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NATIONAL SENIOR CERTIFICATE

GRADE 12

RELIGION STUDIES P2

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2011

MEMORANDUM

MARKS: 150

This memorandum consists of 10 pages.

QUESTION 1

- 1.1
- Yes. Most certainly.
 - Today's world is a global village, with a mix of various religions, cultures and values living side by side.
 - We interact at work, at school and in the marketplace, but we do not normally interact in places of worship.
 - Learning about other religions brings about respect, understanding, and tolerance.
 - It focuses on our similarities as human beings, rather than our differences in belief.
 - With increasing migration of populations, interreligious cooperation is more necessary than when religions were confined to specific geographical regions.
- (10)
- 1.2
- In the opening of the South African parliament, various religious leaders commit to a "greater deity". This shows that all religions have equal recognition before the Constitution, unlike under the apartheid system when Christianity was the state religion.
 - Celebrations of South African holidays are marked by various religious leaders addressing the same rallies. On Women's Day for example, politicians and religious leaders speak out about the rights of women from a religious perspective. This is important as religion has often been used as an excuse to subjugate women.
 - All religions present in South Africa support the Government's HIV/Aids programmes. Religious meetings explain the link between morality and the spread of HIV. All religions emphasise the importance of honesty in relationships, and the sanctity of marriage. Practical support (e.g. frail care, soup kitchens, etc.) is also given to those infected or affected by Aids. The assistance is given regardless of religious affiliation.
 - The National Religious Leaders' Forum (NRLF) is an example of different religions providing a united front in negotiations with Parliament. One of their major achievements was the Moral Summit held in 1999. The focus was on the causes of moral and ethical decline in post-apartheid South Africa. Recently, all religions have opposed the introduction of a pornographic television channel.
 - The first meeting of the African Council of Religious Leaders (ACRL) was held in Abuja, Nigeria, in 2003. It comprised 40 leaders from various religious communities. Christianity and Islam are equally represented as these are the two largest religions in Africa. The ACRL has strong ties with international interreligious organisations such as the WCRP.
- (10)

- 1.3
- The arrival of Christian settlers to South Africa in the mid-1600s saw a conflict between Christianity and African Traditional Religions .
 - Africans were seen as “primitive” and “superstitious” by Christian missionaries.
 - Today there is harmony and syncretism between various religions and ATR.
 - Some Africans combined their own traditions with Christian beliefs, thus establishing African Initiated Churches (AICs)
 - Others adopted the “new” in outward appearance only, but continued to follow their traditional belief systems.
 - At present, there is a resurgence in ATR, especially with regard to values (e.g. ubuntu), culture and medicine.
- (10)
- 1.4
- In Africa, the Middle East and Asia, there are on-going conflicts that can easily escalate into religious wars.
 - In the light of this, it is essential that interreligious organisations foster strong and on-going dialogue between various religions.
 - Each religious organisation should ensure that it has grassroots support, so that tolerance and acceptance become part of the masses.
 - Interreligious organisations should foster stronger links with their respective governments, so that religious issues, morality and ethics become part of government policy.
 - Interreligious organisations should have joint youth programmes, as there is more interreligious interaction among the youth at present than in the past.
 - This will also address declining youth interest in those communities affected by apathy.
- (10)
- 1.5
- As Muslims have a distinct dress code, and a particular lifestyle, it is possible that they may be seen as resisting integration into Western society.
 - This misconception has to be addressed on an interreligious level, so that people of other religions do not fear the unfamiliar, but instead develop an understanding of and respect for those who are different.
 - It should become common knowledge that Muslim dress code, and other external features, are an integral part of Islamic life.
 - Muslims too, should become more active in interreligious programmes, so that they are not seen as “aloof” .
 - Interreligious organisations should emphasise that freedom of religion is a fundamental human right, and should apply to all religions.
- (10)

