basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

SENIOR CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS/ NATIONAL SENIOR CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS

RELIGION STUDIES P1

MAY/JUNE 2026

MARKING GUIDELINES

MARKS: 150

These marking-guidelines consist of 13 pages.

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SECTION A (COMPULSORY)

QUESTION 1

1.1	1.1.1	A√	(1)
	1.1.2	A√	(1)
	1.1.3	B√	(1)
	1.1.4	B√	(1)
	1.1.5	D√	(1)
	1.1.6	C√	(1)
	1.1.7	B√	(1)
	1.1.8	C√	(1)
	1.1.9	A√	(1)
	1.1.10	B√	(1)
1.2	1.2.1	Guru√	(1)
	1.2.2	Incarnation/Anthropomorphism√	(1)
	1.2.3	Ubuntu√	(1)
	1.2.4	Protestantism √	(1)
	1.2.5	Secular Humanism√	(1)
	1.2.6	Baptism√	(1)
1.3	1.3.1	C√	(1)
	1.3.2	D√	(1)
	1.3.3	H√	(1)
	1.3.4	B√	(1)
	1.3.5	G√	(1)
	1.3.6	A√	(1)
1.4	1.4.1	• Cremation√ • The others belong to ATR.√	(2)
	1.4.2	• Nirvana√ • The others are terms from Hinduism.√	(2)
	1.4.3	• Apocrypha√ • The others are names of divine beings/Gods in various religions √	(2)
	1.4.4	• Fundamentalism√ • The others are secular world views√	(2)
	1.4.5	• Allah√ • Others are (human) leaders in Islam√	(2)
			(10)

1.5 1.5.1
- False√
- A shaman is someone who acts as a medium between the visible and the spiritual world./A shaman acts as a traditional healer/ example a sangoma.
- Umvelinqangi/ UNkulunkulu/Modimo/uThixo' is the Supreme Being in African Traditional Religion. √ (2)

1.5.2
- False√
- The Eucharist is a Christian sacrament that is held in memory of Jesus Christ.√
- Ukulanda/Umbuyiso/Brought back is a ritual that is held in memory of the ancestors√ (2)

1.5.3
- True√√ (2)

1.5.4
- False√
- Hasidic Jews try to avoid the influence of modern life. √
- Reformed Jews are open to the influence of modern life. √ (2)

1.5.5
- False√
- The philosophy of Karl Marx is a secular world view (communism) opposed to religion√ (2)

1.6 1.6.1
- Inspiration refers to the breath, power, knowledge of an extraordinary being or power. √
- Refers to the state of being inspired either to write, do something or commit yourself to a particular life or experience. √
- It is the origin of all normative sources. √ (2)

1.6.2
- In the context of religion, teaching refers to imparting knowledge, values, attitudes and norms. √
- Teachings communicate the deeper meanings of the world and how life operates. √ (2)

1.6.3
- Pilgrimage is a spiritual journey to a holy land. √
- Pilgrimage strengthens faith to religious adherents. √
- A journey to a holy place that broaden believers' knowledge about a religion. √
- Christians make a pilgrimage to Jerusalem**.** √
-

NOTE: Only ONE example, expressed in a sentence, may be accepted. (2)

1.6.4
- The founder of Taoism. √
- He was born with white hair. √
- He spent 8 or 80 years in his mother's womb. √ (2)

Mark only TWO responses for 1.6.1–1.6.4.
NOTE: Other relevant responses should be accepted.

TOTAL SECTION A: 50

SECTION B

QUESTION 2

2.1 2.1.1

- Means that the ego imprisons us, and once free from ego, we can become enlightened and experience Nirvana.
- Enlightenment comes about through an individual effort, and not by the intervention or intercession of others, or any gods. (4)

NOTE: Other relevant responses should be accepted.

2.1.2

- A story with deep meaning and lessons.
- A story that is told to illustrate a religious principle, or answers religious questions.
- A story that reveals a hidden meaning.
- Allegories are more direct than Parables. (4)

NOTE: Other relevant responses should be accepted.

2.1.3

- Refers to features that religions have in common.
- Having a resemblance of the same kind, nature, amount, shape, etc. (4)

NOTE: Other relevant responses should be accepted.

