

**Victorian Certificate of Education
2014**

SUPERVISOR TO ATTACH PROCESSING LABEL HERE

STUDENT NUMBER Letter

RELIGION AND SOCIETY
Written examination

Monday 17 November 2014

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	4	4	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 white out liquid/tape.
- No calculator is allowed in this examination.

Materials supplied

- Question and answer book of 19 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 (6 marks)

Explain what 'religious belief' is and why people hold religious beliefs.

Question 2 (4 marks)

Why do religious traditions need to maintain continuity of religious beliefs?

Question 3 (4 marks)

List **four** general sources of historical challenges to religious traditions.

Question 4 (6 marks)

Explain **two** different ways in which religious traditions respond to challenges in modern society.

SECTION B

Instructions for Section B

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

Question 1 (20 marks)

- a.** Describe internal or external factors that have prompted a religious tradition that you have studied to maintain continuity of its beliefs.

8 marks

Question 2 (20 marks)

- a.** Give **three** examples of contemporary challenges faced by religious traditions in general. 3 marks

In **parts b., c. and d.** below, refer to one religious tradition that you have studied and a specific contemporary challenge.

Religious tradition _____

Contemporary challenge _____

- b.** Explain how the religious tradition’s vision for society is in conflict with wider society in regard to the contemporary challenge. 4 marks

- c. Outline the main way(s) in which the religious tradition has responded to the contemporary challenge.

8 marks

- d.** Discuss whether the response of the religious tradition has made a difference to the contemporary challenge.

5 marks

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

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

Question 1 (20 marks)

With reference to a religious tradition that you have studied, discuss the relevance of beliefs about ultimate reality in dealing with the big questions of life.

OR

Question 2 (20 marks)

‘Religious beliefs give people the strength to deal with significant life experiences. At the same time, their belief in and understanding of the religious beliefs of the tradition are strengthened by the experience.’

Discuss this statement as it applies to an individual or group from a religious tradition that you have studied.

OR

Question 3 (20 marks)

‘Throughout the course of history, when religious traditions have been confronted by the pressure to change, their usual tendency has been to do nothing.’

Respond to this claim from the perspective of a religious tradition that you have studied, with reference to a significant historical challenge that has confronted various aspects of the tradition.

