present Middle East conflicts.
  - In Syria the Assad government is supported by the Shi'a Hizbollah group based in Lebanon.
  - Sunni governments, such as Saudi Arabia, are supporting Sunni militants.
  - Since the Shia and Sunni support opposing sides, the conflict becomes a Shi'a/Sunni conflict.
  - The Syrian conflict was originally a political conflict, aimed at overthrowing the Assad government.
  - In other parts of the Muslim world, where there is no external conflict, there is peaceful co-existence between Sunni and Shi'a, e.g. Iran, Turkey.
  - However, in Christianity there are efforts for multi-denominational cooperation.
  - This is the main goal of the World Council of Churches.
  - In Christianity there are some 3 000 denominations. This results in greater tolerance.
  - Eastern religions, such as Buddhism and Hinduism, also have many branches and this allows for greater tolerance.
  - In addition, these religions are more tolerant of people changing their religion or religious sect.

**NOTE:** Relevant examples from any religion must be credited. However, the candidate must illustrate possible scenarios with suitable examples.

A minimum of TWO religions should be discussed.

(10)

- 1.3
- Contemporary inspiration refers to inspiration that still takes place today.
  - This differs from the inspiration of the founders of the major religions, as this inspiration was often recorded as scripture.
  - It was specific inspiration to chosen individuals (Prophets/ Messengers)
  - The latest inspiration that was recorded as scripture was that of Baha'u'llah.(19th century)
  - There are no special conditions for contemporary inspiration: no new scripture is produced.
  - The result is that contemporary inspiration has become commonplace in modern day society.
  - This results in any number of new denominations being formed.
  - An example of this is Christianity, where internal differences are increasing.
  - In African Traditional Religion, contemporary inspiration is no different to inspiration of the past. It therefore does not contribute to internal differences.
  - This is because shamans exist today, as they existed in the past.
  - Numerous subdivisions and world views are emerging.

**NOTE:** Relevant examples from any religion must be credited. However, the candidate must illustrate possible scenarios with suitable examples.

A maximum of 4 marks must be awarded for discussing "inspiration".

If the influence is not discussed, a maximum of 8 marks may be awarded.

(10)  
[50]

**QUESTION 2**

- 2.1      2.1.1      **EXAMPLE 1: CHRISTIANITY**
- Christianity believes in the existence of the Divine and Supreme Being known as God.
  - God manifested Himself as Three Persons (Trinity).
  - God the Father as the Creator of the universe.
  - God the Son, the Saviour and Liberator of humanity.
  - God the Holy Spirit is seen as Counsellor for the Christians.

**EXAMPLE 2: BUDDHISM**

- In most branches, there is no direct reference to a supreme being
- Most forms of Buddhism accept the existence of beings more powerful than humans.
- These beings, which live longer than humans, may loosely be referred to as 'gods'.
- Buddhism teaches that everything is impermanent, even gods.
- Each Buddhist must find enlightenment alone.
- They do this by following the Buddha's instructions.
- They may pray to a local deity.

(10)

NOTE: other relevant facts must be credited.

- 2.1.2      **EXAMPLE 1: CHRISTIANITY**
- According to Christianity God did not create evil.
  - God created a perfect world and perfect human beings.
  - Evil was introduced later when Adam and Eve disobeyed God's commands.
  - Christianity calls this kind of disobedience sin.
  - Christians believe that evil is often used by Satan to influence human beings to rebel against God.

**EXAMPLE 2: BUDDHISM**

- Evil is not a problem in Buddhist understanding, but ignorance is.
- Buddhism sees people as basically good, but unaware of their potential.
- Evil has no origin as reality itself has no origin.
- Universes arise, last for a while and then disappear.
- Within these universes Buddha appears to show people how to escape from the suffering that characterises reality.

(10)

NOTE: Other relevant facts should be accepted.

- 2.2      2.2.1      • The theory proposes that all life evolved from primitive forms and continues to adapt and evolves.
- Species contain a great variety of minor differences.
  - In the fight for survival, better adapted variations will be favoured while those that are not 'fit' will struggle to survive.
  - In this way a species may gradually change its form and become more complex by developing along a path of successful variations.

