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GRADE 12

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RELIGION STUDIES P2 MARKING GUIDELINE

MARKS: 150

This marking guideline consists of 13 pages.

QUESTION 1**1.1 Central teaching of any ONE religion, Christianity is used as an example****1.1.1 The nature of humanity, with reference to community and the individual**

- 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.

NOTE: Any relevant responses must be credited. (10)

1.1.2 The nature of 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.
- 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.

NOTE: Any relevant responses must be credited. (10)

1.1.3 The nature of divinity

- Christians believe in the existence of a supreme being 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.

NOTE: Any relevant responses must be credited. (10)

1.2 Internal differences in any ONE religion:

1.2.1 Differences in teachings

Example 1: Islam

- Islam is divided into two major branches, namely the Sunni and Shi'a Muslim

Sunni Muslim

- Sunni refers to following the Sunnah (example) of the Prophet Muhammad.
- The Hadith narrated by the companions of the Prophet have equal status to those narrated by his family members.
- The Sunni sect believes that all the teachings contained in the Books of Hadith are equally important.
- Sunnis follow the teachings of scholars from the 7th and 8th centuries.
- Sunnis do not accept that a caliph can come exclusively from the Prophet's family.

Shi'a Muslim

- Shia means partisan or separate party.
- The Hadith narrated by the companions of the Prophet have less significance than that narrated by his family members.
- The Shi'a follow the teachings and opinions only of a living scholar.

Example 2: Christianity – three branches

Christianity has three main branches: Catholic, Eastern Orthodox and Protestant (also African Initiated Churches)

Catholicism

- The Catholic Church believes that they are the original church.
- They believe that everyone is born in sin because of Adam and Eve's disobedience to God.
- God is made up of three persons: Father, Son and the Holy Spirit.
- The Holy Spirit comes from God the Father and the Son.

Eastern Orthodox

- The Holy Spirit comes only from God the Father.
- They believe that they are the rightly guided church.

Protestantism

- The Bible has more authority than the Pope.
- They teach that faith is the way to salvation.
- They teach that salvation is a gift given freely through the work of Jesus Christ.

(Any relevant answer should be credited.) (10)

1.2.2 Differences in governance

Example 1:

Sunni Islam

- There is no clergy in Sunni Islam.
- Any Muslim can serve on community boards.
- Governance is community-based.
- Scholars of Islam (ulema) and community members (volunteers) serve on governing boards of mosques and madrassah and schools.

Shi'a Muslim

- Shi'a Muslims revere the descendants of the Prophet Muhammad and believe that they have divine right to lead Muslims.
- Such a leader is referred to as 'Imam'.
- The final word in any uncertainty about any religious or political issues lies with the representative of the Imam.
- Governance is in the hands of mullahs (priests) who rule by religious decree.

Example 2: Christianity

Catholicism

- The head of Catholicism is the Pope.
- The centre of power of this branch is in Rome.
- The catholic branch has many orders, namely monks, nuns, priests and friars.
- The Catholic branch is governed at parish level by priests, deaneries by deans, dioceses by bishops and arch dioceses by archbishops.
- A cardinal can govern an entire country or a geographical region.

Eastern Orthodox

- This branch is controlled by priests and bishops.
- Authority within the church is in the hands of a group of bishops.
- A diocese is a group of parishes under the leadership of a bishop.

Protestantism

- The churches are ruled by ordained ministers and bishops or elected elders.
- Overall rule is by higher authority such as a synod or general assembly chaired by the presiding bishop.
- Some Protestant churches are independent and not responsible to any higher authority than the congregation.

NOTE: Any relevant responses must be credited.

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QUESTION 2**2.1 2.1.1 Discuss the causes of environmental destruction**

- Environmental destruction is caused by irresponsible use of chemical (pesticides and plant fertilisers).
- It is also caused by 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 caused by some human activities such as dumping of waste products in open areas (land pollution).
- Improper farming methods also harm the environment causing soil erosion.

NOTE: Any relevant responses must be credited.

(12)

2.1.2 The impact of environmental destruction on society

- 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 results in food shortages.
- The ozone layer has developed a hole which causes temperature to increase.
- More people are dying yearly because of diseases caused by air pollution.
- The seriousness of diseases has increased because our bodies fail to adapt to an ever-changing environment

NOTE: Any relevant responses must be credited.

(12)

2.1.3 Practical strategies or steps that religious organisations can do to fight against environmental destruction

- They must organise practical campaigns against environmental 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 relevant responses must be credited.

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2.2 Name and explain the hermeneutical principles

Historical context:

- This means that the writings must be understood within the context of the time and circumstances in which the text was written.

