



education

Department:
Education
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GRADE 12

RELIGION STUDIES P2

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MEMORANDUM

MARKS: 150

This memorandum consists of 10 pages.

QUESTION 1

- 1.1 1.1.1 Christianity
The nature of divinity
- Christians believe in one Supreme God.
 - God manifests himself as three persons: The Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit.
 - This doctrine is called the Holy Trinity.
 - God the Father sent his Son, Jesus into the world.
 - The Holy Spirit in turn sent the church into the world to continue God's missionary work. (10)
- 1.1.2 The nature of humanity, with reference to community and the individual
- In the creation story found in Genesis, God created humanity.
 - The creation of humanity is seen as the climax of the manifestation of God's glory.
 - Humans were found in the likeness of God and were infused with the breath of God, unlike animals.
 - God created Adam and Eve for companionship.
 - The Three Persons of the Holy Trinity communicate and consult among each other in the same way individuals have to look after one another and protect one another.
 - In the Christian view no person should dominate and exploit any other. (10)
- 1.1.3 The origin of and the nature of evil
- In the Christian view, God did not create evil.
 - He created a perfect world and a perfect human being.
 - Evil was introduced later, when Adam and Eve disobeyed God's command.
 - The Christians call that 'sin', and evil comes from sin.
 - Christians believe that evil is often used by Satan. (10)
- 1.1.4 Life after death
- The Christians believe that humans were created immortal.
 - This means that they were created to live for ever.
 - Adam and Eve disobeyed God's command.
 - The penalty for this sin was death, not just for Adam and Eve, but for all humans.
 - Jesus came to earth to die for the sins of humans.
 - As a result Christians will only suffer physical death.
 - Christians envisage a new community that will be marked by love. (10)

- 1.2
- Grammar and historical context
 - Clearest meaning – Original language
 - Plan, purpose and context
 - Meaning of words
 - Figurative language
 - Use of other related sacred texts
 - Other hermeneutical principles applied to other religions.
 - Allegorical, Metaphorical and Mystical methods.

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QUESTION 2

2.1 The impact of the problem

- It results in high stress levels
- There is loss of productivity.
- Tourism to S.A. is negatively affected, resulting in job losses and poverty.
- Property prices in high crime areas loses value, and the area becomes a slum.
- Crime levels lead to disinvestment. .
- High crime results in "brain drain" -highly skilled people emigrating.
- Security forces are under severe strain
- There is a booming security industry

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2.2. The viewpoints of any TWO RELIGIONS on the issue of crime

Islamic perspective:

- Islamic law (Shariah) values the community over the individual.
- A person who has committed a crime against the community is tried in court, and punished according to the law if found guilty.
- There is great emphasis placed on authenticity of witnesses and other evidence.
- The concept of Qisas (blood money, applies in the event of accidental death. This is payable by relatives if the accused is poor.
- The death penalty applies in the case of murder, rape or witchcraft.
- For habitual thieves, their limbs are amputated.
- The harsh punishment serves as a deterrent.
- A person who has paid his/her debt to society is assimilated back into society.

ATR

- Crime can be described as a wilful disturbance of communal order
- A fundamental principle of existence in ATR is "I am related, therefore I am" (Ubuntu)
- This guarantees security to an individual within the ATR community
- An individual is bound to protect and promote life
- This is so because in ATR life is considered to be good
- The perpetrator of crime is either reconciled or is ostracised from the community, depending on the nature of the crime

Hinduism

- In Hinduism, any injustice to another being is considered evil or criminal
- Vices such as greed, lust etc are the causes of crime
- In terms of the Law of karma, one reaps as one sows
- Every person is regarded as potentially divine
- Therefore an injustice to any being is regarded as injustice against the Creator
- Each crime is judged according to its circumstances (10 x 2) (20)

2.3 Practical steps that religious organisations can take to address the problem

- Religious organisations should focus on moral regeneration (love thy neighbour, law of karma, etc)
- Quote examples from religious sources to illustrate high levels of morality-how spiritual leaders controlled temptation
- Define good and evil impact of actions on oneself and others
- Praise good conduct
- Point out the negative impact of the media in glorifying crime
- Encourage charity, and caring for one another
- Increase community responsibility in preventing crime-(CPF)
- Report criminal activity to police
- Hold police and government accountable
- Inter-faith co-operation should have joint strategies to address crime
- Skills development programmes should target out-of-school youth
- Such programmes should be non –denominational and open to non-religious persons.
- Organise sporting and cultural events
- Make representations to government,
- Recognise traditional law and penal code.
- Visit prisons to address spiritual needs of inmates (14)

