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**RELIGION STUDIES P2
MEMORANDUM**

MARKS: 150

This memorandum consists of 10 pages.

QUESTION 1**1.1 The impact of apartheid on religious tolerance in South Africa**

- During the apartheid era the government promoted Christian National Education.
- In public schools, only Bible education and religious education which was Christian-based was allowed in the school curriculum.
- All other religions were misrepresented and were not given any funding.
- For example, Islam was known as Mohammedanism; ATR was called animism and Hindus were referred to as pagans.
- Customary marriages were not recognised unless it was a Christian marriage.
- Certain demonstrations of Christianity were promoted by the state in terms of land allocation, appointments of chaplains, youth counsellors etc.
- Apartheid prohibited inter-religions dialogue.
- The only missionary work allowed, was Christian missionary work. (14)

1.2 How this changed in the democratic South Africa

- The constitution of South Africa has a Bill of Rights.
- Everyone has the right to freedom of conscience, religion, thought, believe and opinion.
- Religious observances can be conducted at state or state-aided institutions provided that they are observed in accordance with the rules of public authority and conducted on equitable basis and attendance is free and voluntary.
- Persons belonging to a culture, religion or linguistic community may not be denied the right to associate with other members of the community.
- However, the rights of communities come with responsibilities.
- The school curriculum does not promote any particular religion, but the academic study of all religions is encouraged.
- State funding is allocated on an equitable basis.
- Customary marriages are now recognised.
- Government funds chaplains and youth counsellors are appointed from all religions.
- Nobody can be excluded from any government institution on the basis of religion, creed or race. (16)

1.3 Christianity as example

- Christianity was never a monolithic faith.
- From the start there were many differences between groups of Christians.
- The Eastern tradition has its centre in Constantinople and the Western tradition in Europe.
- The groups split because of arguments over supreme authority.
- And that the Catholics Church teachers that the Holy Spirit comes from God the Father and the Son.
- While the Eastern Church teachers that the Holy Spirit comes from the Father and not the Son.
- The church governed in different ways.
- A church governed by an Episcopalian structure has a hierarchy of bishops and priests, e.g. Roman Catholic Church, Eastern Orthodox and Anglican Church.
- A Presbyterian structure on the other hand involves rule by an elected group of elders in the church.
- With overall rule by higher authorities such as Synod or General Assembly of Churches, e.g. Reformed Churches, the United Presbyterian Churches of South Africa and the Church of Scotland.
- A Congregationalist structure has elders.
- But each individual church is independent and not responsible to any authority higher than the congregation, e.g. Baptist Churches.
- Catholics attend church services called 'Mass'.
- As part of the Catholic ritual they may light candles in remembrance of the dead and confess their sins to a priest.
- Orthodox Christian practices are similar to Catholics practices.
- A popular way o express piety is by kissing images of saints, called icons.
- Going to church on Sunday is very important to Protestants.
- Many forms of Protestantism also believe that charitable work is an outward sign of inner grace.
- One cannot buy one's way to heaven, by helping others show that one has already been blessed.

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QUESTION 2

2.1 The historical relationship between different religions

- Every religion has perceptions about other religions.
- However inter-religious relationships refer to organisations that foster co-operation among religions of the world.
- One such body is the WCRP (World Conference on Religion and Peace).
- Another is the World Council of Churches (WCC).
- In addition, in South Africa, there is the National Religious Leader Forum.
- As well as the South Africa Council of Churches.
- In 1893, the World Parliament of religions was held in Chicago.
- Both Western and Eastern religions were represented.
- Swami Vivekanada's speeches introduced Hindu thoughts to the Western world, so that in the future not easily be misunderstood.
- There were no representatives of ATR or native Americans religions. (10)

2.2 The negative impact of Darwin's theory creation

- Darwin's theory consists mainly of four ideas:
 1. Species contain a great variety of minor differences.
 2. Both the world and species change over time.
 3. In the fight for survival better adapted variations will be favoured while those that are not will struggle to survive.
 4. In this way a species may gradually change its form and become more complex – by developing along a path of successful variation.
- According to the creationists there can be no doubt that God created the universe as part of his divine plan for humanity.
- Genesis describes how God created the world in seven days.
- God created Adam and Eve, thus there seems to be no place for the theory of evolution in creation.
- Darwin's work was regarded as controversial by church.
- Darwin's idea was criticised as follows:
 1. There was no evidence in human history for the development of new species.
 2. There was no evidence of one species having developed from another.
 3. The attempt to create new species by cross-breeding tends to be unsuccessful because the hybrids cannot breed.
- One of the reasons that Darwin's idea had such an impact on the church is that they appear to provide an alternative explanation which did not need the idea of an intelligent designer.
- Most orthodox and conservative believers insist that these creation myths should be read as literal truths because if they are false, then it calls into other beliefs and teachings. (20)

