



basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

SENIOR CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS/ NATIONAL SENIOR CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS

RELIGION STUDIES P2

2022

MARKING GUIDELINES

MARKS: 150

These marking guidelines consist of 13 pages.

QUESTION 1

- 1.1
- Moral degeneration implies the degradation or debasement of moral standards in a person or especially a given human group, community or society.

Examples:

- If a child witnesses the parents using vulgar language at home, the child will learn to do the same.
- Many political leaders are morally bankrupt. They therefore engage in criminal activities with impunity.
- These corrupt leaders are elected into power by their loyal supporters.
- Political corruption results in high levels of crime, and resultant poverty.
- Religious leaders themselves engage in deception and exploit the vulnerable members of society.

NOTE: Other relevant responses must be credited. A maximum of SIX marks may be awarded if no explanation of moral degeneration is given. (8)

- 1.2
- Morality is no longer the standard of excellence in society, because moral degeneration changes cultural and social norms. It makes immoral behaviour seem acceptable.
 - It promotes public acceptance of violence, justifies discrimination and injustice.
 - Society is becoming less sensitive to the pain and sorrow caused by moral degeneration.
 - Politics has become dirty; politicians lack moral principles. This is so rife that law-abiding, morally upright people keep away from politics.
 - Moral degeneration limits opportunities for social development, and leads to societal decline.
 - The public lose confidence in government structures such as the police. This gives rise to vigilantism.
 - A corrupt society does not attract foreign investment. This results in job losses.

NOTE: Other relevant responses must be credited. (12)

1.3 **EXAMPLE 1: ISLAM**

- According to the Holy Qur'an, the fundamental cause of all evils is lack of taqwa. (God-consciousness)
- Obligatory rituals such as salaah (prayer), fasting and pilgrimage all help to strengthen one's level of God-consciousness.
- This, in turn, will build strong morals, and prevent a person from committing evil.
- The Qur'an states that salaah saves an individual from committing sins/evil, by increasing his/her levels of God-consciousness. (Sura 29:45)
- Islam teaches doing good for all of humanity. The Quran states, 'Enjoin (encourage) what is good, and forbid what is evil.' (Sura 3:104; 9:71)

- This injunction not only requires every Muslim to do good and refrain from evil, but commands that every Muslim should encourage others to do the same.
- This will lead to a morally upright society.
- Islam places great emphasis on the family unit, as it is the building block of society.
- Therefore activities that can destroy a family, carry very harsh punishment (e.g. adultery, fornication and substance abuse are strictly forbidden).
- The ideal Islamic family starts with the marriage of a believing man and a compatible believing woman and culminates with the raising of believing children. (Sura 4:35)
- Believers are responsible for striving hard in protecting themselves and their families from breaching any and all boundaries of human behaviour commanded by Allah. (Sura 66:7)
- Istighfar (repentance) is the ultimate Islamic shield against moral degeneration. If a person has sinned, he is assured that God is 'oft forgiving, merciful,' so the sinner never loses hope and will redeem himself.

NOTE: Other relevant responses must be credited.

(16)

EXAMPLE 2: AFRICAN TRADITIONAL RELIGION

- According to ATR moral degeneration in terms of the concept 'Ubuntu' is condemned.
- ATR teaches that 'Umuntu ngumuntu ngabantu'.
- This promotes mutual love and respect amongst individuals, families and communities in general.
- It means that according to ATR there is no room for corruption e.g. nepotism.
- Harmony within oneself and within the clan, society, nature and the spiritual world forms the basis of a healthy society.
- What is right or wrong is assessed by its impact on other people.
- In ATR there is no room for rape, murder, theft, etc.
- Disturbing harmony and showing disrespect to the living, results in punishable acts, carried out by the ancestors/living dead.
- Those who lead immoral lives are punished by the ancestors.
- They also do not become ancestors when they die.

NOTE: Other relevant responses must be credited. A maximum of EIGHT marks may be awarded if teachings are merely listed and not discussed.