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QUESTION 2

- 2.1
- Every religion emphasises acts of charity towards one's fellow man.
 - The act of charity is seen as a blessing to both the giver and the receiver.
 - Religion is often propagated among the poor, as they are receptive to both physical assistance and spiritual guidance.
 - The effects of poverty (such as illiteracy, family breakdown, disease, etc) are not confined only to the poor, but impact negatively on all of society.
 - In Christianity, "Blessed is the hand that giveth than the hand receives" – Bible
 - The Quran states "By no means shall you attain righteousness unless you give freely from that which you love. And whatever you give, Allah knows it well."
 - The Rig Veda says "The leader sacrifices his life for the well-being of his people."
 - Religion should address rampant greed and materialism, by appealing to a higher calling – that of pleasing a Higher Being.
 - Religions are well organised, and their structures can mobilise mass support very rapidly.
 - This can be by raising money, or volunteering time for community service.
 - People belonging to the same faith are seen as an "extended family" and are more willing to help people who in fact are total strangers.
 - Very often, the help rendered by religious organisations provides a long-term solution. E.g. skills development, the establishment of schools and clinics.
 - Religious organisations work with the entire community, making their work more effective than e.g. government initiatives.
- 2.2
- Example: Habitat for Humanity
 - This is a non-profit, ecumenical Christian organisation.
 - It is dedicated to providing basic accommodation and fighting homelessness worldwide.
 - Habitat is founded on the human rights value that every human being has the right to live in dignity, regardless of race or religion.
 - Habitat welcomes all who desire to help eliminate poverty.
 - Love for Jesus Christ must be translated to tangible action in showing love for all humanity.
 - Volunteers, other partners organisations and the poor all work together to build the homes.
 - More than 200 000 homes have been built worldwide by Habitat for Humanity.

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- Example: Religions for Peace
- This is the largest international interreligious partnership.
- It is active on every continent.
- Some of their recent successes include the reconstruction of Bosnia and Kosovo.
- The main goal of Religions for Peace is to protect orphans and vulnerable children from the effects of poverty.
- Poor families affected by AIDS are also supported by networking initiatives with other religious organisations such as CARE, Network of African People Living with AIDS, etc.
- Children's schooling, food provision and medication provision, and frail care are some of the services provided.
- This joint approach eliminates overlapping of services, and increases the reach of the various organisations.

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2.3 The learner may discuss HIV/Aids, crime, violence against women and children, etc.

Example: HIV and Aids.

- This is one of the biggest social challenges facing sub-Saharan Africa.
- This is because it has a negative impact on the individual's health and life expectancy
- family unit, resulting in absent parents
- the economy, because of loss of productive young adults
- and the health system, because HIV treatment is very expensive, and long-term, but is not a cure.
- In Uganda, the AIDS pandemic was reversed by joint interaction between faith-based organisations (FBOs) and the government.
- The FBOs focused on moral regeneration and prevention.
- The government focused on funding of publicity, prevention and treatment.
- Religious teachings in every faith emphasise the sanctity of the family unit, and warn of severe consequences of adultery.
- E.g. The Bible states, "Thou shalt not commit adultery" – Exodus.
- E.g. The Quran warns, "Do not even go near to adultery, as it opens the way to other evils" – Sura Bani Israel.
- In South Africa, the NRLF informs government policy on HIV/Aids, thereby endorsing government's approach for religious groupings.

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QUESTION 3**3.1 ATR belief regarding creation:**

- In ATR, the idea of a personal God as creator is not a central belief.
- Therefore ATR believers would not have a problem with the creation or big bang theory.
- The Divine is distinct and beyond the human comprehension.
- As a result, in ATR, there are varying creation myths.
- One such myth is of Unvelinqangi /Mwali.
- He emerged from the reeds alongside a river, and created human beings, cattle and other resources.
- He then went back to the reeds.
- These myths are interpreted as symbolic rather than literally.
- The symbolism is sometimes interpreted as “Intelligent Design.”
- I.e. creation occurred as planned by a Superior Being.

Hinduism belief regarding creation:

- 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.

Christian belief regarding creation:

- Christians believe that God is the Creator of the universe.
- At first, only the Creator existed.
- He created a perfect universe, including human beings.
- This was done in six days.
- This belief is referred to as Creationism.
- Some Christians believe that the Bible should be interpreted figuratively, and not literally.
- They see no conflict with the theory of creation, as they see Science as simply uncovering the laws Of God.
- Christians reject that man evolved from lower life forms, as the Bible speaks of Adam and Eve as the first human beings.
- However, liberal believers accept the principle of evolution – that living organisms adapt to changing environments.
- This synthesis of evolution and religious doctrine is called “theistic or guided evolution”.

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- 3.2
- A scientific attempt to understand creation is called “cosmology”.
 - The big bang theory forms the latest understanding of creation.
 - It is claimed that about 15 billion years ago, a sudden explosion of gases brought the universe into existence.
 - We do not know if anything existed before the big bang.
 - The theory does not mention any creator.
 - According to the big bang theory, the universe has a definite size, which is expanding.
 - Earth is in one of the solar systems.
 - Life started on earth in simple microscopic forms (unicellular).
 - It evolved over billions of years into present day complex and varied life forms.
 - 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.

