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**RELIGION STUDIES P2
MEMORANDUM**

MARKS: 150

This memorandum consists of 9 pages.

QUESTION 1**1.1 1.1.1 Inspiration**

- Inspiration refers to the breath (power, knowledge) of extraordinary being or power for example of deity coming into a person and taking over, so to speak that person's own breath.
- People may feel that they are possessed by such a power or that they have received a revelation.
- Those meanings suggest, how at various times, various people have felt that they have had very special, direct and immediate access to a dimension of being understanding or power that is beyond everyday experience.
- Such inspiration may have authority.
- These people then derive secondary inspiration from original, primary inspiration.
- In most religions there are figures, with followers, who are believed to have been inspired by higher power and wisdom.

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1.1.2 Oral tradition

- The original inspiration is spread first by oral tradition.
- The original message is passed on from one person to another and from one generation to another by a word of mouth.
- Such oral tradition may be transmitted faithfully for hundreds and even thousands of years.
- Writing is a recent invention.
- It is a normative source of primary importance throughout religious history.

[ANY RELEVANT FACT MUST BE CREDITED]

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1.1.3 Sacred text

- Writing entered the religious scene about 4000 years ago.
- Since then it has played an ever increasing role.
- Before the writing was invented, information was passed through by the word of mouth from one generation to another.
- Other information was written in stones or rocks and caves.
- The information was also taken to the text.
- The Quran itself is generally seen as a perfect copy of original eternal inspired tablet in heaven.
- In Hinduism revealed (heard) writings (Shruti) are distinguished from secondary, (remembered) derived from humanly composed writings.
- Vedas for Hinduism.
- Bible for Christians and other texts.

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1.2 Write a brief overview of the sacred scripture in the Christian faith.

- In spite of differences in religious context, Christianity reveals the same pattern in the unfolding of a written tradition as Judaism.
- Christianity accepted the Hebrew tradition and re-interpreted it from its own religious perspective.
- It compiled its own collection of texts, which was accepted as divine revelations.
- After the death of Jesus, the good news concerning his person and his message was transmitted orally.
- Within two decades of his death, quite a large number of gospels were written down and circulated.
- The fixing of the Christian canon was a long process which was only finalised towards the end of the fourth century.
- The first apostles were seen as the source and guarantors of the true religion.
- Throughout the history of Christianity, church leadership and theological scholarship in various denominations have produced a strong commentarial tradition.
- Christianity also has its sets of rejected and of lower-order non-canonical books.
- They are called Apocryphal books.

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QUESTION 2

Select and discuss ONE social problem prevalent in your community under the following sub-headings:

[For the purpose of this Memorandum HIV/Aids are discussed.]

2.1 A brief relevant introduction

- One of the pressing issues in South Africa today is the HIV/Aids pandemic which is claiming the lives of many South Africans.
- In May 2003, religious communities and organisations met to discuss ways in which it could address the problem of HIV/Aids at the first conference of the region.
- It must be treated with the sensitivity it deserves.
- It calls for love and compassion.

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2.2 The causes of the social problem

- HIV/Aids is still one of the evils of our society.
- Unprotected sex.
- Sleeping around.
- Multiple partners.
- Rape.
- Belief that a virgin can cure HIV/Aids
- Overcrowded prisons

[ANY RELEVANT ANSWERS SHOULD BE CREDITED]

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2.3 Factors contributing to how it spread

- Through breast feeding
- Multiple partners
- Sharing the same needles and scissors
- Unprotected sex
- In some cases it can be spread through car accidents

[ANY RELEVANT FACT CAN BE CREDITED]

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2.4 Illustrate solutions to the social problem selected or identified.

- No sex before marriage.
- Monogamy is encouraged.
- Faithfulness to one partner is encouraged.
- Adultery is condemned.
- It opens the way to other evils.

[ANY RELEVANT ANSWER CAN BE CREDITED]

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2.5 Practical steps or strategies to address it.

- Love, compassion, responsibility, dignity and non judgementalism towards people living with HIV/Aids.
- Education and openness around sex and sexuality.
- Condemning discrimination against people living with HIV/Aids.
- Recognising unity in diversity.
- Encouraging open discussion and dialogue around sensitive issues.
- Religious leaders of all communities to educate their followers about HIV/Aids so that people living with the disease would not be discriminated against.
- The religious leaders should put pressure on the government to provide access to treatment to those that are affected.

[ANY RELEVANT FACT CAN BE CREDITED]

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QUESTION 3

Discuss the central teaching of any ONE religion under the following headings:

CENTRAL TEACHINGS:

[For the purpose of this Memorandum Christianity is discussed]

3.1 Nature of divinity

- Christians believe in the existence of Supreme Being and Divine Being known as God.
- God manifests Himself as three persons:
 - God the Father
 - God the Son and
 - God the Holy Spirit
- Christianity is a monotheistic religion like Judaism and Islam that is it teaches the existence of one God.
 - God the father sent his son, Jesus into the world.
 - After ascending into heaven, the son then sent the Holy Spirit

[ANY RELEVANT ANSWERS SHOULD BE CREDITED]

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3.2 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.
- Humans, marine, animals and plants life are all belong to God.
- According to Christian understanding the world is subject to the governance of humanity.