- The theory of evolution asserts that humans evolved from a common primate ancestor with apes. (10)

### 2.2.2 EXAMPLE:1: CHRISTIANITY

- Christianity has no doubt that God created the universe as part of His divine plan for humanity.
- The book of Genesis describes how God created the world in six days (and on the seventh day He rested).
- God created Adam and Eve thus there is no place for the theory of evolution in creation.
- Darwin's work was regarded as controversial by the church.
- The theory was criticised as follows:
  - There is no evidence in human history for the development of new species.
  - There is no evidence of one species having developed from another.
  - The attempts to create new species by cross-breeding tend to be unsuccessful because the hybrids cannot breed.
  - Christians argue that certain aspects of creation are too complex to have happened by natural selection.
- Many Christians resolve the conflict by suggesting that the Bible should be interpreted symbolically and not literally.

### EXAMPLE:2: BUDDHISM

- Many Buddhists argue that the theory of evolution and Buddhism are in agreement.
- There is no account of creation in Buddhism.
- Buddhists do not mind what scientists say about how the universe and people come into being.
- They believe that all life involves constant transformation and evolution.
- Buddhists believed in evolution long before Western scientists did.
- Buddhists also believe in the continuity of all living beings.
- Therefore they have no problem with the idea of human beings having evolved from more primitive primate forms.
- Their belief in Nirvana is a good example of life transformation and evolution.
- Buddhism has no 'intelligent designer' who is responsible for creation. That is why they have no problem with evolution.
- Buddhism believes in insubstantiality (no part of a human is immortal), so they do not have a problem with evolution.
- NOTE: A maximum of 12 marks may be awarded if the candidate has failed to link religious response to Darwin's theory.

(20)  
[50]

**QUESTION 3**

- 3.1
- Environmental destruction is caused by irresponsible use of chemicals (pesticides and plant fertilisers).
  - It is also caused by the excess burning of fossil fuels.
  - This increases the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.
  - Excessive increases in carbon emissions from factories and transport result in the 'greenhouse' effect/global warming.
  - This raises the temperature of the earth's atmosphere, resulting in climate change.
  - It is also caused by some human activities such as dumping of waste products in open areas (land pollution).
  - Improper methods of farming also harm the environment, by causing soil erosion.

NOTE: Any other relevant response must be credited.

(10)

- 3.2
- The weather and climate have changed (global warming).
  - There are more frequent storms, droughts and floods across our planet.
  - Desertification is increasing, especially in Africa.
  - This is resulting in food shortages.
  - The ozone layer has developed a hole which causes the temperature to increase
  - More people are dying yearly because of diseases caused by air pollution.
  - The seriousness of diseases have increased because our bodies fail to adapt to the ever-changing environment.
  - Some species are becoming extinct, as a result of climate change.

NOTE: Any other relevant response must be credited.

(10)

- 3.3
- Religious organisations should be formed that will identify and fight against environmental destruction in their areas.
  - They must organise practical campaigns against environment destruction, e.g. water harvesting, renewable energy, food gardens, etc.
  - Teach their adherents about the importance of nature conservation.
  - Religious leaders should have representation in government structures dealing with environmental issues.
  - All religious organisations must have subcommittees that promote nature conservation/protection of the environment.

NOTE: Any other relevant response must be credited.

(10)



**3.4 EXAMPLE 1: CHRISTIANITY**

- Christianity teaches that men were created after the image of God to rule the earth on behalf of God.
- Man is responsible for every creation and accountable to God.
- In the book of Genesis God commanded Adam to tend (to work, to serve) the garden.
- God commanded that the land should also keep the Sabbath unto the Lord as a way of conserving the earth (Lev.:25:2–4).
- God condemns the destruction of fruit-bearing trees even when waging war (Deut.: 20:19).
- In the book of Jeremiah God warns against destroying wildlife and nature (Jer.:9:9–11)
- The Bible condemns the destruction of beasts (Habakkuk 2:17).
- The world is for the Lord, the earth and their inhabitants, so let us take care of our environment.
- In the book of 2 Kings the Prophet Elisha appears to remedy a water crisis caused by pollution.
- The Lord Jesus Christ used examples from nature in His teachings about the kingdom of God

