

**Victorian Certificate of Education
2015**

SUPERVISOR TO ATTACH PROCESSING LABEL HERE

STUDENT NUMBER Letter

RELIGION AND SOCIETY
Written examination

Monday 16 November 2015

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	5	5	20
B	2	2	40
C	3	1	20
			Total 80

- 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 correction fluid/tape.
- No calculator is allowed in this examination.

Materials supplied

- Question and answer book of 20 pages.
- 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

Instructions for Section A
Answer **all** questions in the spaces provided.

Question 1 (3 marks)

State **three** possible ways in which significant life experiences relate to religious belief.

Question 2 (3 marks)

Describe briefly the connections between religious beliefs and rituals.

Question 3 (4 marks)

Explain briefly **two** ways in which religions use sacred texts and other religious writings to maintain continuity of religious beliefs.

Question 4 (5 marks)

Identify an aspect of religion, other than beliefs, and explain why this aspect may be challenged.

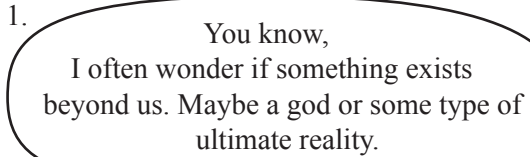
Question 5 (5 marks)

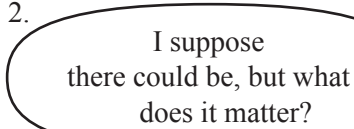
Why do religious traditions involve themselves in contemporary society?

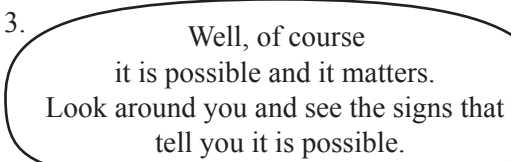
SECTION B**Instructions for Section B**

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

Question 1 (20 marks)

1.  You know,
I often wonder if something exists
beyond us. Maybe a god or some type of
ultimate reality.

2.  I suppose
there could be, but what
does it matter?

3.  Well, of course
it is possible and it matters.
Look around you and see the signs that
tell you it is possible.

- a. Examine the comments in the speech bubbles above and describe the points being made about ultimate reality.

4 marks

- c. Explain how the beliefs about ultimate reality in the religious tradition that you referred to in **part b.** find expression in **two** other aspects of that tradition.

8 marks

Question 2 (20 marks)

Religious traditions are subject to various forces and challenges, both from within and outside the tradition.

- a. Outline **two** types of historical challenges that have faced religious traditions generally. 4 marks

- b. Outline **three** examples of historical challenges faced by a religious tradition that you have studied. 6 marks

SECTION C – Essay**Instructions for Section C**

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

Question 1 (20 marks)

‘Religious beliefs are used like crutches¹.’

Discuss the extent to which this statement applies to the religious beliefs of a person or group in a religious tradition that you have studied.

OR

Question 2 (20 marks)

‘Contemporary society presents many challenges to religious traditions. How the traditions respond demonstrates the important role that religions play in society.’

Discuss the extent to which this statement applies to a contemporary challenge faced by a religious tradition that you have studied.

OR

Question 3 (20 marks)

‘Within religious traditions, a tension exists between a desire to keep things the same and a desire to adapt to particular circumstances and attitudes.’

Analyse how a religious tradition that you have studied has responded to this tension.

¹**crutches** – supports for walking when legs are injured