2.3 Response of Hinduism as one of the religions

- The Hindu religion has been unduly shaken by the theory of evolution.
- While it does not agree with the entire concept, in principle the theory support among Hindu scholars.
- Many Hindus have a problem with evolution that is based merely on physical and natural selection.
- While they may accept the theory of evolution, they argue that it also has to add spiritual element to the theory based on the form of consciousness.
- The law of Karma states that one gain a body in accordance with her/his previous actions.
- The present body must be in keeping with the level of consciousness of the present being.
- The theory of intelligent design does not reject evolution,
- But they claim that it cannot be the only explanation for how everything in the universe was created.
- According to Hinduism there must an intelligent design behind evolution.
- Because it believes that everything that exists is part of Brahman, which is the highest form of consciousness.

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QUESTION 3

3.1 Religion Concepts

3.1.1 Contemporary inspiration

- Inspiration is extremely important normative source in many religions.
- The term contemporary inspiration refers to inspiration that still take place today.
- In most religions there are figures with followers who believe were inspired by higher power or wisdom.
- The founding figures in religious history generally claim to be inspired.
- We do not know the names of all the inspired figures, such as early African Traditional Religion or Hinduism.
- However many famous figures who were inspired were Abraham, Moses, Confucius, Vedvyas, the Buddha, Jesus, Muhammad and Baha'u'llah.
- These figures are believed to have stood face to face with God.
- In African Traditional Religion people communicate with their ancestors and receive messages.
- In the Abrahamic faiths they believed that prophets received divine inspiration which was written down as their holy scriptures.

- In the Eastern religions divine inspiration occurred to number of people who became divine teachers.
- Baha'u'llah was the founder of the Bahia faith who lived in the 19th century.
- In terms of religious history it is quite recent and he received divine inspiration.

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3.1.2 Sacred books

- Writing entered the religious scene roughly four thousand years ago.
- As technology of writing became more prevalent, it increasingly entered into the texture of tradition itself.
- Tradition became more fixed.
- Oral traditions which can run parallel to writing traditions are very fluid.
- In Hinduism revealed (heard) writings (shruti) are distinguished from secondary, (remembered) derived from humanly composed writings. The sacred book is the Vedas.
- In Judaism the primary scripture are collectively known as the Tenach. Of these the first group enjoys canonical status.
- Of all religions Islam takes more seriously the idea of divine revelation as perfectly written down.
- The Qur'an itself is generally seen as a perfect copy/original of the eternal inscribed tablet in heaven.
- Often sacred books do not exist just as an individual writing, but as parts of larger collections.
- An important distinction must be between primary sources and commentaries.
- Commentaries are secondary writings.
- It is explanations and applications of the normative primary sources.
- Most religions with sacred books also have many commentaries on primary scriptures.

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3.1.3 The hermeneutical principles

- The world hermeneutics means to interpret.
- Taken in its traditional context, hermeneutical has meant the attempt by men and woman of either secular or religious views or bias to interpret scriptures primarily in the light of their own beliefs and secondly in its historical context.
- The principles of hermeneutical interpretation are:
 1. Grammar and historical context.
 2. Clearest meaning.
 3. Plan, purpose and context.
 4. Meaning of words.
 5. Figurative language.
 6. The consideration of other sacred texts.
- The Christian Bible consists of the Old and New Testaments.
- These scriptures were declared authoritative by the previous faith communities.
- Never in the history of the Bible has been only one way of interpreting Biblical texts.
- According to Islam, the Qur'an is a sacred scripture which contains divine revelations from God to his messengers.
- Muslim scholars refer to interpret, commentary, hermeneutics as "tafsir".
- The 'tafsir' is complex term and refers to the comprehensive understanding and knowledge of the Qur'an.
- It also refers to the process of finding its meaning and to the process of stating and applying its rules, wisdom and maxims.