2.4 Conclusion and personal view on the issue

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QUESTION 3

- 3.1.
- The relationship between religion and the natural sciences, has not always been one of conflict.
 - Science is something human beings have done in all cultures for centuries and so is religion.
 - It is an old relationship ,e.g. astronomy was a science in which religion and daily human needs were almost impossible to separate.
 - Religious festivals celebrated the summer and winter solstices in many cultures.
 - During the lifetime of Copernicus, astronomers were having problems with the geocentric and Christian view.
 - The Catholic Church was relatively silent about the new theory at first.
 - Trouble began as evidence grew against old theories.
 - Both Copernicus and Galileo dedicated their books to Popes.
 - The new ideas seemed to challenge the Christian view of God's perfection and his reason for creation.
 - A period of conflict arose with the view that traditional religious views are true while much of science is untrue and dangerous.
 - Many people predicted that Darwin's ideas about evolution would mean the end of religion.
 - Science is about facts ; religion about values. Science is about how things happen; religion is about why things happen.
 - The present relation between science and religion is becoming one of sharing knowledge and respect.
 - Religious people can use many strategies to harmonise science and religion positively.
 - It seems that science and religion, rather than competing with each other, in fact complete each other.

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3.2 Hindu view compared to the Middle-Eastern view

- To Hindus, the universe is the Creator.
- The Creator has existed and will exist for all time.
- The Creator has no limitations and therefore is not a he, a she.
- The Creator exists in either an active or a passive state.
- The Middle Eastern view, the Creator is male.
- At first only the Creator exists.
- The Creator then makes the universe from nothing.
- The universe is a separate thing, it can go back to being nothing if the Creator wants.
- The Hindu view, is that creation took a long time and is continuously happening.
- Creation moves from the passive to the active state.
- The Middle Eastern view is , that the process of creation took six days.

- Humans were made on the sixth day.
- The first two humans were Adam and Eve.
- In the Middle Eastern view, human history is about trying to reconnect with the will of the Creator so that life can be lived in line with the Creator's laws.
- At the end of time the universe that we see will be replaced by paradise.
- Hindu scriptures explain how humans can go about purifying themselves so that they will eventually recognise the God within themselves

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QUESTION 4

4.1. The historical relationship between different religions.

- Every religion has perceptions about other religions
- However inter-religious relationship refers to organisations that foster co-operation among religions of the world
- One such body is the WCRP (World Conference on Religion and Peace)
- Another is the World Council of Churches (WCC)
- In addition, in South Africa, there is the National Religious Leaders' Forum as well as the South African Council of Churches.
- In 1893, the World's Parliament of religions was held in Chicago
- Both Western and Eastern religions were represented
- Swami Vivekananda's speeches introduced Hindu thought to the Western world, so that in future it would not be easily misunderstood
- There were no representatives of ATR or native American religions

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4.2 The development of inter-religious dialogue.

- Humanity is divided by nationalist, ethnic and religious differences
- These rivalries are written into history books and passed on to future generations
- Discriminatory practices are also perpetuated by government policies
- There is an urgent need to develop education programmes to promote inter-faith dialogue
- Our mixed societies need to develop respect, tolerance and understanding of differences
- Many religious communities have taken the initiative in promoting peace and resolving conflict
- Religions for Peace, has led the way for developing a curriculum to promote tolerance and peace
- Peace educators help learners to develop a strategy for tolerance, based on their own belief systems
- Peace education has been successful in Israel, Thailand and Japan
- The African Council of Religious Leaders (ACRL) was held in Nigeria in 2003. This initiative aims to improve relationships between Islam and Christianity.