2.2 2.2.1

- The Buddha was human, not God.
- According to Buddhism humans are trapped in a cycle of rebirth in which we suffer because we cling to the illusion of permanent self or soul.
- Enlightenment is attained through a lifetime of wisdom and practice, not through inherent belief of faith. (4)

NOTE: Other relevant responses should be accepted.

2.2.2

- Tao means 'the path of the universe'. It is regarded as the source or beginning of everything.
- Both the 'nothing' and the 'happening' that takes place in the Tao are considered as divine.
- All the world processes are made up of two opposing forces, the Yin and the Yang.
- The aim in Taoism is to live one's life effortlessly in harmony with the Tao (Wuwei). (4)

NOTE: Other relevant responses should be accepted.

2.2.3

- There is one all-powerful God, but religions worship this god in different ways.
- Humans have a soul with the unique capacity to recognize God and to build a relationship with Him as Creator.
- All human beings are equal and unity of all people will solve political and economic woes. (4)

NOTE: Other relevant responses should be accepted.

2.3

CHRISTIANITY	JUDAISM
The symbol for Christianity is the cross. Christianity believes in the Holy Trinity. Christianity believes in the Old and New Testament.	• The symbol of Judaism is the star of David. • Judaism believes in one God who has no son. • Judaism believes only in the Old Testament.

(6)

NOTE: Other relevant responses should be accepted.

2.4 2.4.1 **NIRVANA**

- A state of perfect happiness and peace in Buddhism.
- Release from suffering and the cycle of rebirth.
- The highest goal of Buddhist practice.

KARMA

- The Hindu law of karma refers to the belief that every action has a consequence that may show up in a later reincarnation.
- It also implies the results of actions.
- It teaches that a person's actions from the past are responsible for his or her present state.

(4)

NOTE: Other relevant responses should be accepted.

2.4.2 **THE TALMUD**

- The Talmud, which was completed by the end of the fifth century CE, is seen as a secondary source.
- It contains the Mishnah and the Gemara, and gives detailed, rabbinical explanations of the Torah.

THE HADITH

- The most important text after the Qur'an is the Hadith which contains the sayings of the Prophet as recorded by his followers.
- The life of Prophet Muhammad is recorded in the Hadith which shows Muslims how to live according to the will of God.

(4)

NOTE: Other relevant responses should be accepted.

2.4.3 **MYTH**

- A sacred story that explains why the world is as it is and the nature of human experience.
- A myth is a story that is not always literally true.

NARRATIVE

- A spoken or written account of connected events in order of occurrence.
- All religions have narratives and pass on accounts of the lives of their founders, saints, deities or important people.

(4)

NOTE: Other relevant responses should be accepted.

2.5
- In ATR individualism is discouraged: it is regarded as inhuman.
- The communal way of life is central and allows people to share joys, blessings, sorrows and burdens.
- There is therefore a saying, 'I am because we are, and since we are, therefore I am. (Umuntu ngumuntu ngabantu.)
- Harmony within oneself and within the clan or society is key.
- What is right and wrong is assessed by its impact on the people.

NOTE: Other relevant responses should be accepted. (8)

[50]

QUESTION 3

3.1 3.1.1 **HUMAN RIGHTS**

- Everyone is equal before the law and has the right to equal protection and benefit of the law.
- A basic right that is afforded to everyone by virtue of being a human, regardless of race, gender or religion.

RESPONSIBILITY

- The concept of responsibility is mostly given equal emphasis to that of human rights.
- There can be no rights without responsibility. (4)

NOTE: Other relevant responses should be accepted.

3.1.2

- During World War II, many people had inflicted harm on each other based on nationality, race, religion and gender.
- The Universal Declaration guaranteed certain rights, thereby preventing violations in the future. (4)

3.1.3 **YES**

- Human rights are rooted in religious teachings. Religions therefore take seriously the observation of human rights.
- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights paved the way for adoption of more than 70 human rights treaties around the globe.
- It is applied on a permanent basis at global and regional level in most countries.
- It has been adopted as a common standard of achievement for all people and for all nations.

NO

- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights includes no clear mechanism of implementation.
- The Declaration embodies ideals and goals, but they provide no concrete framework for actually achieving them.
- In some countries, human rights are not included in their constitutions.
- In conflict situations, such as with the United States and Iran, and Russia and Ukraine, there are gross human rights violations that go unpunished.
- Membership of the UN is voluntary. (6)

NOTE: Other relevant responses should be accepted.
A candidate may argue both YES and NO, but credit is given only for logical substantiation of each position.