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QUESTION 4

Central teachings of Christianity as example

4.1 Nature of divinity

- Christians believe in the existence of a Supreme and divine Being known as God.
- God manifests Himself as three persons
 - God the Father as Creator of the universe.
 - God the Son as Saviour and Liberator of humanity.
 - And God the Holy Spirit as counsellor of Christians.

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4.2 Place and responsibility of humanity in the world

- Christians believe that humans were created in the image of God.
- After creating Adam and Eve, God instructed them to look after the garden of Eden and the whole of creation.
- As co-creators with God humans are God's representatives on earth.
- God has appointed them to look after his property, the world.
- They are accountable to God.

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4.3 Life after death

- Christians believe that human beings were immortal.
- However Adam and Eve disobeyed God's commands.
- The penalty for his sin was death for human race
- Even after death this condemnation, God still tried to liberate humanity from evil and death.
- After death Christians envisage a new community that will be marked by love, sharing and caring.

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4.4 The origin of the evil

- According to Christianity God did not create evil when he created the world.
- He created a perfect world and perfect human beings.
- Evil was introduced later when Adam and Eve disobeyed God's commands.
- Christians call this kind of disobedience 'sin'.
- Christians believe that evil is often used by Satan who was once God's angel, but rebelled against God.

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4.5 Nature of the world

- According to Christianity in the beginning there was nothing but chaos.
- The book of Genesis says God created the world and the universe in six days and rested on the seventh day.
- The world was perfect after the Holy Trinity had finished with the creation.
- Human, marine, animal and plant life all belong to God.
- According to Christians understanding the world is subject to the governance of humanity.

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QUESTION 5

5.1 Practical steps as religious leader:

- Every religion emphasises acts of charity towards one's fellow man.
- The act of charity is seen as a blessing to both the giver and the receiver.
- Religion is often propagated among the poor, as they are receptive to both physical assistance and spiritual guidance.
- The effects of poverty (such as illiteracy, family breakdown, disease, etc) are not confined only to the poor, but impact negatively on all society.
- In Christianity, "Blessed is the hand that giveth that the hand receives" – Bible.
- The Quran states, "By no means shall you attain righteousness unless you give freely from that which you love. And whatever you give, Allah knows it well."

- The Rig Veda says, “the leader sacrifices his life for the well- being of his people.”
- Religion should address rampant greed and materialism, by appealing to higher calling – that of pleasing Higher Being.
- Religions are well organised, and their structures can mobilise mass support very rapidly.
- This can be by raising money, or volunteering time for community service.
- People belong to the same faith are seen as an “extended family” and are more willing to help people who in fact are total strangers.
- Very often the help rendered by religious organisations provides a long-term solution, e.g. skills development, the establishment of schools and clinics.
- Religious organisations work the entire community, making their work more effective than e.g. government initiatives.

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5.2 Examples: Habitat of humanity

- This is a non-profit, ecumenical Christian organisation.
- It is dedicated to providing basic accommodation and fighting homelessness worldwide.
- Habitat is founded on the human rights value that every human being has the right to live in dignity, regardless of race or religion.
- Habitat welcomes all who desire to help eliminate poverty.
- Love for Jesus Christ must be translated to tangible action in showing love for all humanity.
- Volunteers, other partners organisations and the poor all work together to build the homes.
- More than 200 000 homes have been built worldwide by Habitat for Humanity.

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Example: Religions for Peace.

- This is the largest international interreligious partnership.
- It is active on every continent.
- Some of their recent successes include the reconstruction of Bosnia and vulnerable children from the effects of poverty
- Poor families affected by AIFS are also supported by networking initiatives with other religious organisations such as CARE, network of African People Living with AIDS etc.
- Children’s schooling, food and medication provisioning, frail care etc. are some of the services provided.
- This joint approach eliminates overlapping of services, and increases, and increases the reach of various organisations.