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- 1.4
- Religious organisations are to work hand in hand with political parties to teach and preach morality to people.
 - Encourage the members of all religions to continue to be the custodians of good morals even in their working environment.
 - Let them become vessels of good morality.
 - Religious organisations should train their congregants to act justly in all spheres of life, including private and public life.
 - Religious organisations must support people who are in public positions (celebrities, sports personalities, etc.) to be role models.
 - Special seminars should be organised for such people, as there are greater moral challenges for leaders.
 - Religious leaders themselves should serve as examples of morally upright people.
 - The societal and individual benefits of religious values should be emphasised in sermons, speeches and seminars.

NOTE: Other relevant responses must be credited.

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QUESTION 2

- 2.1 2.1.1 **EXAMPLE 1: TAOISM**
- Humans are just a tiny, micro-cosmic by-product of the Tao's creative activity.
 - Humans are not special or in charge of the world.
 - They are not needed to look after it.
 - The world and the universe will continue whether human beings continue or not.
 - The world will take whatever shape the Tao gives it.
 - Humans have the potential to destroy only a very small part of the creation.
 - Even if a small part gets destroyed, the incredible and bountiful creative activity of the Tao will continue.

EXAMPLE 2: CHRISTIANITY

- Humans were created in the image of God.
- Adam and Eve were instructed to look after the Garden of Eden and the whole of creation.
- Humans are God's representatives on earth.
- They were appointed to look after His property.
- God instructed humans to have dominion over everything in the world.
- They are accountable to God.
- Humans are above all creation, since they were created in God's image.

NOTE: Other relevant responses must be credited.

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2.1.2 EXAMPLE 1: TAOISM

- The Taoist view of death is that we should appreciate life in order to accept death.
- When one realises that what makes life wonderful is its cyclical processes, it becomes easier to accept that life ends. Hence an acceptance of death.
- In this religion, death is simply a process of transformation in which one goes from one form to another.
- It means that one has been part of the universe from the start and will continue to experience both joy and sadness.
- One does not need life after death in some kind of heaven, or kind of cyclical life after death that is found in Hinduism.
- One simply gets transformed and ends up elsewhere.

EXAMPLE 2: CHRISTIANITY

- According to Christianity life does not cease with death, but continues beyond the grave.
- Death is not the end of life but a phase in the journey of human kind.
- Sinners go to hell where they are punished.
- Those who led a wholesome life enter a new phase called paradise.
- On the last day, the ordinary world will no longer exist. The rule of God will prevail.
- Only those who will have lived according to the will of God will live the eternal life.
- There is a day of resurrection during which the good and the evil will be judged according to their actions in this world.
- Resurrection implies that life has a purpose and accountability.

NOTE: Other relevant responses must be credited.

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2.2

- **GRAMMAR AND HISTORICAL CONTEXT:**
- For accurate interpretation, the rules of grammar as well as historical facts must be taken into account.
- This means that the writings must be understood within the context of the time and circumstances in which the text was written.
- **CLEAREST MEANING:**
- The meaning that is clearest 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.
- E.g. Is the writing in the form of poetry or prose?
- **MEANING OF WORDS:**
- The meaning of words often changes over time and context.
- For the correct interpretation the original meaning must be considered.

- **FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE:**

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

- **OTHER SACRED TEXTS:**

- One sacred text may be used to interpret other sacred texts from the same religion.
- This is because there is consistency between the teachings of the religion and its sacred texts.

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2.3

- In all religions, the original inspiration was first spread by oral tradition.
- This means that the original message was transmitted from generation to generation by word of mouth.
- Oral tradition was a normative source of primary importance throughout religious history.
- The technology of writing entered religion about 4 000 years ago.
- Oral traditions that were written down became more rigid.
- The sacred text, e.g. in Christianity, is the Bible.
- It contains the teachings of Jesus Christ. They were first transmitted from generation to generation through word of mouth.
- Abrahamic faiths place more emphasis on sacred texts than do Eastern religions.
- This is because the former believe their sacred texts to be divinely revealed.
- Today, oral tradition complements written sacred text.
- In some religions (e.g. African Traditional Religion) the sacred text remains in the form of oral tradition.

NOTE: Other relevant responses must be credited.

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QUESTION 3**3.1 EXAMPLE 1: ISLAM:**

- Sunni and Shi'a branches

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**3.2 3.2.1 DIFFERENCES IN GOVERNANCE
SUNNI**

- 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, madrassahs and schools.

SHI'A

- 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.