3.2
- Being a secular state, South Africa allows everyone the right of freedom of religion, belief, and opinion.
- All religions have unimpeded access to their places of worship
- The state condemns religious intolerance and incitement to violence .e.g. the Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Rights Commission (CRL)
- During times of natural disasters, religious organisations join hands to help those affected.
- Even minority religions are represented in inter-faith organisations in South Africa.
- Different religious leaders pray together at national events, e.g. during the opening of parliament.
- In South Africa, citizens can decide to join more than one religion, or decide not to have any religious affiliation. (10)

NOTE: Other relevant responses should be accepted.

3.3
- There would be exploitation of religious teachings and rituals.
- Religious freedom can lead to a rise of new religions, and even promote cults.
- A religion can lose its identity, due to too much diversity.
- There would be lack of loyalty within the religion as members are free to move from one religion to the next.
- It can cause divisions within families, as family members will be practising different religions. (8)

NOTE: Other relevant responses should be accepted.

3.4 **EXAMPLE 1: HINDUISM**
- 'Satyameva Jayate' (Truth Alone Triumphs).
- This reflects the belief that truth is universal and can be found through diverse paths
- Hinduism allows individuals the freedom to choose their path of faith, worship and rituals, without imposing specific doctrines or practices.
- Hinduism does not assert that its own practices are the only way to achieve liberation.

EXAMPLE: 2: AFRICAN TRADITIONAL RELIGION
- ATR believes in the philosophy of 'ubuntu'.
- This encourages people to help one another regardless of religious affiliation/belief.
- The communal way of life is central and allows people to share joys, blessings, sorrows and burdens.
- In ATR this means that regardless of one's religious affiliation the community shares in their achievements and misfortunes.

EXAMPLE 3: BUDDHISM
- Buddhism's teaching is to do no harm to living creatures, including humans.
- This means that every religion is free to use power of logic to persuade people.
- People can do their own analyses of reality and human condition.
- Tolerance and acceptance of people just as they are, is fundamental to Buddhism.
- These teachings promote freedom to practise any religion of one's choice. (8)

NOTE: Other relevant responses should be accepted.

3.5
- Morality traditionally was rooted in religion.
- Religion may be growing weaker as the world becomes increasingly secular.
- There is an erosion of morality, as society becomes secular.
- There is less accountability of religious leaders.
- Religious leaders abuse their power by subjecting their followers to immoral acts.
- The spirit of freedom promotes the idea of 'anything goes'. This loosens the grip of religion.
- Lack of religious education, leads to family discord.
- Negative influence of social media encourages immoral behavior.

(10)

NOTE: Other relevant responses should be accepted.

QUESTION 4

4.1 4.1.1
- Hamas attacked Israel and took hostages. (2)

4.1.2
- They were fighting for their liberation from Israeli authority.
- They wanted their land.
- They wanted an exchange of prisoners. (4)

4.1.3
- 'It is the most significant escalation of the Israel-Palestinian conflict in several decades.'
- 'Palestinian strip of land which was occupied by Israel in 1967.' (2)

4.1.4 **ISRAEL**
- They received their loved ones who were captured by Hamas.
- The Israeli defence force had time to regroup and organise themselves.

PALESTINE
- Their fighters were released from Israeli prisons.
- Displaced residents returned to northern Gaza.
- They received assistance from humanitarian organisations. (8)

NOTE: A maximum of SIX marks may be awarded for either Israel or Palestine.

4.1.5
- Muslims sympathised with their fellow Palestinians.
- Countries like Lebanon, Yemen, and Iran, attacked those who were allies of Israel.
- Allies of Israel supported them with arms.
- The United States was the leading ally of Israel.
- That is why their military positions were attacked in Iraq and Syria. (4)

NOTE: Other relevant responses should be accepted.

4.1.6 Religion plays a minor role, as this is a political conflict.
- Religion is used to justify the conflict, as Jews claim Palestinian land on religious grounds,
- This claim is rejected under international law.
- Jews occupied and settled in Gaza forcing the original Palestinian inhabitants off their land. (6)

NOTE: Other relevant responses should be accepted.