**EXAMPLE 2: AFRICAN TRADITIONAL RELIGION**

- AmaZulu have the goddess of nature called uNomkhubulwane.
- uNomkhubulwane is approached during times of natural disaster.
- They believe that she is half forest and half land.
- Protecting the environment is a sign of obedience to uNomkhubulwane.
- There are different myths which are told to the young ones so that they can respect nature.
- If you urinate in the river you will become the opposite sex, which was a way of not polluting water.
- Burning the land unnecessarily is a punishable offence in the African Traditional Religion.
- They believe in traditional medicine made of herbs and some animals, so plants and animals are life to the African Traditional Religion.
- They believe that the ancestors use different animals as their messengers to communicate with the living, e.g. bees.
- African Traditional Religion was the custodian of nature in Africa before colonisation.

NOTE: Any other relevant response must be credited.

(20)

[50]

**QUESTION 4**

If a candidate covers more than one religion in Question 4, credit must be given for each of the religions.

**4.1 EXAMPLE: CHRISTIANITY**

- Christians believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of the living God
- His teachings were first passed to His Apostles by word of mouth.
- The Apostles were eyewitnesses of the life and teachings of Christ.

- After the death and resurrection of Christ they started to spread His message, called the gospel.
- The evangelists of the gospel of Christ recorded the first four books of the New Testament.
- The four books were named after their authors, Mathew, Mark, Luke and John.
- After the ascension of the Lord His apostles were filled with the power of the Holy Spirit and demonstrated the power of the gospel.
- The acts of the Apostles were recorded by Luke, the author of the gospel, as the Book of Acts of the Apostles.
- The other books were written by the Apostle Paul as letters to different persons and churches.
- Some others were letters from different apostles to Christians of that time.
- All these writings were written by different people, for different reasons, at different times.
- The books were collected later and accepted by the church as authentic.
- The church compiled them to develop a new book, called the New Testament.
- NOTE: Any other relevant response must be credited. (20)

#### 4.2 EXAMPLE: CHRISTIANITY

- Hermeneutical principles refer to the interpretation of sacred texts.
- It involves looking at a spiritual text in its context. The following factors also have to be considered:
  - What type of writing is it? When was it written? Who wrote it? What were the circumstances at the time it was written?
- Some principles of hermeneutic interpretation are:
  - Grammar and historical context: This means one must use the rules of grammar and the historical facts to interpret a text.
  - Clearest meaning: One should consider the literal meaning of the text, and if necessary, other meanings.
  - Plan, purpose and context: A piece of writing should be viewed as a whole. What is the writing plan or structure? What was the author's purpose in writing this text? What is the context of the passage being looked at?
  - Meaning of words: The meaning of words change over time and in different places. Find out the original meaning as used in the normative source.
  - Figurative meaning: Figurative and non-literal meanings must be taken into account.
  - Other sacred texts: Sacred texts themselves may be used to interpret other sacred texts.

NOTE: A maximum of 8 marks may be allocated where a candidate merely lists the hermeneutical principles.

(14)

**4.3 EXAMPLE: CHRISTIANITY**

- Inspiration refers to the 'breath' (power, knowledge) of an extraordinary being or power.
- E.g. God taking over a person and inspiring him/her with divine knowledge.
- Most books in the Bible were written by people who were divinely inspired by the Holy Spirit.
- Examples are Abraham, Moses, David, Prophets and Apostles.
- The inspiration of these figures was accepted by the church as being direct and immediate.
- They are believed to have received the message from God.
- Through divine inspiration the prophets foretold the future of the world.
- Inspiration by the Holy Spirit is still respected in terms of guidance in the church.
- The 'inspired teachings' form the foundation of Christianity, and are incorporated in the Bible.

(16)

**[50]****QUESTION 5**

- 5.1
- In affluent Western societies, there is little need for prayer.
  - People lead comfortable lives and do not need a god.
  - Religion has been blamed for numerous wars, particularly in Europe, e.g. the Spanish Inquisition and the Crusades. This caused people to lose faith in religion.
  - The Protestant movement set in motion numerous religious wars in Europe, with each church and king trying to impose a particular brand of Christianity on others.
  - Religious interference in politics also led to conflict. It was the Prince of Orange who first advocated separation of church and state.
  - Unacceptable conduct by religious leaders causes disillusionment among their followers, e.g. child abuse by Catholic priests, exploitation of the poor by Hindu priests, etc.
  - Scientific discoveries, such as the heliocentric explanation of planetary movement, challenged religious teachings.
  - NOTE: Any other relevant response must be credited.