5.3 **The learner may discuss HIV/AIDS, crime, violence against women and children, etc.**

Example: HIV and AIDS

- This is one of the biggest social challenges facing sub-Saharan Africa.
- This is because it has a negative impact on the individual's health and life expectancy.
- Family unit: resulting in absent parents.
- The economy, because of loss of productive young adult.
- And the health system, because HIV treatment is very expensive, and long-term, but is not a cure.
- In Uganda, the AIDS pandemic was reversed by joint interaction between faith-based organisations (FBOs) and the government.
- The FBOs focused on moral regeneration and prevention.
- The government focused on funding of publicity, prevention and treatment.
- Religious teachings in every faith emphasise the sanctity of the family unit, and warn of severe consequences of adultery.
- E.g. The Bible states, "Thou shalt not commit adultery" – Exodus.
- E.g. The Quran warns, "do not even go near to adultery, as it opens the way to other evils" – Sura Bani Isreal.
- In South Africa, the NRFI informs government's approach for religious groupings.

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5.3

Die leerder kan MIV/Vigs, misdaad, geweld teen vroue en kinders, ens. bespreek.

Voorbeeld: MIV/Vigs

- Dit is een van die grootste sosiale uitdagings wat Suid-Afrika in die gesig staar.
- Dit is omdat dit 'n negatiewe invloed op die individu se gesondheid en lewensveragting het.
- Gesinsseenheid: lei tot afwesige ouers
- Die ekonomie: verlies aan produktiewe jong volwassenes.
- Gesondheidsstelsel: MIV-behandeling is baie duur en langtermyn, maar dit is nie 'n geneesmiddel nie.
- In Uganda is die Vigs-pandemie omgekeer deur gesamenlike interaksie van geloofsgebaseerde organisasies ('FBO') en die regering.
- Die FBO's fokus op sedelike/morele hernuwing en voorkoming.
- Die regering fokus op befondsing van publisiteit, voorkoming en behandeling.
- Godsdienstige leringe in elke geloof beklemtoon die heiligheid en gesinseenheid en waarsku teen die ernstige gevolge van owerspel.
- Bv. die Bybel se: "Jy mag nie egbreuk nie:" – Eksodus
- Bv. die Koran waarsku: "Moet nie eers naby owerspel gaan nie, aangesien dit die weg tot ander booshede oopmaak." – Sura Bani Israel
- In Suid-Afrika hou die NGLF ('NRLF') regeringsbeleid oor MIV/Vigs ingelig en daardur word die regering se benadering vir godsdienstige groeperings onderskryf.

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- Die Rig Veda sê: "Die leier offer sy lewe vir die welstand van sy mense op."
- Godsdien moet buitensporige hebsug en materialisme hanteer deur 'n beroep te doen op hoër waardes – naamlik om 'n Hoër Weser te behaag.
- Godsdienste is goed georganiseer en hulle strukture kan massa ondersteuning baie vinnige mobiliseer.
- Dit kan deur fondsinasameling wees of om 'n vrywilliger vir gemeenskapsdiens te wees.
- Mense van dieselfde geloof word as 'n uitgeborede familie beskou en is meer bereid om mense te help wat in werklikheid totale vreemdelinge is.
- Baie dikwels verskat die hulp wat deur godsdienstige organisasies verleen word, 'n langtermyn oplossing, bv. vaardighedsontwikkeling, die vesting van skole en klinieke, ens.
- Godsdienstige organisasies werk saam met die hele gemeenskap, wat hul werk meer effektief maak as bv. regeringsinisiatiewe.

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5.2 Voorbeeld: Habitat vir Menslikheid

- Dit is 'n nie-winsgewende, ekumeniese Christen organisasie.
- Hulle is toegeewy aan die verskaffing van basiese akkommodasie en behuising wêreldwyd.
- Habitat is gebaseer op die mensereg-waarde dat elke mens die reg het om waardig te lewe, ongeag ras of godsdien.
- Habitat verwelkom almal wat wil help om armoede uit te wis.
- Liefde vir Jesus Christus moet in 'n tasbare aksie/handeling omgesit word om liefde vir die mensdom te toon.
- Vrywilligers, ander vennoot organisasies en armes werk saam om huise te bou.
- Meer as 200 000 huise is wêreldwyd deur Habitat vir Menslikheid gebou.