4.1.7 **NO:**
- Israel was supposed to protect civilians as per the Geneva agreement.
- Israeli missiles were bombing critical service areas like hospitals and schools.
- Civilians were not provided with shelters of refuge.
- Humanitarian organisations were not allowed by Israeli forces to assist casualties of war.
- Israel was supposed to release all political prisoners.

YES:

- It was Hamas which attacked innocent people of Israel on 7 October 2023.
- Hamas was using civilians as shields.
- Hamas was using hospitals and schools as its military bases.
- Hamas was supposed to release all hostages to avoid war. (8)

NOTE: Other relevant responses should be accepted.

4.2 **CHRISTIANITY**

- Christianity teaches, 'Love thy neighbour as you love yourself.'
- This teaching encourages respect and love for other human beings.
- Another teaching of Christianity teaches, 'Do unto others as you like to be done unto you.'
- This teaching encourages mutual respect, thus reducing conflict.
- 'Thou shalt not kill.'
- In Christianity this refers to the sanctity and sacredness of human life**.**

BUDDHISM

- Buddhism promotes a shared humanness (selflessness).
- It encourages strict non –violence (ahimsa)
- There is a shared aspiration of gaining happiness, and avoiding suffering for all living things.
- Buddhism has therefore never waged war to spread its teachings, as this would be a violation of basic human rights. (8)

NOTE: Other relevant responses should be accepted.

4.3

- Promoting interfaith dialogue and understanding between different religions.
- They must focus on common values between different religions such as compassion, love, generosity and justice.
- They can develop educational programs and workshops aimed at teaching members about tolerance and diversity.
- Religious organisations can initiate and participate in peace-building initiatives such as conflict resolution and mediation training.
- They can promote non-violent communication and encourage their members to be peace makers.
- They can collaborate with civil society organisations working on peace building and conflict resolution to share resources and expertise to promote peace.
- They must use social media to promote peace. (8)

NOTE: Other relevant responses should be accepted.

[50]

QUESTION 5

5.1 5.1.1
- *Cleric* refers to a clergyman/priest. (2)

5.1.2
- He is pressured to resign.
- He is pressured to take action against the perpetrator. (4)

5.1.3
- Concealing evidence of wrongdoing or embarrassing information.
- Trying to hide the illegal activity. (4)

NOTE: Other relevant responses should be accepted.

5.1.4
- He must be expelled from the church.
- Justice should take its course.
- He must not be allowed to work with minors. (6)

NOTE: Other relevant responses should be accepted.

5.1.5
- It can cause people to leave the church because the most senior cleric in the church of England is involved in the cover-up.
- Congregants would feel betrayed by the church.
- The church could be labelled as a cult and not a church because they did not act against child abuse. (6)

NOTE: Other relevant responses should be accepted.

5.2
- The peripheral and negative issues about religion get the most media coverage.
- This happens because bad news sells (sensationalism).
- Scandalous issues about religion also receives most media coverage.
- At the end of the day media houses are businesses and need to make a profit.
- It is the same with issues that appear to be religious, but are actually more political. (8)

NOTE: Other relevant responses should be accepted.

5.3
- Religious organisations should engage mainstream media in dialogue on religious discourse.
- They need to remind the media that biased reporting may lead to conflict.
- They should emphasise the importance of objectivity and impartiality.
- They can boycott media houses.
- Religious organisations need to educate their members on how to handle the media.
- Religious organisations should not do negative things that will attract negative media coverage.
- Religious organisations should have their own media department to promote their work. (10)

NOTE: Other relevant responses should be accepted.

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5.4

YES

- Freedom of the press is reflected in the variety of viewpoints, as is also expressed in religious reporting.
- There are religious slots on television channels which report fairly about religions.
- All religions are covered in different media platforms.
- Religious organisations have their independent media, which is intended to spread their teachings.
- The law allows for objections to be raised if media coverage is unfair.

NO

- Pressure groups, both within civil society and government, ensure that media articles support their interests.
- Journalists' reporting simply mirror their own prejudices.
- The media is a business and will seek out newsworthy items, and so religious issues are not newsworthy.
- An article reporting that a midnight mass went as planned, has little news value.
- The media often reports on controversial issues about religion.

NOTE: Other relevant responses should be accepted. (10)

[50]

TOTAL SECTION B: 100
GRAND TOTAL: 150

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