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# basic education

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

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

**RELIGION STUDIES P2**

**MAY/JUNE 2025**

**MARKS: 150**

**TIME: 2 hours**

**This question paper consists of 6 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 following extract and answer the questions that follow.

**GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE**

The government has failed the women and children of South Africa, who continue to face horrendous crimes, as leaders pay lip service to the scourge of gender-based violence (GBV) and femicide. There is no country in which women and children are as unsafe as in South Africa.

If you are a woman you are not safe. Your life and your body can be taken by men who do not recognise your value as a human being, who do not think your pain matters, who treat you as some contemptible, disposable thing. Perhaps you answered them back and they took offence. Perhaps you insisted on spending the money you have saved, on your children, instead of handing it over to the patriarch of the household. Perhaps you went out with your friends. Perhaps you spoke to another male. Perhaps you burnt his food. Perhaps you were wearing nice clothes. Perhaps you tried to stop a drunk partner from trying to force himself on you.

For these offences, you can be stabbed in the face, axed to death, be locked up in your house, burnt, raped, your children murdered.

[Source: *Sunday Times*, 7 August 2022]

- 1.1.1 Name any TWO forms of gender-based violence. (4)
- 1.1.2 Explain any THREE possible causes of gender-based violence. (12)
- 1.1.3 Name and discuss any THREE effects of gender-based violence. (12)
- 1.2 Discuss practical strategies that religious communities can use to overcome the problem of gender-based violence. (10)
- 1.3 With reference to any ONE religion you have studied, discuss its teachings regarding gender-based violence. (12)
- [50]**



**QUESTION 2**

Read the extract below and answer the questions that follow.

In the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, biologist Charles Darwin published his theory of evolution in *The Origin of Species*. This was the first non-religious explanation of how the world was created and where humans come from. Since Darwin, there has been much debate about what his theory means for religious beliefs.

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

- 2.1 Give an explanation of Charles Darwin's theory of evolution. (10)
- 2.2 Discuss the response of Hinduism to Charles Darwin's theory of evolution. (14)
- 2.3 What are the main reasons that Abrahamic religions reject the Big Bang theory? (10)
- 2.4 What would happen if religion simply ignored scientific discoveries? Discuss FOUR advantages and FOUR disadvantages. (16)
- [50]**



**QUESTION 3**

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

The idea of an international coalition of religious leaders working together for peace has a long history. Through the educational structures they already have in place, religions are uniquely positioned to promote a culture of peace among their followers, and in society as a whole.

[Source: *FOCUS on Religion Studies, Grade 12*]

3.1.1 The Interfaith Action for Peace in Africa (IFAPA) commits itself to working for unity, peace, democracy, and a decent life for all. State any SIX achievements of this organisation. (12)

3.1.2 The vision of the African Council of Religious Leaders – Religions for Peace (ACRL-RfP) is to bring together religious leaders and their communities in a commitment to peace. List its guiding principles. (10)

3.2 Read the extract below and answer the questions that follow.

No religion is a solid monolithic unity. They all have many internal differentiations and have had such differences since their inception.

[Source: *Religion Studies, Grade 12, Steyn et al.*]

3.2.1 Name TWO branches that exist within ONE religion you have studied. (4)

3.2.2 Discuss the internal differences of branches you named in QUESTION 3.2.1 above, under the following headings:

(a) Beliefs (12)

(b) Practices (12)

**[50]**



**QUESTION 4**

Read the statement below and answer the questions that follow.

Teachings are related to beliefs in the sense that a follower will have faith in a particular religion because they have learnt a set of teachings that they feel is true.

[Source: *Focus on Religion Studies, Grade 12*]

- 4.1 With reference to any ONE religion, discuss its central teachings under the following headings:
- 4.1.1 The origin and role of evil (10)
- 4.1.2 The nature of humanity, with reference to the community and the individual (10)
- 4.2 Name and discuss any TWO hermeneutical principles for the interpretation of sacred texts. (8)
- 4.3 Discuss the origin and development of sacred texts of any ONE religion you have studied. (12)
- 4.4 What is the role of *inspiration* in religion? (10)
- [50]**

**QUESTION 5**

Read the statement 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*]

- 5.1 Discuss the origin of secularism. (12)
- 5.2 Name and discuss the teachings of any TWO secular worldviews. (24)
- 5.3 Do you think secularism has a negative impact on the moral values of society? Give reasons for your answer. (14)
- [50]**

**TOTAL: 150**