Voorbeeld: Godsdien vir Vrede

- Dit is die grootste internasionale inter-godsdienstige vennootskap.
- Hulle is op elke kontinent bedrywig.
- Van hulle onlangse suksesverhale sluit die rekonstruksie van Bosnië en Kosovo in.
- Die hoofdoel van Godsdien vir Vrede is om weeskinders en kwesbare kinders teen die gevolge van armoede te beskerm.
- Arm gesinne wat deur Vigs geaffekteer is, word ook ondersteun deur 'n netwerk met inisiatiewe van ander godsdienstige organisasies soos CARE, Network of African People Living with AIDS, ensovoorts.
- Kinders se skoolonderrig, kosvoorsiening en voorsiening van medisyne, verswakte sorg ens. is van die dienste wat gelewer word.
- Hierdie gesamentlike benadering elimineer die oorvleueling van dienste en verbreed die reikwydte van die verskillende organisasies.

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4.3 **Lewe na die dood**

- Christene glo dat mense geskep is om onsterflik te wees.
- Adam en Eva het egter God se opdragte verontagsaam.
- Die straf vir hierdie sonde was die dood van die mensdom.
- Selfs na hierdie straf, het God steeds probeer om die mensdom van die bose en die dood te bevry.
- Christene verwag 'n nuwe gemeenskap na die dood wat gekenmerk sal word deur liefde, mededeelzaamheid en omgee.

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4.4 **Oorsprong van die bose**

- Volgens die Christelike godsdiens het God nie die bose geskep toe hy die wêreld geskep het nie.
- Hy het 'n perfekte wêreld en perfekte mense geskep.
- Die bose is later bekend gestel toe Adam en Eva God se opdragte verontagsaam het.
- Christene noem hierdie tipe ongehoorsaamheid, 'sonde'.
- Christene glo dat die bose deur Satan, wat eens God se engel was, maar teen God gerebelleer het, gebruik word.

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4.5 **Aard van die wêreld**

- Volgens die Christelike godsdiens was daar niks in die begin behalwe chaos nie.
- Die boek Genesis vertel dat God die wêreld en die heeal in ses dae geskep het, en op die sewende dag gerus het.
- Die wêreld was perfek nadat die Heilige Drie-Eenheid klaar was met die skepping.
- Mense, seelewe, diere en plante behoort alles aan God.
- Volgens Christelike oortuigings is die wêreld onderhewig aan die bestuur van die mensdom.

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VRAAG 5**Uitreksel**5.1 **Praktiese stappe as godsdienslike leier**

- Elke godsdiens beklemtoon liefdesdiens teenoor jou medemens.
- Liefdesdiens is 'n seën vir beide die gewer en die ontvanger.
- Godsdiens word dikwels onder die armes gepropageer aangesien hulle ontvanklik is vir beide fisiese- en geestelike lyding.
- Die uitwerking van armoede (soos ongelukkigheid, die opbrek van gesinne, siekte, ens.) is net tot armes beperk nie, maar het ook 'n negatiewe invloed op die hele samelewing.
- In die Christelike godsdiens word daar gesê: "Geseën is die wat gee eerder as ontvang." – Bybel.
- Die Koran sê: "Jy sal nie regverdigheid bekom as jy nie vrylik van dit waarvoor jy lief is, gee nie. Allah weet baie goed wat dit is wat jy gee."

3.1.3 Die hermeneutiese beginsels

- Die woord hermeneutiek beteken om te interpreteer.
- Geneem uit die tradisionele konteks, was hermeneutika die poging deur mans en vrouens vanuit sekulêre of godsdienslike oogpunte of perspektief of veroordeel om die geskryfte hooftsaaklik in die lig van hulle eie oortuigings te interpreteer, en tweedens in die historiese konteks.
- Die beginsels van hermeneutiese interpretasie is:
 1. Grammatikale- en historiese konteks.
 2. Duidlikste betekenisse.
 3. Plan, doel en konteks.
 4. Betekenis en woorde.
 5. Figuurlike taal.
 6. Die oorweging van ander heilige geskryfte
- Die Christen Bybel bestaan uit die Ou- en Nuwe Testamente.
- Hierdie geskryfte is as gesaghebbend verklaar deur vorige geloofsgemeenskappe.
- Nooit in die geskiedenis van die Bybel was daar net een manier om Bybeltekste te interpreteer nie.
- Volgens Islam is die Koran 'n heilige geskryf wat goddelike openbaring van God aan sy boodskappers bevat.
- Moslemgeleerdes verwys na interpretasie, kommentaar en hermeneutika as "tafsir".
- Die "tafsir" is 'n komplekse term en verwys na die omvattende begrip en kennis van die Koran.
- Dit verwys ook na die proses om die betekenis te vind en die proses om die reëls, wysheid en grondstellings te stel.

