



basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

SENIOR CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS/ NATIONAL SENIOR CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS

RELIGION STUDIES P1

MAY/JUNE 2025

MARKS: 150

TIME: 2 hours

This question paper consists of 11 pages.

INSTRUCTIONS AND INFORMATION

1. This question paper consists of SECTION A and SECTION B.
2. SECTION A: COMPULSORY
SECTION B: Answer any TWO questions in this section.
3. Read ALL the questions carefully.
4. Start EACH question on a NEW page.
5. The length of your answers must be in accordance with the marks allocated to each question.
6. Number the answers correctly according to the numbering system used in this question paper.
7. Write neatly and legibly. ...

SECTION A (COMPULSORY)**QUESTION 1**

- 1.1 Various options are provided as possible answers to the following questions. Choose the answer and write only the letter (A–D) next to the question numbers (1.1.1 to 1.1.10) in the ANSWER BOOK, e.g. 1.1.11 D.

- 1.1.1 The Bahá'i community's prayer gathering is ...
A the feast of Ramadan.
B the Nineteen Day Feast.
C a festival that lasts nine days.
D held in Jerusalem. (1)
- 1.1.2 Sharia is a/an ...
A ancient language of the Far East.
B deep and solemn pledge.
C prescriptive law of Judaism.
D Divine Law of Islam. (1)
- 1.1.3 This branch believes that male and female are equal:
A Reform Jews
B Conservative Jews
C Orthodox Jews
D Hasidic Jews (1)
- 1.1.4 There is no God that is at the centre of this religion's beliefs:
A Buddhism
B Yoruba
C Hinduism
D Aka (1)
- 1.1.5 This religion originated in the Middle East:
A Buddhism
B Bahá'i faith
C African Traditional Religion
D Taoism (1)
- 1.1.6 Living forever, eternal, everlasting:
A Samsara
B Evolution
C Reincarnation
D Immortal (1)

1.1.7 A separation of religion and state:

- A Communism
 - B Functionalism
 - C Secularism
 - D Humanism
- (1)

1.1.8 Humans need to live according to how the universe works:

- A Taoism and Confucianism
 - B Hinduism and Buddhism
 - C Christianity and Islam
 - D Judaism and Christianity
- (1)

1.1.9 Books which have absolute authority in a religion:

- A Parables
 - B Smriti
 - C Sanskrit
 - D Canon
- (1)

1.1.10 A South African clergyman who was awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace:

- A Chief Albert Luthuli
 - B Nelson Mandela
 - C Mahatma Gandhi
 - D Desmond Tutu
- (1)

1.2 Complete the following sentences by filling in the missing word(s). Write only the word(s) next to the question numbers (1.2.1 to 1.2.6) in the ANSWER BOOK.

- 1.2.1 The holy book of Taoism is called ... (1)
- 1.2.2 Belief in one God is known as ... (1)
- 1.2.3 Teachings used by religious adherents to bring across a moral or philosophical idea are ... (1)
- 1.2.4 The oneness of Allah is known as ... (1)
- 1.2.5 This religion rejects the idea that humans have souls that live on after death: ... (1)
- 1.2.6 When two different belief systems are combined to form a new one, it is called ... (1)

- 1.3 Choose a term from COLUMN B that matches the description in COLUMN A. Write only the letter (A–H) next to the question numbers (1.3.1 to 1.3.6) in the ANSWER BOOK. Do NOT use an answer more than once.

COLUMN A		COLUMN B	
1.3.1	The largest Buddhist temple and monastery in Africa	A	Pluralism
1.3.2	The Bahá'i gardens in memory of Bahá'ulláh	B	pundit
1.3.3	Different religions live together in one community	C	humanitarian
1.3.4	A person who does good works for other people	D	Iran
1.3.5	A literal interpretation of scriptures	E	Haifa
1.3.6	Hindu scholar who leads the worship in the temple	F	functionalists
		G	Bronkhorstspuit
		H	Fundamentalism

(6 x 1) (6)

- 1.4 Choose the word(s) in EACH list below that do(es) NOT match the rest. Write down the word next to the question numbers (1.4.1 to 1.4.5) in the ANSWER BOOK and give a reason why the answer does NOT fit.

EXAMPLE: Red, Yellow, Circle, Blue

ANSWER: Circle

REASON: The other three are colours.

- 1.4.1 Zakat, Hajj, Wudu, Rabbi (2)
- 1.4.2 Tanakh, Upanishads, Mishnah, Talmud (2)
- 1.4.3 Zion Christian Church, Nazareth Baptist Church, Methodist Church, International Pentecostal Christian Church (2)
- 1.4.4 Ilima, Sangoma, Baptism, Inyanga (2)
- 1.4.5 Jehovah, Moses, Brahma, Mvelinqangi (2)

- 1.5 Indicate whether the following statements are TRUE or FALSE. Write 'true' or 'false' next to the question numbers (1.5.1 to 1.5.6) in the ANSWER BOOK. Give a reason if the answer is FALSE.
- 1.5.1 A doctrine is a theology degree obtained from a university. (2)
- 1.5.2 The Pali Canon is the oldest scripture of Hinduism. (2)
- 1.5.3 Orthodox Jews observe religious laws called Genesis. (2)
- 1.5.4 Theocracy is a belief that the government and morality need not be based on religion. (2)
- 1.5.5 Religion is a unified system of beliefs and practices related to sacred things. (2)
- 1.5.6 The word 'catholic' means belonging to the Pope. (2)
- 1.6 In the context of religion, write TWO facts about EACH of the following:
- 1.6.1 Mangena Mokone (2)
- 1.6.2 Samprayadas (2)
- 1.6.3 Kitáb-i-Aqdas (2)

TOTAL SECTION A: 50

SECTION B

Answer any TWO questions in this section.