(10)

**5.2 EXAMPLE 1: AGNOSTICISM AND ATHEISM**

- Agnosticism is a view that the existence of a god can neither be proved nor disproved.
- Humans simply do not have the necessary knowledge.
- Therefore agnosticism does not attach any importance to religious ideas.
- Atheism, on the other hand, is a denial of the existence of a god or Supreme Being.
- There are different degrees of atheism.
- Some atheists simply doubt the existence of a god, but are not concerned with proving this.
- This is referred to as 'soft atheism'
- It is very similar to agnosticism.

- Strong atheists seek to prove that divine beings do not exist.
- They turn to the sciences to explain the nature of the world and the universe.
- Some atheists reject religion because they blame religion for wars and other acts of violence.

**EXAMPLE 2: HUMANISM AND MATERIALISM**

- Humanism, or secular humanism, initially called for people to use their intellect to understand revelation.
- This was in contrast to the dry, medieval way of looking at scripture.
- In the 19th century humanism meant atheism or a non-religious view.
- The Secular Humanist Declaration embodies an alternative philosophy to religion.
- It encourages free inquiry, unshackled from religious dogma.
- It strives for freedom in all aspects of life, spiritual, economic and social aspects.
- It advocates the use of reason (logic and inquiry) to develop knowledge and truth.
- Materialism is similar to humanism in that it accepts knowledge obtained solely from the physical world.
- It denies the existence of a divine or supernatural realm.
- In the 19th century Karl Marx described religion as a drug.
- It tricked people to accept oppression. Instead he advocated the development of a classless society, in which workers and employers would be all equal.
- Both Humanism and Materialism see logic as the answer to all of humanity's challenges.
- They both see religion as an obstruction to man reaching his full potential.
- Some scientists argue that recent discoveries about the properties of matter present serious challenges to materialism.
- They say that materialism cannot explain the concept of the mind or consciousness.
- There is no scientific objection to humanism.

**NOTE:** The candidate may select any two of the four secular worldviews. A maximum of 16 marks must be allocated if there is no comparison of the two worldviews.

(20)

## 5.3 EXAMPLE 1: CHRISTIANITY

- Christians believe in the existence of a Supreme Being known as God.
- God manifests Himself as Creator of the universe.
- In the beginning there was nothing but chaos.
- Then God commanded 'Let there be' and creation came into being.
- The entire universe was created in six days.
- The world was perfect after the Holy Trinity had finished with the creation.
- Christians reject the notion that the universe came into being by accident.

**NOTE:** Christianity, Judaism and Islam hold almost identical views of how the universe was created.

## EXAMPLE 2: TAOISM

- Taoism has no creator of the universe.
- Taoism explains the creation of the universe through Yin and Yang
- These are opposing forces, such as light and darkness, or male and female.
- The Tao (universal force or pattern) produces the One. The One produces the Two (opposites).
- A combination of the two produces the Three.
- Taoism does not speak of beginning or end of the universe.
- It merely speaks of on-going interaction between Yin and Yang.

## EXAMPLE 3: HINDUISM

- In Hinduism, the universe itself is seen as Creator.
- The Creator is eternal.
- The Creator exists in either active or passive state.
- In the passive state, the universe has no form.
- When the Creator becomes active (dance state), differentiation takes place in the universe, and 'creation' begins.
- The soul of the Creator spreads through everything, including humans.
- The dance of the Creator stops after a very long time.
- The universe then collapses, together with everything in it.
- When the Creator starts dancing again, the cycle repeats itself.
- This goes on forever.

NOTE: Any TWO different responses may be discussed by the learner.

A maximum of 10 marks may be allocated where a candidate has discussed common responses of the Abrahamic faiths.

A maximum of 6 marks may be allocated for discussion on the Big Bang theory only.

(20)  
[50]

**TOTAL: 150**