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VRAAG 4

Sentrale leringe van Christenskap as voorbeeld

4.1 Aard van goddelikheid

- Christene glo in die bestaan van 'n Hoër en Goddelike wese as God.
- God onthul Homself as drie persone.
 - God die Vader as skepper van die heelal.
 - God die Seun as redder van die mensdom.
 - God die Heilige Gees as berader van Christene.

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4.2 Plek en verantwoordelikheid van die mensdom in die wêreld

- Christene glo dat mense na die beeld van God geskape is.
- Nadat Adam en Eva geskep is, het God hulle opdrag gegee om na die tuin van Eden en die hele skepping om te sien.
- As medeskippers saam met God, is mense God se verteenwoordigers op aarde.
- God het hulle aangestel om na sy eiendom, die wêreld, om te sien.
- Hulle moet verantwoording doen aan God.

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3.1.2 Heilige boeke

- In die Oosterse godsdienste het 'n aantal mense wat heilige leermeesters geword het, goddelike inspirasie ontvang. Baha'u'llah was die stigter van die Bahai-godsdiens wat in die 19de eeu geleef het.
 - In terme van godsdienstige geskiedenis was dit redelik onlangs, tog het hy goddelike inspirasie ontvang.
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- Skryfkuns het ongeveer vier duisend jaar gelede op die godsdiens toneel verskyn.
 - Soos wat skryftegnologie meer algemeen geword het, het dit meer en meer in die tekstuur van tradisie ingedring.
 - Tradisies het meer standvastig geword.
 - Mondelinge tradisies wat parallel met geskrewe tradisies kan loop, is baie vloeibaar.
 - In Hindoeïsme word onderskei tussen ontsuierde (gehoorde) en geskryfte (shruti) en sekondêre (onthoude) geskryfte wat deur mense opgestel is. Die heilige boek is die Vedas.
 - In Judaïsme staan die primêre geskryfte saam bekend as die Tenach. Van hierdie geniet die eerste groep kanon status. Van al die godsdienste neem Islam die idee van goddelike openbaring as perfeit neergeskrewe geskryfte die ernstigste op. Die Koran word algemeen beskou as 'n perfekte kopie/afskrif van die oorspronklike ewige tablet met inskripsies in die hemel. Heilige boeke bestaan dikwels nie net as 'n individuele werk nie, maar as deel van groter versamelings.
 - 'n Belangrike onderskeid moet tussen primêre bronne en kommentaar gemaak word.
 - Kommentaar is sekondêre geskryfte.
 - Dit is verduidelikings en toepassings van die normatiewe primêre bronne.
 - Die meeste godsdienste met heilige boeke het ook baie kommentaar op primêre geskryfte.
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2.3 Reaksie van Hindoeïsme as een van die godsdienste

- Die Hindoe godsdienste is nie hewig geraak deur die evolusieteorie nie. Terwyl dit nie met die hele konsep saamstem nie, ondersteun Hindoe-geloesdes nie die teorie in beginsel nie.
- Baie Hindoes het 'n probleem met evolusie wat net op fisiese- en natuurlike seleksie gebaseer is.
- Terwyl hulle die evolusieteorie kan aanvaar, argumenteer hulle dat dit ook 'n geestelike element moet insluit by die teorie in die vorm van bewustheid.
- Die beginsel van Karma stipuleer dat iemand 'n liggaam ontvang volgens sy/haar vorige aksies.
- Die huidige liggaam moet in ooreenkomstige wees met die vlak van bewustheid van die huidige wese.
- Die teorie van intelligensie verwerp nie evolusie nie.
- Maar hulle beweer dat dit nie die enigste verduideliking kan wees vir hoe alles in heelal geskep is nie.
- Volgens Hindoeïsme moet daar 'n intelligente ontwerper agter evolusie wees.
- Omdat hulle glo dat alles bestaan as deel van Brahman, wat die hoogste vorm van bewustheid is.