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4.3 The situation between religions in today's world as a global village

- Population migration has reached unprecedented levels in the 20th and 21st centuries as a result of global trade, wars and natural disasters
- Increasing migration of the world's population creates a mix of diverse religions and cultures in nearly all parts of the world
- This can create suspicions and tensions among different religions
- A shift to democratic forms of government requires all religions to be represented in government structures
- The WCRP and other such organisations are playing a significant role in addressing social challenges such as HIV/AIDS, and poverty
- The World Parliament of Religions had a second event in 1993.
- This had greater representation of the world's religion
- It issued and approved a document called "Towards a Global Ethic". It emphasises interdependence, respect and individual responsibility for world peace
- The 1999 Parliament was held in Cape Town, and was attended by some 7000 delegates
- While there are most global conflicts involve people of different faiths, these are not religious wars
- The major cause of conflict is political in nature, and religion is exploited for political gain.

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QUESTION 5

5.1. Examples-Christianity and ATR

Intro:

- Normative means that which creates standards or tending to lay down standards
- The Christian Bible (Old and New Testaments) was once only orally transmitted, passed from one generation to another
- This is known as oral tradition
- Early Christians would tell about events and instructions from the past generations from a stock of oral memory
- This would happen within Christian circles who adhered to their religion
- Efforts were made to commit these events and instructions (as told) to writing, as in the New Testament at a later date.
- Today Christians generally use the Bible (Old and New Testaments) as their normative sources.
- On the other hand ATR only has oral tradition as a normative source
- Like in early Christianity, ATR religious events and instructions are carried down from one generation to the other by word of mouth
- The difference is that ATR has not committed these to writing.
- Apart from being oral, the central teachings of ATR remains unchanged

- The elders in the family are responsible for transmitting information to the next generation
- This is not done in strictly formal settings like a church, as in Christianity
- It is done through daily life practices, as in the past
- The myths, legends, stories, folk tales, songs and dances reflect religious norms and practices that the next generation copy and practice as they live
- There are recent attempts to commit ATR oral normative sources into writing
- This is done by way of recording basic beliefs of the religion, rites of passage, survival of religion under colonial rule, history of resistance, etc. (30)

5.2 Eg.1: Buddhism

Introduction

- To a Buddhist, the world is one of millions of worlds
- In each of these worlds, a Buddha will rediscover the true nature of reality
- The nature of the world in Buddhism is a cycle of being born and reborn

Nature of divinity

- Divinity in Buddhism is not eternal
- It eventually dies and is reborn
- The new divinity will then have its own Buddha
- Lay Buddhists pray to local gods to be enlightened, following Buddha's instructions
- The cycle is repeated

Nature of the community and the individual

- Humans have no special status—they are mortal, like all other creatures
- However, they have higher intelligence than other creatures
- If they reach nirvana, they may be reborn as gods
- Gods may be born as humans
- The cycle of reality starts again

The place and responsibility of humanity

- Being born a human is rare and precious
- Humanity is the only condition in which enlightenment is possible
- Human reincarnation is also rare and precious
- However, recent Buddhist teachings engage with the here and now
- This is to reduce suffering in the world that renews itself in the cycle of born and reborn

The origin and role of evil

- In Buddhism ignorance is the cause of evil
- Evil, in Buddhism, has no origin, because reality itself has no origin
- Universes arise, last for a while, and they disappear. so do ignorant inhabitants
- Ignorance wins over truth until Buddhism disappears
- Buddhism eventually reappears with a new reality and its Buddhas

Eg.2 Christianity

Intro

- Prior to creation, there was chaos
- To Christians, creation (world) was brought into being in six days ,by the power of God
- The world was a perfect place, and God was in charge
- Humans were given responsibility for the world
- Humans play an important role in the ongoing process of creation

Nature of divinity

- God is experienced in Christianity as three persons
- God the (father) ,as Creator:
- God the Son as saviour, and
- the Holy Spirit, to sustain creation

Nature of the individual and the community

- In Christianity, humanity is created in the likeness of God
- It has the responsibility of caring for the world and creation
- For humanity to maintain the perfect world, it needs to have mutual love
- Humanity can only do this in consultation with the Trinity

Place and responsibility of humanity in the world

- God created a perfect world
- Humanity,s role was to maintain this perfect world
- Humanity is only accountable to God, for whatever happens in the world

The origin and role of evil

- Evil was not created by God
- It was introduced by Satan
- Satan wanted to defile God's perfect world
- Evil causes dissention and strife in the world

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