basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

SENIOR CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS/ NATIONAL SENIOR CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS

RELIGION STUDIES P2

MAY/JUNE 2026

MARKS: 150

TIME: 2 hours

This question paper consists of 6 pages.

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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.

DUTCH WOMAN (29) GRANTED EUTHANASIA APPROVAL ON GROUNDS OF MENTAL SUFFERING

A 29-year-old Dutch woman, who has been granted her request for assisted dying on the grounds of unbearable mental suffering, is expected to end her life in the coming weeks, fuelling a debate across Europe over the issue.

Zoraya ter Beek received the final approval last week for assisted dying after a three-and-a-half-year process under a law passed in the Netherlands in 2002. Her case has caused controversy as assisted dying for people with psychiatric illnesses in the Netherlands remains unusual.

[Source: *The Guardian*, 16 May 2024]

1.1.1 Name and explain TWO forms of euthanasia. (2 x 4) (8)

1.1.2 State TWO advantages and TWO disadvantages of euthanasia. (8)

1.1.3 With reference to relevant teachings of any TWO religions you have studied, discuss their responses to euthanasia. (16)

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

THE CHARTER FOR COMPASSION

The Charter for Compassion is a global network initiated by world religion scholar, Karen Armstrong, in collaboration with the Council of Conscience, a multifaith, multinational group of thinkers.

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

1.2.1 State any THREE principles of the Charter for Compassion. (6)

1.2.2 Evaluate the current state of interreligious relationships in South Africa. (12)
[50]

QUESTION 2

Read the extract below and answer the questions that follow.

CENTRAL TEACHINGS

All religions have a set of teachings about the nature of humanity, the world, the divine, creation and parts of our lives.

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

2.1 With reference to any ONE religion you have studied, discuss its central teachings under the following headings:

2.1.1 The nature of the world (12)

2.1.2 The place and responsibility of humanity in the world (12)

2.2 Critically discuss the role of inspiration in religion. (14)

2.3 Name and discuss any THREE hermeneutical principles relevant to the interpretation of sacred texts. (12)
[50]

QUESTION 3

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

INTERNAL DIFFERENCES

Not only are religions different from each other, there are also internal differences within religions themselves.

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

3.1.1 Name any TWO branches of any ONE religion you have studied. (4)

3.1.2 Discuss the internal differences of the branches you named in QUESTION 3.1.1 above under the following headings:

(a) Teachings/Beliefs (12)

(b) Practices (12)

3.2 Explain the historical reasons why internal differences exist in any ONE religion you have studied. (10)

3.3 Discuss the origin and development of the sacred text of ONE religion you have studied. (12)
[50]

QUESTION 4

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

HOW THE UNIVERSE CAME INTO BEING

Currently the most popular scientific theory of the universe is the so-called Big Bang theory. Scientists refer to the attempt to understand the evolution of the universe as 'cosmology'.

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

4.1.1 The Big Bang theory is a secular alternative to religious explanations of creation. Explain the Big Bang theory. (8)

4.1.2 Critically discuss the responses of the following religions to the Big Bang theory:

(a) Hinduism (12)

(b) Taoism (12)

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

RELIGION AND NATURAL SCIENCES

The difficulties between religion and science have escalated over the centuries, leading to competitiveness and even conflict between them.

[Source: *Religion Studies Grade 12,* Steyn, et al.]

4.2.1 Discuss the scientific explanation of how human beings came into existence. (8)

4.2.2 Discuss the teachings of any religion that you have studied, that are in conflict with Darwin's theory of evolution. (10)
[50]

QUESTION 5

Read the extract below and answer the questions that follow.

SECULAR WORLD VIEWS

Secularism is the belief that government and morality should not be based on religion. This does not mean they cannot be influenced by religion; it just means that religion should not have the final say.

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

5.1 Explain the origin of secularism and its impact on religion. (10)

5.2 Elaborate on the increasing popularity of secular world views. (12)

5.3 How has the establishment of secular states led to the prevention of religious wars? (12)

5.4 Compare the teachings of any TWO secular world views you studied. (2 x 8) (16)
[50]

TOTAL: 150

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