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VRAAG 3

3.1 Godsdienstige konsepte

3.1.1 Kontemporêre inspirasie

- Inspirasie is 'n baie belangrike normatiewe bron in baie godsdienste.
- Die term kontemporêre inspirasie verwys na inspirasie wat vandag nog steeds plaasvind.
- In die meeste godsdienste is daar figure met volgelinge wat glo dat hulle deur 'n hoër krag of wysheid geïnspireer is.
- Die stigtingsfigure in godsdienstige geskiedenis beweer gewoonlik dat hulle geïnspireer is.
- Ons ken nie die name van al die geïnspireerde figure, soos vroeë Afrika Tradisionele Godsdienste of Hindoeïsme nie.
- Baie bekende figure wat egter geïnspireer is, sluit in Abraham, Moses, Confucius, Vedvyas, die Boeddha, Jesus, Mohammed en Baha'u'llah.
- Daar word geglo dat hierdie figure van aangesig tot aangesig met God gekom het.
- In die Afrika Tradisionele Godsdienste kommunikeer mense met hul voorvaders en ontvang hulle boodskappe.
- In die Abrahamitiese gelowe glo hulle dat hul profete goddelike inspirasie ontvang het wat as hul heilige geskrifte neergeskryf is.

VRAAG 2

2.1 Die historiese verhouding tussen verskillende godsdienste

- Elke godsdienste het perspektiewe oor ander godsdienste.
- Hoe dit ook al sy, inter-godsdienstige verhoudings verwoes na organisasies wat samewerking tussen godsdienste van die wêreld bevorder.
- Een so 'n liggaam is die WKGV (Wêreld Konferensie vir Godsdienste en Vrede).
- 'n Ander is die Wêreld Raad van Kerke (WRK).
- Boonop, in Suid-Afrika, is daar die Nasionale Godsdienstige Leiers Forum.
- Sowel as die Suid-Afrikaanse Raad van Kerke.
- In 1983, was die Wêreld Parlement van godsdienste in Chicago gehou.
- Beide Westerse en Oosterse godsdienste was verteenwoordig.
- Swami Vivekananda's se toespraak het Hindoeïsme se beginsels aan die Westerse wêreld bekend gestel sodat daar in die toekoms nie meer maklik misverstande kan wees nie.
- Daar was geen verteenwoordigers van ATG of inheemse Amerikaanse godsdienste nie.

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2.2 Die negatiewe impak van Darwin se teorie op die skeppingsteorie

- Darwin se teorie bestaan hoofsaaklik uit vier idees:
 1. Spesies bevat 'n groot verskeidenheid klein verskille.
 2. Beide die wêreld en spesies verander met tyd.
 3. In die stryd om oorlewing sal die beter aangepaste variasies oorleef, terwyl die wat nie aangepas is nie, sal sukkel om te oorleef.
 4. Op hierdie manier kan 'n spesie geleidelik verander en meer kompleks raak – deur volgens 'n pad van suksesvolle variasie te ontwikkel.
- Volgens die kreationiste is daar geen twyfel dat God die heeal as deel van sy meesterplan vir die mensdom geskep het nie.
- Genesis beskryf hoe God die wêreld in sewe dae geskep het.
- God het Adam en Eva geskep; dus lyk dit asof daar nie plek vir die evolusie teorie in die skepping is nie.
- Darwin se werk is as kontroversieel gesien deur die kerk.
- Darwin se idees is as volg gekritiseer:
 1. Daar was geen bewyse in die menslike geskiedenis vir die ontwikkeling van nuwe spesies nie.
 2. Daar was geen bewyse dat een spesie uit 'n ander ontwikkel het nie.
 3. Die pogings om nuwe spesies te skep deur kruistelling is dikwels onsuksesvol omdat kruisings nie geteel kan word nie.
- Een van die redes waarom Darwin se teorie so 'n groot impak op die kerk gehad het, is dat dit lyk asof dit 'n alternatiewe verduideliking gee wat die idee van 'n intelligente ontwerper nodig het nie.
- Die mees ortodokse en konserwatiewe gelowiges dring daarop aan dat hierdie skeppingsmites as werklikhede gelees moet word. Want indien hulle onwaar is, kan dit ander oortuigings en leerstellings bevaagteken.

