



Victorian Certificate of Education 2008

SUPERVISOR TO ATTACH PROCESSING LABEL HERE

STUDENT NUMBER

Figures

Words

Letter

--

RELIGION AND SOCIETY

Written examination

Tuesday 18 November 2008

Reading time: 11.45 am to 12.00 noon (15 minutes)

Writing time: 12.00 noon to 2.00 pm (2 hours)

QUESTION AND ANSWER BOOK

Structure of book

<i>Section</i>	<i>Number of questions</i>	<i>Number of questions to be answered</i>	<i>Number of marks</i>
A	3	3	20
B	2	2	40
C	3	1	40
			Total 100

- Students are permitted to bring into the examination room: pens, pencils, highlighters, erasers, sharpeners and rulers.
- Students are NOT permitted to bring into the examination room: blank sheets of paper and/or white out liquid/tape.
- No calculator is allowed in this examination.

Materials supplied

- Question and answer book of 16 pages, including **Assessment criteria** on page 16.
- Additional space is available at the end of the book if you need extra paper to complete an answer.

Instructions

- Write your **student number** in the space provided above on this page.
- All written responses must be in English.

Students are NOT permitted to bring mobile phones and/or any other unauthorised electronic devices into the examination room.

SECTION A – Short answer questions

Instructions for Section A

Answer **all** questions in the spaces provided.
Read **all** questions before commencing your responses.

Question 1

In contemporary society, when faced with major social and moral issues, religious traditions respond in many different ways.

Identify three different ways that religious traditions respond.

3 marks

Question 2

Why is continuity of core religious beliefs necessary for religious traditions?

5 marks

Question 3

<p>wonder</p> <p><i>major life choices</i></p> <p><i>love</i></p> <p>JOY</p> <p><i>suffering</i></p> <p><i>human relationships</i></p> <p>death</p>

Answer both **part a.** and **part b.** of this question with **no** reference to specific individuals or groups.

- a. Choose **one** of the life experiences above. Briefly state **how** the experience may **positively** affect the understanding of a core religious belief held by individuals or groups.

Life experience _____

Related core religious belief _____

Positive understanding _____

6 marks

- b. Choose a **different** life experience from above. Briefly state **how** the experience may **negatively** affect the understanding of a core religious belief held by individuals or groups.

Life experience _____

Related core religious belief _____

Negative understanding _____

6 marks

Total 20 marks

**END OF SECTION A
TURN OVER**

SECTION B – Extended response questions

Instructions for Section B

Answer **all** questions in the spaces provided.

Read **all** parts of the question before commencing your response.

Question 1

Throughout their historical development religious traditions have faced a range of challenges.

a. List three challenges faced by a religious tradition during its historical development.

3 marks

b. Choose one of the challenges you have listed in **part a.** and **identify** what aspect(s) of the religious tradition was challenged.

2 marks

c. Describe how the aspect(s) you identified in **part b.** was challenged.

4 marks

SECTION C – Essay and report questions**Instructions for Section C**

Answer **one** of the following questions in the space provided.

You may write your response as **either** a report or an essay.

Question 1

Outline the beliefs of a religious tradition you have studied about a supreme being or ultimate reality and **explain how** these beliefs lead the religious tradition towards an understanding of

- the nature and purpose of human life
- the relationship between humanity and the rest of the world
- the way members of the tradition should lead their lives.

OR

Question 2

‘Religions do not stand alone in perfect isolation. Religions have absorbed and been transformed by different ideas and influences, though these have not been always welcomed or even acknowledged.’

Discuss this statement referring to a religious tradition(s) you have studied.

OR

Question 3

‘Life is one continuous hardship.’

‘The purpose of life is to experience happiness.’

‘The purpose of life is to live for others.’

‘Sometimes the end of life is what gives life purpose.’

‘Wherever life takes us there are always moments of wonder.’

With reference to **one** or **more** of the above statements, **discuss how** significant life experiences can impact on the understanding an individual or group has of the core religious beliefs in their religious tradition.

You may agree or disagree with the statements you have selected.

Total 40 marks

Assessment criteria

The examination will address all of the criteria.

All students will be examined against the following criteria.

1. Use of evidence to support arguments and conclusions.
2. Knowledge of core beliefs within one or more religious tradition/s.
3. Understanding of the interplay between religious beliefs and significant life experiences.
4. Analysis of continuity and maintenance of a core religious belief or beliefs within one or more religious traditions.
5. Analysis of the interplay between a tradition's religious beliefs and vision for society in relation to one or more specific issues.
6. Evaluation of the ways one or more religious tradition/s have responded to a significant challenge.