QUESTION 2

- 2.1 In the context of religion, give a brief explanation of EACH of the following concepts:
- 2.1.1 Similarity (4)
 - 2.1.2 Belief (4)
 - 2.1.3 Identity (4)
- 2.2 State any TWO unique features of EACH of the following religions:
- 2.2.1 Judaism (4)
 - 2.2.2 Taoism (4)
 - 2.2.3 Bahá'í faith (4)
- 2.3 Describe the Sufi tradition in Islam. (6)
- 2.4 Differentiate between the concepts *incarnation* and *reincarnation*. (4)
- 2.5 What does African Traditional Religion teach about the concept of *Ubuntu*? (8)
- 2.6 Name FOUR characteristics that contribute to a sense of shared religious identity. (8)
- [50]**

QUESTION 3

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

PAKISTAN COURT SENTENCED CHRISTIAN MAN TO DEATH

By Asim Tanveer, 2 July 2024

Multan, Pakistan – A court in Pakistan sentenced a Christian man to death for sharing what it said was hateful content against Muslims on social media, after one of the worst mob attacks on Christians in the eastern Punjab Province last year.

In August 2023, a group of Muslim men burned dozens of homes and churches in the city of Jaranwal after some residents claimed they saw two Christian men tearing out pages from Islam's holy book, the Qur'an, throwing them on the ground and writing insulting remarks on other pages, authorities said. The two men were later arrested.

Ehsan Shan was accused of reposting the defaced pages of the Qur'an on his *Tik Tok* account. His lawyer Khurram Shahzad told Associated Press that on Monday, he would appeal against the death sentence issued on Saturday by a court in the city of Sahiwal in the Punjab Province.

[Adapted from [apnews.com](https://www.apnews.com)]

- 3.1.1 In which province was the Christian man sentenced to death? (2)
- 3.1.2 Why did the court sentence the man to death? (2)
- 3.1.3 What lessons can a social media user learn from this article? State THREE lessons. (6)
- 3.1.4 With reference to the above article, evaluate the conduct of the Christians and the conduct of the Muslims. (2 x 4) (8)
- 3.1.5 Critically evaluate the judgement of the court in the article. (8)
- 3.2 Name THREE types of media we have. (6)
- 3.3 What should the mainstream media do to avoid religious bias? (10)
- 3.4 Discuss different ways in which religions can respond to negative coverage in the media. (8)
- [50]**

QUESTION 4

4.1 Read the extract below and answer the following questions.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC CONFLICT

The Central African Republic (CAR) was thrown into turmoil when mainly Muslim Seleka* rebels launched attacks a year ago and forced President Francois Bozize to flee in March 2013. A transitional government has since been entrusted with restoring peace and paving the way for democratic elections, but armed conflict between ex-Seleka and Christian anti-Balaka** militia have escalated significantly in the past months.

'Killings in Bangui (the capital) and in the rest of the country continue every day, and the population remains divided along religious affiliation,' Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Jeffrey Feltman, told the Security Council in a briefing on the impoverished nation, where thousands of people are estimated to have been killed. Nearly 1 million have been driven from their homes, and 2,2 million, about half the population, need humanitarian aid.

'As a result of its predominantly Muslim composition, Seleka abuses against the Christian populations in the CAR were quickly interpreted as a religious conflict pitting Muslim against Christian,' he added. On the other hand, the frustration of Muslim communities in the CAR is the result of years of marginalisation by successive governments since the country's independence 50 years ago. For instance, while the Muslim community represent an estimated 20 per cent of the total population of the CAR, no Muslim holidays are observed officially by the country.

Mr Feltman praised the quick deployment of African Union (AU) and French forces which prevented the situation from degenerating to greater conflict and atrocities***. The United Nations (UN) is currently working with the AU on organising a conference in Addis Ababa on 1 February 2023 to help the AU force to reach its authorised strength of 6 800.

*Seleka is a group of primarily Muslim rebels that previously fought against the government in Bangui.

**anti-Balaka is an alliance of militia groups composed primarily of Christians.

***atrocities are cruel acts involving physical violence or injury.

[Adapted from www.un.org/africarenewal/news, 4 April 2022]

- 4.1.1 When did the conflict in the CAR start? (2)
- 4.1.2 Name TWO religious associated parties that are involved in this conflict. (4)
- 4.1.3 With reference to the article, briefly explain the causes of the conflict in the CAR. (8)
- 4.1.4 To what extent is religion part of this conflict? Give FOUR reasons to support your answer. (10)

- 4.2 Discuss possible reasons why there has been no armed religious conflict in democratic South Africa. (10)
- 4.3 What role can religious organisations play to prevent religious conflict in their communities? (6)
- 4.4 Explain how religious conflict can negatively affect a community. (10)
- [50]**

QUESTION 5

5.1 Read the article below and answer the following questions.

HUMAN RIGHTS

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (article 1) reads: 'All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.'

[Source: *FOCUS on Religion Studies*]

- 5.1.1 For centuries, religions have taught that all human beings are equal. Explain the teachings from any TWO religions you have studied that uphold the belief that all men are created equal. (12)
- 5.1.2 Discuss practical steps you think different religions could follow in order to ensure that human rights are not violated. (8)
- 5.1.3 Evaluate the measures that the South African government has put in place to uphold article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. (12)
- 5.2 What role did religious organisations play in South Africa's freedom struggle prior to 1994? (10)
- 5.3 What is the difference between the *Western* and the *Eastern view of religious freedom*? (8)

[50]

TOTAL SECTION B: 100
GRAND TOTAL: 150