(20)

1.3 Christenskap as voorbeeld.

- Christenskap was nooit 'n monolitiese geloof nie.
- Van die begin af was daar baie verskille tussen groepe Christene.
- Die Oosterse tradisie het sy middelpunt in konstantinopel gehad en die Westerse tradisie syne in Europa.
- Die groepe het geskeur oor argumente oor oppergesag.
- En omdat die Katolieke Kerk leer die Heilige Gees kom van God die Vader en die Seun.
- Terwyl die Oosterse Kerk leer die Heilige Gees kom van God die Vader en nie die Seun nie.
- Die kerke word verskillend bestuur/gerig/gelei.
- 'n Kerk wat deur 'n episkopale struktuur bestuur word, het 'n hiërargie van biskoppe en priesters, bv. Rooms-Katolieke Kerk, Oosters-Ortodokse Kerk en die Anglikaanse Kerk.
- 'n Presbiteriaanse struktuur aan die ander kant behels bestuur deur 'n gekose groep ouderlinge in die kerk.
- Met oorhoofse beheer/bestuur deur hoër gesag soos 'n Sinode of Algemene Raad van Kerke, bv. Gereformeerde Kerk van Suid-Afrika en die Kerk van Skotland.
- 'n Kongressionale ('Congregational' kerk) struktuur het ouderlinge. Maar elke individuele kerk is onafhanklik en nie verantwoordelik aan enige gesag hoër as die gemeente nie, bv. Baptistiese Kerke.
- Katolieke woon kerkdienste by wat die 'Mis' genoem word.
- 'n Deel van die Katolieke ritueel is dat hulle kerse opsteek om die dooies te onthou en dat hulle hul sondes aan 'n priester bely.
- Ortodokse Christelike praktyke is soortgelyk aan Katolieke praktyke.
- 'n Gewilde manier om vroomheid/gelowigheid uit te druk, is om beelde van heiliges, wat ikone genoem word, te soen.
- Om elke Sondag kerk toe te gaan, is baie belangrik vir Protestante. Baie vorme van Protestantisme glo ook dat liefdadighedswerk 'n uitelike teken van innerlike genade is.
- Jy kan nie jou weg na die hemel koop nie, maar deur ander te help toon jy dat jy reeds geseën is.

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(20)

VRAAG 1

1.1 Die invloed van apartheid op godsdiensige verdraagsaamheid in Suid-Afrika.

- Gedurende die apartheidsera het die regering Christelike Nasionale onderrig bevorder.
- In openbare skole is slegs Bybelonderrig en godsdiensonderwys wat op die Christelike godsdiens gebaseer is, in die skoolkurrikulum toegelaat.
- Alle ander godsdiensige is onderverteenwoordig en nie enige befondsing gegee nie.
- Byvoorbeeld, Islam was bekend as Mohammedanisme; ATR is animisme genoem en die Hindoes is heidene genoem.
- 'Gewoontehuwelike' is nie erken nie (bv. Islam), tensy dit 'n Christelike huwelik was.
- Sekere Christen kerkverbande is bevorder deur die staat in terme van grondtoekenning en aanstelling van kapelane, jeugberaders, ens.
- Apartheid het inter-godsdiensige dialoog verbied.
- Die enigste sendingwerk wat toegelaat was, was Christelike sendingwerk.

(14)

1.2 Hoe dit verander het in die demokratiese Suid-Afrika

- Die grondwet van Suid-Afrika bevat 'n Handves van Menseregte.
- Elkeen het die reg tot vryheid van gewete, godsdiens, denke, geloof en opinie.
- Godsdiensbyeenkomste kan beoefen word by staat- of staatsbefondse instellings, mits dit beoefen word volgens die reëls van openbare gesag en op gelyke grondslag en toegang moet gratis en vrywillig wees.
- Persone wat tot 'n kulturele, godsdiensige of linguïstiese gemeenskap behoort, mag nie die reg tot assosiasie met ander lede van die gemeenskap ontse word nie.
- Die regte van gemeenskap kom egter met sekere verantwoordelikhede.
- Die skoolkurrikulum bevorder nie enige spesifieke godsdiens nie, maar die akademiese bestudering van alle godsdiensige word aangemoedig.
- Staatsbefondsing word op 'n gelyke grondslag toegeken.
- 'Gewoontehuwelike' word nou erken.
- Regeringsbefondsde kapelane en jeugberaders word uit alle godsdiensige aangestel.
- Niemand kan uitgesluit word uit enige regeringsinstellings op grond van godsdiens, belydenis of ras nie.

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Hierdie memorandum bestaan uit 10 bladsye.

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**MEMORANDUM
RELIGIESTUDIES V2**

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Province of the
EASTERN CAPE
EDUCATION