Clearest meaning/Meaning of words:

- The meaning that is the clearest (or most obvious) to the reader should be considered.

Plan, purpose and context:

- The writing plan or structure of the whole document must be taken into account.
- An extract must be seen as part of the whole.
- For example, is the writing in the form of poetry or prose?

Meanings of words:

- The meanings of words often change over time and context.
- For correct interpretation, the original meaning must be used.

Figurative language:

- Figurative language is used widely in some sacred texts.
- This must be identified as such, so that it is not interpreted literally.
- Figurative language requires the application of all other hermeneutical principles, in order for it to be correctly interpreted.

Other sacred texts:

- Sacred texts may be used to interpret other sacred texts on the same topic.
- This is because there is consistency among teachings of a religion and its sacred texts.

(Any relevant answer should be credited.)

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QUESTION 3**3.1 3.1.1 Inspiration**

- 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

NOTE: Any relevant responses must be credited.

(8)

3.1.2 Importance of sacred texts

- Written sacred text is more rigid than oral texts.
- Sacred books are fixed yardsticks of measuring right and wrong.
- Sacred books contain the history of different eras/time/period of the past.
- They also reflect the languages and cultures of the past eras/time/period.
- Sacred books serve as reliable references of the teachings and beliefs of a religion.
- Sacred books serve as a unifying source of religion.

NOTE: Any relevant responses must be credited.

(10)

3.2 3.2.1 Secular world view and religious world view

- A world view is the way we make sense of the world around us.
- There are two types of world views: religious world view and secular world view.
- A religious world view is the belief that the government and morality should be based on religion.
- A secular world view is the belief that the government and morality should be based on human rights, and not necessarily on religion.

NOTE: Any relevant responses must be credited.

(8)

3.3 3.3.1 Atheism

- Atheists reject the belief that divine or supernatural powers exist.
- Atheists often turn to science to explain the nature of the universe rather than relying on faith.
- There are different degrees of atheism.
- Soft or neutral atheists do not actively reject the existence of a supernatural being.
- Strong or positive atheists believe there is evidence to support their atheistic views.
- In some cases, soft atheists reject both theism and strong atheism.
- This is because they feel both world views depend on proof to support their claims.

NOTE: Any relevant responses must be credited.

(12)

3.3.2 Secular humanism

- Secular humanism believes that the divine does not exist.
- They reject religious belief and the existence of the supernatural.
- Like other forms of humanism, they hold a common belief that attaches prime importance to human thinking.
- In its teachings, the Council for Secular Humanism highlights the following: A need to test beliefs: A conviction that traditions, ideologies, and dogma should be weighed and tested by each individual and not by faith. Reason, evidence.
- Scientific method: A commitment to the use of critical reason, factual evidence, and scientific method of inquiry in seeking solutions to human problems.
- Fulfilment, growth, and creativity: A primary concern with fulfilment, growth and creativity.
- Search for truth: A constant search for objective truth.
- Ethics: A search for viable individual, social and political principles of ethical conduct.
- Justice and fairness: An interest in securing justice and fairness in society.
- Building a better world: A conviction that reason, an open exchange of ideas, goodwill and tolerance can be used to build a better world.

NOTE: Any relevant responses must be credited.

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QUESTION 4**4.1 4.1.1 Discuss the scientific explanation of how the universe came into existence**

- The theory proposes that all life evolved from primitive forms and continues to adapt and evolve.
- It asserts that humans have evolved from an ancestor shared with apes.
- 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.
- This applies to change in humans as well.
- In the fight for survival, humans adapted and gradually change from apes to human beings.
- The process of change and adaptation happened over a very long period.
- Science offers no explanation of creation as part of a divine plan

NOTE: Any relevant responses must be credited.

(10)

4.1.2 Example: Christianity

- At first, only the Creator existed.
- The Creator is male.
- The Creator made the universe from nothing.
- The process of creation took six days.
- Humans were created on the sixth day.
- There is one perfect God.
- He created the heaven and earth, and all that is in it.
- The first two humans were Adam and Eve. God made them from clay.
- God breathed His spirit into Adam, and he came to life.
- These humans lived in a perfect Garden of Eden.

NOTE: Any relevant responses must be credited.