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**3.2.2 DIFFERENCES IN TEACHINGS
SUNNI**

- 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 branch 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

- 'Shi'a' means 'partisan' or 'separate party'.
- The Hadith narrated by the companions of the Prophet have less significance than those narrated by his family members.
- The Shi'a follow the teachings and opinions only of a living scholar.
- They believe that the last caliph from the Prophet's family was hidden in a cave and will one day reappear as leader. He is referred to as 'imam'.

(12)

- 3.1 **EXAMPLE 2: CHRISTIANITY** (4)
- Catholicism/ Eastern Orthodox Church/ Protestantism
- 3.2 3.2.1 **DIFFERENCES IN GOVERNANCE**
- CATHOLICISM**
- The head of Catholicism is the Pope.
 - The centre of power of this branch is in the Vatican.
 - 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 CHURCH**
- Political control was traditionally in Constantinople (Istanbul).
 - Today it is decentralised.
 - 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 and archbishops.
 - They have as ordained ministers, priests, bishops and archbishops.
- 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 accountable to any higher authority than the congregation.
 - In Protestantism each church is independent.
- NOTE: Other relevant responses must be credited.** (12)
- 3.2.2 **DIFFERENCES IN TEACHINGS**
- CATHOLIC**
- 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 Holy Spirit.
 - The Holy Spirit comes from God the Father and the Son.
- EASTERN ORTHODOX**
- The Trinity and the Holy Spirit are understood differently from the views of the Catholic Church.
 - They teach that the Holy Spirit comes from God the Father only.
 - 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.
- NOTE: Other relevant responses must be credited.** (12)

3.3 **EXAMPLE 1**

- **AGNOSTICISM**

- This term was first used by a philosopher called TH Huxley in 1869. Agnostic ideas predate the use of the term 'agnosticism'.
- Agnosticism comes from the Greek, 'a', which means 'without' and 'gnosis' which means 'knowledge'.
- Agnostics believe that it is not possible to either prove or disprove the existence of God or a supernatural being.
- This refers to uncertainty about God-knowledge.
- Agnostics are sceptical of religious teachings.
- They reject religious doctrine, especially religions that claim to have knowledge of the divine.

EXAMPLE 2:

- **ATHEISM**

- Atheists reject the belief that divine or supernatural powers exist.
- There are different degrees of atheism.
- Strong or positive atheists believe there is evidence to support their atheistic views.
- Soft or neutral atheists do not actively reject the existence of a supernatural being.
- 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.
- Atheists often turn to science to explain the nature of the universe, rather than relying on faith.

NOTE: Other relevant responses must be credited

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3.4

- A secular world view leads to the development of democratic government.
- Secular laws become the highest laws of the land.
- Most religious people adapted to the secular view by accepting the separation of religion and the state.
- It promotes freedom of conscience and belief.
- It provides a framework of principles and ethical guidelines for life.
- Society has freedom to question the authority of religious teachings.
- Secular views led to the advancement of science and technology.
- Secular views led to the development of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- It reduces religious conflict, as all religions have equal status under the law.
- With regard to negative impact, secularism has undermined religious following.
- It can be argued that it has also led to a decline in morality.

NOTE: Other relevant responses must be credited.(14)
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QUESTION 4

4.1 4.1.1

EXAMPLE 1: TAOISM

- In Taoism, the world and everything in it comes into being automatically as part of the activity of the Tao.
- It is not planned, but it is not unplanned.
- The Tao did not intend the world to exist, nor did it not want the world to exist.
- Taoism does not contradict the Big Bang theory.
- Scientifically the world was not created by any God or gods, but it happened by chance. The world simply emerged as a tiny speck in the enormous 'bowl' of creation as the Tao continued on its path.
- According to Taoism the world consists of processes of creation and destruction.
- This is in line with the Big Bang theory which states that there was an enormous explosion.
- Within seconds the universe had appeared and filled out to an enormous size.
- According to science the universe is ever expanding. There is no rest period.
- The Taoist view of the universe is based very much on their observation of the natural and human world.
- The Big Bang theory is also based on observation of the natural and human world.
- Hence Taoism's acceptance of the Big Bang theory.