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3.3 Place and responsibility of humanity in the world

- Christians believed 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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3.4 Nature of life after death

- Christians believe that human beings were created immortal.
- Adam and Eve disobeyed God's commands.
- The penalty for this sin was death for the human race.
- After 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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3.5 Nature of good and evil

- According to the 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 commandments.
- 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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QUESTION 4**INTERNAL DIFFERENCES:**

[For the purpose of this Memorandum Islam and Christianity are discussed]

4.1 Islam:

- After the death of the prophet Mohammed, one of the groups of Islam elected the prophet's close friend Abu Bakr to be the next leader.
- The group that is supported became known as Sunni.
- The other group believed that, the leadership of the Muslim community should remain within the prophet's family.
- They believed that Ali the cousin and son in law of Mohammed held the divine right to his position.
- This group of Muslim became known as Shiah.

Christianity:

- The Christian religion consists of three main branches:
 - Catholic
 - Eastern Orthodox
 - Protestants
- The Catholic claim to be the original Christian church founded by Jesus Christ, built in the authority of St Peter.
 - They teach that God consists of three distinct bodies, yet equal persons:
 - >God the father
 - >The Son
 - >Holy Spirit
- The Eastern Orthodox Church claims that it is a continuation of the original church founded by Jesus Christ.
 - The reason for the split between the Eastern and the Western churches were political and doctrinal.
 - The Western church taught that the Holy Spirit proceed from the Father to the Son.
 - In the Eastern Orthodox Church, the authority is in the hands of a group of Bishops.
- Protestants did not believe that salvation is something that had to be earned.
- It is a free gift from God, by the grace of God.

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4.2 Discuss the relationship between religion and science.

- Scientific developments have changed our world in many ways.
- At a deeper level science has challenged the way people look at the world.
- How we look at the world and even regard other people and living beings.
- Science has challenged even the very foundations of religions.
- In the last four centuries there are very difficulties that have emerged between religion and science.

[ANY RELEVANT ANSWERS SHOULD BE CREDITED]

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4.3 The impact that Charles Darwin's theory of evolution on creation according to Christian belief.

- Species contain a great variety of minor differences.
- Both the world and species change over time.
- In the fight for survival, better adapted variations survive while those that are not will slowly disappear or become extinct.
- A species may therefore gradually change its form and become more complex by developing along a path of successful variation.
- In the middle of the 19th century, the biologist Charles Darwin published his theory of evolution in his book origin of species.
- This was the first non-religious explanation of how the world was created and humans come from.
- Humans developed from Apes.
- Humans were not created by a divine being.
- 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 the church.

[ANY RELEVANT ANSWERS SHOULD BE CREDITED]

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QUESTION 5

Briefly discuss the following concepts as they apply in the religious teachings:

5.1 Ethical teaching

- Teaching comes from the word 'to teach' which may simply to impart knowledge or understanding in one way or another.
- In religion specifically, to teach often means to give information about a subject'.
- This makes teaching to be systematic information about a subject.
- Teaching is highly significant in some religions, less important in others.
- Teaching is very important mainly in those religions that developed during the thousands years.
- These religions tended to emphasise clear, rational, systematic thinking, and may still do so.
- The word teaches may also mean to advocate, to induce a person to do or to think.

[ANY OTHER RELEVANT ANSWER SHOULD BE CREDITED.] (10)

5.2 Doctrine

- Doctrine is a synonym for teaching.
- It is derived from the term doctrinaire.
- Doctrine does not necessarily have any negative meaning and doctrinaire certainly does.
- It means tending to apply a doctrine in all circumstances without regard to practical considerations.
- A doctrinaire person is someone who attempts to push his or her particular teaching or doctrine onto other people.

[ANY OTHER RELEVANT ANSWER SHOULD BE CREDITED.] (10)

5.3 Belief

- It may mean acceptance of a thing, a fact, a statement, a teaching, and so on.
- It may mean a firm opinion.
- It is trust or confidence.
- The combined term 'belief system' clearly expresses this meaning of the word 'system' says that this is a systematic teaching which is supposed to be the object or belief.
- It is important to know that there are many types and shades of beliefs in various religions and in the various sub-divisions of religions.

[ANY RELEVANT ANSWERS SHOULD BE CREDITED] (10)

5.4 Myth

- The term 'myth' comes from the Greek word 'Mythos', which means the word or fable.
- It refers to those religious stories in deep truths about life are revealed.
- In everyday life the term is often used to refer to something that is not true.
- In religion studies the term Myth refers to the stories which reveal the deepest truths about creation, life, and death.
- Myths do not necessarily try to make a moral point, as parables do, but they can be the basis of teachings and even dogma in some religions.
- There are different types of religious myths, such as creation myths-which explain the origin of the world, foundation myths-which describe the start of a religion and the life of its founder, end time myths- which describe the end of the world.

[ANY RELEVANT ANSWERS SHOULD BE CREDITED]

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5.5 Dogma

- The word 'Dogma' means appearance or opinion.
- It has two shades of meanings that are relevant to us
- The first meaning is a principle, tenet.
- To make a teaching, belief or doctrine, a dogma, the element of collective authority must be present.
- Collective authority means something else too, namely the will and the power to enforce the dogma

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TOTAL: 150