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EASTERN CAPE
EDUCATION

**NATIONAL
SENIOR CERTIFICATE**

GRADE 11

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**RELIGION STUDIES P2
MEMORANDUM**

MARKS: 150

This memorandum consists of 8 pages.

QUESTION 1 LO1.4**1.1 1.1.1 Inter-religious dialogue**

- Inter-religious dialogue begins when people meet and begin communicating with one another.
- It is not limited to people of different religions.
- In dialogue the people of different faiths talk to each other about real life situations.
- When people of different faiths enter into a dialogue, relationships are established.
- They start sharing their common humanness.
- Dialogue is very important in situations of religious diversity.
- The more the people of different faiths are in contact, the more they start talking to each other.

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1.1.2 The dialogue of life

- It is the most common form of dialogue.
- It refers to the relationships that people of different faiths develop in different places.
- Examples are when people celebrate each other's birthdays, attend each other's weddings and visit each other during times of suffering.
- These events enable them to share on the values of their different benefits and traditions on their common humanness.
- In South Africa, the members of the Jewish organisation, B'nai B'rith, volunteer basic services on Christmas day.
- This enables regular nursing staff to spend time with their families.

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1.1.3 The dialogue in action

- In the dialogue of action, dialogue depends on mutual understanding and trust.
- It emerges as people of different faiths grow in confidence and learns to trust each other.
- An important element of this dialogue is the commitment to resist all forms of human injustice, to break down barriers of race, sex and class and to challenge unjust social structures.
- There are many examples of dialogue of action.
- There are inter-faith hospices that accept people regardless of their religious affiliation.
- People often reach out across religious barriers to assist those in need.
- There are many examples in South Africa where people of different faiths works together to care for people who are living with HIV and Aids.

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1.2 Christian point of view with regard to religious pluralism

- Positive acceptance of many different religions.
- Religious traditions do not readily accept other religions.
- Christianity did not readily accept religious pluralism.
- That was because most Christians see Christ as the only true God.
- Modern theologians questioned the exclusivist position e.g. Kant and Schleiermacher.
- They pioneered relativism – there is no single ultimate truth.
- Opposed to that, there was a theory by Ernst Treoltsch who taught that there was never-ending change and development taking place in religions.
- Karl Barth claimed that the grace of God came exclusively through Jesus Christ.
- Recent developments reject relativism and accept more inclusive approaches.
- God is in the centre of religions.

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QUESTION 2 LO2.2

2.1 Functionalist theories

- There are many functionalist theories.
- Functionalist sees elements of society, including religions, as system made up of parts that run smoothly.
- Elements do not only relate to one another but also operate smoothly.
- Functionalist theory is borrowed from biology.
- It is about equilibrium, peace and harmony.
- Religion itself is seen as a smooth operating system.
- If the equilibrium is disturbed, the system takes the necessary steps to restore it.
- Any part that contributes to the equilibrium is called functional.
- Any part that disturbs the equilibrium is called dysfunctional.
- Religion is viewed as part of the larger system of society as a whole.
- Religion, politics and economy are examples of “organs” of large social body.
- The function of religion is that it fits smoothly into the larger body so that there is equilibrium in the society.
- According to the functionalist view if one system changes, all other subsystem have to change.
- It states that there are two aspects of human life i.e. a spiritual world and material world.
- Religion creates and maintains social solidarity – Emile Durkheim (1858-1917).
- He views religion as a cement of society and it brings social equilibrium.
- By encouraging respect for the gods, religion is in fact encouraging respect for society.
- Hans Mol is also champion of the functionalist theory.
- He called religion the ‘sacralisation of identity’.
- For him religion exists for the sake of preserving identity.
- Religion can serve ethnic, national cultural and other kinds of identity.

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2.2 Criticism of the Functionalist view

- Functionalism, like most views, has its limitations.
- The Functionalist view draws our attention to the fact that religion does not exist in isolation of other aspects of life and society.
- It overemphasizes the supportive role of religion.
- It can be argued that religion is not subordinate to other aspects of life but it also has a certain autonomy or independence.
- At times there is conflict between religion and other subsystems of society.
- Unless religion is recognised as having an autonomous existence, the result is likely to be a cynical view of religion as simply socially useful or functional.
- It does not reflect accurately how people experience their different faiths in their religions.
- People in different religions usually do not experience their religion as serving other interests but as an aim itself.
- The critics also view functionalism as being idealistic.
- Its picture of human life as a smoothly operating system of subsystems is far from reality.

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QUESTION 33.1 Rituals during birth of children**AFRICAN TRADITIONAL RELIGION**

- African Religion has naming and birth rites.
- When the baby is born according to ATR everybody rejoices.
- The baby is welcomed in the family.
- The baby is given a name.
- The ritual is performed the goat mainly and even the sheep may be slaughtered, depending on the family.
- African beer is brewed.
- The baby is also welcomed by the departed ancestors.