EXAMPLE 2: HINDUISM

- In Hinduism, the Creator exists in either active or passive state.
- The passive state is a state of rest, when nothing happens.
- Scientifically the passive state was before the Big Bang.
- After a very long time the Creator becomes active again.
- This is when part of the universe becomes different from other parts, and creation begins. To Hindus, the universe itself is the Creator.
- This does not contradict the Big Bang theory.
- In Hinduism the Creator is neither male nor female.
- No Creator is mentioned in the Big Bang Theory.
- Hindus believe that the Big Bang theory is an alternative way of explaining how the universe came about.

NOTE: Other relevant responses must be credited. A MAXIMUM of TEN marks may be awarded if only the religion OR the Big Bang Theory is discussed.

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- 4.1.2
- Darwin's theory of evolution provided an alternative explanation of creation which differs from the Abrahamic religious explanation of creation.
 - This theory provided an explanation that did not require the idea of an intelligent designer
 - Darwin's theory thus challenged the authenticity of the Abrahamic sacred texts.
 - As a result, most people started to treat the Genesis account of creation as symbolic.
 - This theory caused those who believed in the Abrahamic religions to interrogate the sacred texts more closely.
 - Darwin's theory also provoked religious people to study science.
 - Religions responded with the concept of 'intelligent design', to explain the variation in species.
 - Eastern religions, such as Hinduism and Taoism, are unaffected by Darwin's theory.
 - This is because they lay less emphasis on right beliefs, and attach more importance to right action.
 - Hinduism believes in the evolution of the soul, and is in line with Darwin's theory.
 - In Taoism humans have no special status, and are merely a result of Yin and Yang, much as Darwin's theory gives humans no special status.
 - For followers of the Abrahamic faiths, (Christianity in particular) Darwin's theory does indeed challenge their religious outlook.
 - The Eastern religions are more in synchrony with Darwin's theory.

NOTE: Other relevant responses must be credited

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4.2 EXAMPLE 1: INTERFAITH ACTION FOR PEACE IN AFRICA (IFAPA)

- This organisation works in collaboration with religious communities in the continent, which is one of the main reasons for its successes.
- IFAPA does not work in isolation. It works closely with other religious organisations.
- IFAPA has made a successful effort to be as inclusive of different religions as possible, e.g. it includes African Traditional Religion, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, and the Baha'i Faith.
- This organisation has succeeded in sending delegations to areas of conflict. The members of their delegation have been instrumental in bringing conflicting groups together to improve understanding and cooperation with one another.
- This organisation has also been successful in bringing together civil society, private sector and governments, which is one of the reasons for its achievements.
- However, in spite of all the efforts, this organisation has not been able to achieve permanent or lasting peace among conflicting groups.
- The reason for this is political interference.
- Their successes have also been hindered by cultural and tribal groups which would use religion in pursuit of their goals.

EXAMPLE 2: AFRICAN COUNCIL OF RELIGIOUS LEADERS-RELIGIONS FOR PEACE

- This organisation has succeeded because of its principles and values of respect and tolerance for religious differences.
- It has also succeeded because it has always made an effort to encourage peaceful co-existence among a variety of religions.
- Their actions have also been based on deeply held and mainly shared issues of morality.
- Another reason for their success is the promotion and preservation of identity for each religious community.
- The recognition of religiously diverse communities in Africa has also led to its success.
- They support locally led multi-religious structures under the umbrella of Religions for Peace.
- They uphold the principles of representation, subsidiarity and solidarity.
- They participated in the World Social Forum.
- Whilst there have been successes in this organisation, some failures have been noted.
- The failures are mainly a result of political interference.

NOTE: Other relevant responses must be credited.

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- 4.3
- The establishment of the Parliament of the Worlds' Religions took place in Chicago in 1893.
 - Its aim was to create a global dialogue of faiths.
 - In 1993 the Parliament was again held in Chicago to work together on world issues as well as creating a declaration titled 'Towards a Global Ethic'.
 - In 1999 the Cape Town Parliament highlighted the issue of HIV and AIDS.
 - In 2004 the Parliament met in Barcelona, Spain, and focused on religious violence, safe water, refugees, and eliminating external debt in developing countries.
 - In 2007 the focus was on the Millennium Development Goals for eradicating poverty.
 - In 2009 the Parliament met in Melbourne, Australia and dealt with aboriginal reconciliation, sustainability and global climate change

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TOTAL: 150