(8)

4.2 4.2.1 **The responses of the following religion to Darwin's theory of evolution:**

Christianity

- In contrast, there is no connection between the traditional Christians and the theory of evolution.
- Traditional Christians only accept that God created Adam and Eve as it is narrated in the Book of Genesis
- They argue that there is no evidence in history of human beings evolving from apes.
- God created perfect human beings and gave them authority to rule and manage the world.
- However, there is a connection between the theory of evolution and liberal/progressive Christians
- They argue that everything in the universe was created by God, and the process of evolution is also part of the Divine Plan. (It is referred to as 'intelligent design')
- They say God was responsible for the Big Bang
- Progressive Christians accept the idea of guided/theistic evolution and add that the creation myth must be seen as symbolic.
- They admit that there were some stages of creation which involved evolution, as explained by scientists

NOTE: Any relevant responses must be credited. (10)

4.2.2 **Hinduism**

- Hindus have no problem with evolution because they believe that the universe is based on evolution.
- Hindus believe that they have a more advanced theory of evolution than the scientific theory.
- Hinduism provides a more comprehensive view of evolution, because it is not limited to physical but includes spiritual evolution.
- Hindus believe that you have control over both your spiritual and physical evolution.
- According to Hinduism, if one lives a good life, one will gradually evolve through many rebirths until one is spiritually advanced.
- Retrogression of the soul is also possible.
- While Hinduism has no issues with Darwin's theory, its main focus is on spiritual evolution/retrogression.

NOTE: Any relevant responses must be credited. (10)

4.3 Big Bang Theory

- The Scientific explanation of Creation is called the Big Bang Theory.
- According to the Big Bang Theory, it is not known what existed before the Big Bang.
- The Big Bang Theory states that there was enormous explosion and within a second the universe appeared and filled out to an enormous size.
- The Big Bang Theory states that the process of creation occurred within a second.
- According to the scientific account the Big Bang took place 13, 7 billion years ago.
- Small temperature differences led to varying densities of matter throughout the universe.
- Those densities formed into clusters of matter and energy.
- The clusters continued to condense in a lumpy way and eventually formed the vast collection of stars called galaxies.
- Some galaxies condensed into a combination of stars called solar system.
- Scientist believes that the universe is expanding at this moment.
- The scientific account does not mention any Creator.

NOTE: Any relevant responses must be credited.

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QUESTION 5

5.1 Darwin's theory of evolution

- Darwin's theory of evolution provided an alternative explanation of creation which often differs from the Abrahamic religious explanation of creation.
- The theory also provided an explanation that did not require the idea of an intelligent designer.
- The theory of evolution explains the development of life from a simple form to its most complex.
- The development includes the evolution of humans through primitive stages to modern humans.
- Darwin's theory consists of four ideas:
 - Species contain a great variety of differences.
 - Both the world and species has change over time.
 - In the fight for survival better adapted variation will be favoured while those that are not fit will struggle to survive.
 - A species may gradually change its form and become more complex by developing along a path of successful variation.
- According to Charles Darwin humans evolved from apes.

NOTE: Any relevant responses must be credited.

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5.2 5.2.1 National Religious Leaders Forum (NRLF) in South Africa

- It is made up of the leaders of various religions in South Africa.
- It serves as a consultative and advisory body to the president, and deals with religious matters.
- It is involved with the major issues facing the South African society today.
- Some examples are: To stop the abuse of women and children (GBV).
- To spread awareness of HIV/Aids and help those infected and affected.
- To promote ethical and moral values, assisting with the moral regeneration to our country.
- To promote religion in education.
- The work of this body ranges over several issues, in short, the needs that arise in our country.

NOTE: Any relevant responses must be credited. (8)

5.2.2 The Interfaith Action for Peace in Africa (IFAPA)

- Committed to working together for peace and unity in the continent.
- To ensure a decent life for all.
- Establish and registering national chapters.
- It also includes commissioning of meeting of religious leaders, who take the IFAPA decision.
- To participate in the World Forum.

NOTE: Any relevant responses must be credited. (8)

5.2.3 World Parliament of Religion (WPR)

- The aim is to stop religious conflict and wars.
- To end poverty.
- To protect the environment.
- To help government to develop a partnership with inter religious organisations.
- To advance human development.
- To promote just and peaceful societies.
- To address issues like human rights.

NOTE: Any relevant responses must be credited. (8)

5.3 Relationship between religions since democracy in South Africa

- The country changed from being a Christian state to a secular state.
- There is peace, harmony and cooperation among religions in South Africa.
- The Bill of Rights in the Constitution of RSA, 1996 (Act 108) guarantees the freedom of religions.
- The World Conference of Religions for Peace in South Africa, formed in 1984, ensured that this right is included in the constitution.
- The World Parliament of Religions conference was held in Cape Town in 1999.
- Religious Leaders for Electoral Justice structure was held in Cape Town in 1999.
- National Forum for Religious Leaders were formed.
- Religion and Education policy document was in September 2003.
- Thus, all religions can be expressed in public schools and public broadcaster like SABC.
- And religious devotions and cultural documentaries on radio and television today reflect South African's religious and cultural diversity.

NOTE: Any relevant responses must be credited.

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TOTAL: 150