[Any acceptable and relevant fact will be credited]

ISLAM

- The Adhan is the first word which a Muslim baby must hear.
- The call for prayer is whispered in the ear after birth.
- They cut the hair of the baby on the seventh day at a special ceremony.
- Traditionally the weight of the baby in gold is given to the poor.

HINDUISM

- In the Hindu tradition, when a child is born, prayers are sung to keep the evil spirits away.
- On the twelfth day there is a name-giving ceremony.
- It is followed by other ceremonies when the baby is brought for the first time in the sun.
- For the first time the baby eats solid food.

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3.2 **Discuss why South Africa can be seen as a secular state.**

- The word 'secular' comes from the Latin word 'saeculum', meaning 'age' or 'world'.
- A secular state is not hostile to religion.
- It is not committed to any particular religion, religious tradition, or religious beliefs and practices.
- The main feature is the separation of state and religion.
- In a country where there is more than one religious tradition, the state does not identify with or favour any religious organisation or community.
- Its main task is taking care of the wellbeing of all its citizens, no matter which culture or religion they belong to.
- Government has no authority to advise or dictate to people on the matter of religion.
- Government have to ensure that they follow the laws and regulations that apply to all people.
- The government has to ensure that people enjoy freedom of religion.
- And the freedom to publicly express their religious convictions.
- No government department or agency may discriminate against a person on the grounds of his or her religious beliefs.

- Religion and politics are not separate.
- Individuals and groups may participate in political actions.
- They are free to criticise or support government policies.
- Politicians and state officials have the right to belong to religions of their choice.
- As long as they do not favour people of their own religion in their official work.

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3.3 **Briefly discuss the Christian symbols of the 'fish' and the 'cross'.**

The 'Fish' symbol

- The symbol "fish" was used to identify Christians.
- The fish symbol is believed to come from the Greek word "ichthus" meaning fish.
- In Greek it is the word you get if you take the first letter of each word in the phrase 'Jesus Christ', son of God, saviour.
- This symbol was used as the secret sign during the years of Christian persecution.
- A person could draw a curved line (and if the person they were with added an overlapping), they would know they were both Christians.

The 'Cross' Symbol

- Around the third century CE the cross became the preferred symbol of Christianity.
- It is believed that it represents the victory of Jesus Christ over death.
- It reminds Christians that through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, salvation is made possible for all those who truly believe in him.
- In the Roman Catholic tradition, the cross often has a representation of the body of Jesus on it. This is called crucifix.
- In the Protestant tradition is most crosses left plain, which is said to emphasise the resurrection.

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QUESTION 44.1 Views on environment of any two religious**THE AFRICAN TRADITIONAL RELIGIOUS**

- They do not have a united policy about the environment.
- Plants and animals are the sources of medicines used by traditional healers and Sangomas at sometimes.
- The animals also play a very important role in the myths and rituals of ATR.
- ATR shares the view that nature is sacred.
- In most African Traditional Religious land is viewed as sacred especially if the ancestors are buried there.

THE HINDU FAITH

- The Hindu faith has always maintained strong links with its origins.
- Hinduism began as the religion of an agricultural society.
- It supports and respects nature as part of a great divine reality.
- Some schools of the Hindu faith regard this world as a divine illusion and one to be taken seriously.
- Trees and rivers have been greatly respected in the Hindu faith.
- Protection has been given to animals such as monkeys.
- Hindu temples indicate the importance of nature.

[Any relevant religious views will be credited] (20)

4.2 **Discuss the views of ANY THREE religions about leisure, rest and recreation.**

For the purpose of this memorandum only Judaism, Christianity and Islam are dealt with.

JUDAISM

- In Judaism, keeping the Sabbath (Sabbath) as a day of rest.
- It is an important religious activity.
- It starts on Friday at sunset until Sunday sunset.
- During this period no work is done.
- No one is allowed to participate in leisure activities which are work related.

CHRISTIANITY

- For most Christian groups the Sabbath is a day of rest.
- It lasts from Saturday midnight to Sunday midnight.
- The Seventh-day Adventists and 'Ibandla Lama Nazaretha' follow the older Jewish ideal of keeping the Sabbath on a Saturday.
- In many countries, including South Africa, law enforced Sunday observance.
- Cinemas, theatres and pubs were not allowed to be open on Sundays.
- This law was recently relaxed to be less strict.

ISLAM

- Islam does not prohibit Muslims to work on Fridays.
- Believers must pray one of their five prayers in a mosque, instead of doing it alone.
- Many South African Muslims devote Fridays to religious affairs.
- There are also feasts throughout the year.
- Followers of this religion must have the same amount of free days as the Jews and Christians.

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