



# basic education

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Department:  
Basic Education  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

## **SENIOR CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS/ NATIONAL SENIOR CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS**

**RELIGION STUDIES P2**

**2023**

**MARKS: 150**

**TIME: 2 hours**

**This question paper consists of 5 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 article below and answer the questions that follow.

**ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION**

A United Nations panel on an International Strategy for Disaster Reduction defines environmental degradation as 'the reduction of the capacity of the environment to meet social and ecological objectives, and needs'. There are many types of environmental degradation. When natural habitats are destroyed or natural resources are depleted, the environment is degraded.

[Source: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Environmental-degradation>]

- 1.1.1 Name and explain THREE types of environmental degradation. (12)
- 1.1.2 Analyse THREE effects of environmental degradation and explain the impact on society. (12)
- 1.1.3 With reference to any ONE religion you have studied, state THREE of its teachings that offer guidance on environmental issues. (6)
- 1.2 Discuss the central teachings of any ONE religion under the following headings:
- 1.2.1 The nature of the world (10)
- 1.2.2 The place and responsibility of humanity in the world (10)
- [50]**

**QUESTION 2**

Read the extract below and answer the questions that follow.

It is true that in most religions different interpretations of beliefs exist. This leads to major differences that sometimes culminate in the formation of strands or branches and other divisions, for example different denominations in Christianity.

[Adapted from *Shuters Top Class Religion Studies, Grade 12*]

- 2.1 With reference to any ONE religion you have studied, name TWO of its branches. (4)
- 2.2 Discuss the differences that exist within the branches you have named in QUESTION 2.1 under the following headings:
- 2.2.1 Differences in practices (8)
- 2.2.2 Differences in beliefs (8)
- 2.2.3 Do you think internal differences within religions will increase in the future? Give reasons for your answer. (8)
- 2.3 Discuss the importance of *inspiration* in the context of religion. (10)
- 2.4 State THREE hermeneutical principles and explain EACH of them. (12)
- [50]**

**QUESTION 3**

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

The theory of evolution asserts that humans have evolved from a common primate ancestor with apes. The theory proposes that all life evolved from primitive forms and continues to adapt and evolve. While evolution does not directly refute religious ideas about creation, it is clear that it offers no explanation of creation as part of a divine plan.

[Adapted from *Shuters Top Class Religion Studies, Grade 12*]

- 3.1.1 Critically evaluate the response of Abrahamic religions to the theory of evolution. (12)
- 3.1.2 Explain the response of Hinduism to the theory of evolution. (12)
- 3.2 Explain the *Big Bang theory*. (14)
- 3.3 Discuss Taoism's explanation of how the universe came into being. (12)
- [50]**

**QUESTION 4**

Read the extract below and answer the questions that follow.

When people become actively secular, they find that they need to put forward a theory of their own, sometimes to replace religion.

[Adapted from *Religion Studies Grade 12*, Steyn, et al.]

- 4.1 Discuss the origin of Secularism. (12)
- 4.2 Discuss the teachings of any ONE secular world view you studied. (12)
- 4.3 How did Secularism influence the current South African Constitution? (12)
- 4.4 Do you think Secularism has a positive impact on society as a whole? Give reasons for your answer. (14)
- [50]**

**QUESTION 5**

Read the extract below and answer the questions that follow.

Historically, relationships between different religions have often been conflicting. While there have been periods of intense conflict, there have also been periods of religious cooperation.

[Adapted from *Shuters Top Class Religion Studies, Grade 12*]

- 5.1 South Africa is a multifaith society. Discuss how the South African government promotes respect, tolerance and understanding of all religions. (12)
- 5.2 Why do you think religious organisations usually assist in times of natural disasters? (12)
- 5.3 The following two organisations have been established to promote interreligious relationships in Africa. Give FOUR facts on each of them.
- 5.3.1 The Programme for Christian-Muslim Relations in Africa (PROCMURA) (8)
- 5.3.2 The Interfaith Action for Peace in Africa (IFAPA) (8)
- 5.4 The Charter for Compassion is a global network initiated by world religion scholar Karen Armstrong, in collaboration with the Council of Conscience.
- List FIVE principles of the Charter for Compassion. (10)
- [50]**

**TOTAL: 150**