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- 3.3
- The scientific view does not recognise intervention of any superior being. Religions mention a creator.
 - There is no mention of what existed before the big bang. Religions maintain that the Creator existed before the universe.
 - Scientists claim that the universe came into existence by accident. Religions claim it is a result of intelligent design or perfect creation.
 - Science has some evidence of evolution from palaeontology and anthropology. However there are still missing links in the evidence.
 - Religions do not provide proof, but belief is accepted according to religious teachings.
 - While science has no answer to what existed before the universe or how it will end, (if at all), religions differentiate between Creator and creation. They also specify that the universe exists in cycles (as in Hinduism, Buddhism and ATR) or that the universe will end at a predetermined time (as in the Middle Eastern Religions).

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QUESTION 4**Religion A: Christianity**

- 4.1 Nature of divinity:
- 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.
 - And God the Holy Spirit as Counsellor of Christians. (10)
- 4.2 Place and responsibility of humanity in the world:
- Christians believe that humans were created in the image of God.
 - After creating Adam and Eve, God instructed them to look after the garden of Eden and the whole of creation.
 - As co-creators with God humans are God's representatives on earth.
 - God has appointed them to look after his property, the world.
 - They are accountable to God. (10)
- 4.3 Life after death:
- 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.
 - He sent His beloved Son Jesus Christ to save humanity.
 - After death Christians envisage a new community that will be marked by love, sharing and caring. (10)
- 4.4 The overcoming of evil.
- According to Christians evil cannot be completely overcome as long as sin prevails.
 - After sin entered the world there is a constant struggle between evil and good, darkness and light, and Satan and God.
 - Christians believe that eventually God will triumph over Satan.
 - The books of Daniel and Revelation tell us about the catastrophic end of this world and the beginning of a new one.
 - They believe that the overcoming of evil and the certainty of good's triumph over evil have been made possible by the birth, death and resurrection from the dead of Jesus.
 - Jesus teaches that evil cannot be overcome by evil but by good. (10)

4.5 Nature of the world:

- According to Christianity in the beginning there was nothing but chaos.
- The book of Genesis says God created the world and the universe in six days and rested on the seventh day.
- The world was perfect after the Holy Trinity had finished with the creation.
- Human, marine, animal and plant life all belong to God.
- According to Christian understanding the world is subject to the governance of humanity.

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Religion B: Buddhism

4.1 Nature of divinity:

- Most forms of Buddhism accept that there are beings who are more powerful and live longer than humans.
- These are called 'gods'.
- In terms of the core Buddhist teaching of impermanence, even these gods are not immortal.
- They live for aeons, but then grow old.
- They die and are reborn.
- They are part of the universe, and did not create it.

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4.2 Place and responsibility of humanity in the world:

- The status of being born human is very precious.
- It is the only condition in which enlightenment is possible.
- As human reincarnation is so rare, the main aim is to become enlightened,
- And to share the way to enlightenment with others.
- Everything else is secondary and impermanent.
- As a result of this philosophy, Buddhism historically has attached little emphasis to social issues such as poverty, discrimination, etc.
- According to the new, engaged Buddhism, eliminating suffering in the present is as important as eliminating it in some distant future.
- Buddhists are today active in causes such as anti-war efforts and ecological action.

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4.3 Life after death:

- For unenlightened beings, many rebirths occur.
- Enlightened beings like Buddhas can see the futility of the process, and step out of the cycle.
- This is referred to as "nirvana".
- Most Buddhists put off the search for nirvana for numerous lifetimes, as they are engaged in worldly matters.
- Buddhists do not strive for life after death. They desire nirvana.
- Life after death is seen as the normal course of events.
- On attaining enlightenment, a Buddhist sees that individuality is an illusion, and life after death is unworthy of serious attention.

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4.4 The overcoming of evil:

- Buddhism holds that evil can be overcome by knowledge.
- But this knowledge is not from the books.
- It has to be felt 'in the bones' at a deep existential level.
- To obtain this knowledge Buddhism prescribes meditation.
- To meditate effectively, people have to follow a strict but reasonable lifestyle.
- They should refrain from doing what is evil and inharmonious.

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4.5 Nature of the world:

- This world is one of millions of worlds.
- In each, a Buddha will rediscover the true nature of reality.
- Buddhism flourishes for thousands of years, and eventually dies out.
- Near its demise, a young man will try to understand reasons for human suffering,
- And how to eliminate it.
- His discovery makes him the new Buddha.
- The cycle then repeats itself.
- Buddhism flourishes and declines, and then the next Buddha arises.

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[50]**TOTAL: 150**