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Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**NATIONAL
SENIOR CERTIFICATE**

GRADE 12

RELIGION STUDIES P2

NOVEMBER 2025

MARKS: 150

TIME: 2 hours

This question paper consists of 6 pages.



INSTRUCTIONS AND INFORMATION

1. This question paper consists of FIVE questions.
2. Answer any THREE questions.
3. Start EACH question on a NEW page.
4. Read ALL the questions carefully.
5. Number the answers correctly according to the numbering system used in this question paper.
6. The length of your answers must be in accordance with the marks allocated to each question.
7. Write neatly and legibly.

QUESTION 1

- 1.1 Read the extract below and answer the questions that follow.

**DARK CLOUD OF DRUG ABUSE HANGS OVER SCHOOL CHILDREN
IN SOWETO**

South Africa faces a growing problem of substance abuse and addiction, especially among young people. This includes alcohol and a growing range of drugs.

In Gauteng this has been identified as a priority issue by Premier Panyaza Lesufi. Yet despite this, there are surprisingly few programmes, people and accredited facilities to tackle the problem. With newer and cheaper drugs widely available on the streets, parenting is becoming more difficult. Boys start to smoke drugs at the age of 12, but no one knows who is selling it to them.

[Source: *Daily Maverick*, 10 May 2023]

- 1.1.1 Name and explain TWO causes that contribute to substance abuse in South African schools. (8)
- 1.1.2 Discuss the impact of substance abuse in schools. (10)
- 1.2 Do you think that the legalisation of drugs (e.g. alcohol, dagga) in society will help to reduce substance abuse? Give reasons for your answer. (10)
- 1.3 With reference to any ONE religion you have studied, discuss its teachings that specifically address the problem of substance abuse. (12)
- 1.4 Suggest practical strategies that religious organisations can use to overcome the problem of substance abuse. (10)
- [50]**

QUESTION 2

2.1 Read the extract below and answer the questions that follow.

CENTRAL TEACHINGS

In order to understand different religions, we often begin by looking at the main teachings that make up a particular religious tradition. Through its teachings, every religion communicates to its followers why the world is the way it is as well as their place and responsibility in it.

[Source: *FOCUS on Religion Studies, Grade 12*]

With reference to the central teachings of any ONE religion that you have studied, answer the following questions:

- 2.1.1 Discuss the concept of *reward and punishment*. (10)
- 2.1.2 Discuss the origin and role of evil. (10)
- 2.2 Critically discuss the role of rituals in various religions. (10)
- 2.3 Discuss the different roles played by oral tradition in any TWO religions you have studied. (2 x 4) (8)
- 2.4 In the context of religions, explain what is meant by *inspiration*. (12)
- [50]**

QUESTION 3

3.1 Read the extract below and answer the questions that follow.

ORGANISATIONS PROMOTING INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE

The first Parliament of the World's Religions was held in Chicago in the United States in 1893, with the aim of creating a global dialogue of faiths. Since that event there have been several further parliaments. Religious organisations are now working together in South Africa and in the whole of Africa.

[Source: *FOCUS on Religion Studies, Grade 12*]

3.1.1 The Parliament of the World's Religions brought about multifaith cooperation through various strategies. Discuss the work of this organisation, with relevant examples. (12)

3.1.2 Name any FIVE achievements of the Interfaith Action for Peace in Africa (IFAPA). (10)

3.2 Read the extract below and answer the questions that follow.

INTERNAL DIFFERENCES

While every religion has non-negotiable beliefs, there are bound to be differences of interpretation and practice.

[Source: *Shuters Top Class Religion Studies, Grade 12*]

3.2.1 With reference to any ONE religion you have studied, name TWO of its branches. (4)

3.2.2 Compare the internal differences of the branches you have named in QUESTION 3.2.1 under the following headings:

(a) Teachings/Beliefs (8)

(b) Practices (8)

(c) Governance (8)

[50]

QUESTION 4

Read the extract below and answer the questions that follow.

RELIGION AND THE NATURAL SCIENCES

Darwin's theory of evolution gives an alternative explanation for the origin of man. While evolution does not refute religious ideas about creation directly, it is clear that it offers no explanation as part of a divine plan.

[Source: *FOCUS on Religion Studies, Grade 12*]

- 4.1 Discuss the scientific explanation of how human beings came into existence. (10)
- 4.2 Discuss the different responses of the following religions to Darwin's theory of evolution:
- 4.2.1 Hinduism (12)
- 4.2.2 Judaism (12)
- 4.3 Compare the scientific and the religious accounts of how the universe came into being. (2 x 8) (16)
- [50]**

QUESTION 5

Read the extract below and answer the questions that follow.

SECULAR WORLD VIEWS

Most modern Western democracies are secular states, that is, they believe in the separation of church and the state. In the United States of America, for example, there is no official religion and religious institutions have no constitutional right to play a direct role in the development of civic law.

[Source: *Shuters Top Class Religion Studies, Grade 12*]

- 5.1 What are the factors that led to the development of secularism? (10)
- 5.2 Discuss THREE advantages and THREE disadvantages of secularism for society. (12)
- 5.3 Compare the teachings of any TWO secular worldviews that you have studied. Tabulate your answer. (16)
- 5.4 South Africa is a secular state. Discuss how the South African government promotes respect, tolerance and understanding of all religions. (12)
- [50]**

TOTAL: 150