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Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

NATIONAL SENIOR CERTIFICATE

GRADE 12

RELIGION STUDIES P2

NOVEMBER 2012

MEMORANDUM

MARKS: 150

This memorandum consists of 14 pages.

QUESTION 1**1.1 Impact of HIV/Aids on South Africa society**

- There is a high rate of death of young people in the country.
- It causes family breakdown if one member is infected, because every member of the family becomes affected.
- It affects the morals of the society (values and attitudes change).
- School drop-out rate increases.
- Family structures are weakened (child headed families)
- It causes financial strain on the economy; the government spend more money which causes unequal distribution of funds.
- It causes people to be trapped in a cycle of poverty.
- It causes unemployment (sometimes people are hired on their health status)
- It causes more suffering and makes people feel guilty, low-self esteem, lack of confidence and trust.

N.B.: Any other relevant answer must be credited

(10)

1.2 Solutions to the problem

N.B. Three religions are discussed as examples. However, responses from other religions must also be credited.

Christianity

- The Holy Bible states 'Thou shall not commit adultery'. This is a clear injunction to confine sexual intercourse to the institution of marriage.
- The Bible also states that husband and wife should honour and respect each other. Submit to one another out of reverence of Christ.
- Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery (Eph 5:1-6)
- Marriage is encouraged, in the words 'for this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh (Eph 5:1-6).
- The Bible states clearly that our bodies are the Temple of the Holy Spirit and our bodies must be kept holy.

African Traditional Religion (ATR)

- One of the most well-known African teachings is the idea of *Ubuntu* which puts the community before individual rights.
- This means that a person is a person through his or her relationships with other people.
- It is therefore important that everyone treats each other with love and respect.
- ATR places much emphasis on family ties and history, as described in family and clan praise songs.
- In ATR, evil includes the wilful disruption of community life, as would be the case in the effects of Aids.
- Many sacred stories glorify the institution of marriage and the family.

Hinduism

- The Hindu Law of Karma teaches that a person's actions and thoughts will affect the kind of life one would lead in the next life.

- It encourages respect and protection of all forms of life

- This also encourages people to lead a morally good life that would include:
 1. Good sexual life
 2. Protecting the weak, e.g. children and women
 3. Pro-life actions

- This ensures that the fight against HIV and Aids is addressed within the religion.
- The one condition that Hinduism imposes on its followers is that under no circumstances should anyone deviate from the path of *dharma* (virtuous life)
- If a person is careful about leading a dharmic life, the result will be happiness.

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1.3

Practical strategies for religious organisations to combat HIV/Aids

- Organize workshops to teach and make people aware of the epidemic.
- Educate members and communities on religious teachings about contraception.
- Provide counselling for people infected and affected.
- Awareness campaigns should be planned.
- We must all learn from successful anti-Aids campaigns.
- E.g. In Uganda religious organisations and government worked together to bring about moral regeneration
- Sex outside a stable relationship was made taboo.
- Faith-based organisations all work together to convey the message of abstinence.
- Sex within marriage only.
- Those at risk (multiple sexual partners, unprotected sex, etc.) must go for HIV testing, so that ARV treatment, or a change in lifestyle, or both, can take place as soon as possible.
- Young people can be targeted via the media, youth clubs, as well as religious meetings and political organisation
- Start sexuality education among the youth.
- Teach rights and responsibilities, as well as respect, of male and female
- Engage in discussions on how the Constitution compares with religious teachings, e.g. Child Protection Act allows a 12 year old to assent to HIV testing, without parental consent
- Participate in health and sporting/youth programmes.
- Social networks used by youth can promote knowledge and information which can be understood by different levels of age.

NB. This is an open-ended question. The learners should be credited for the responses that are relevant even when the strategies are drawn from more than one religion.

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1.4 **Do you think that religious organisations are currently succeeding in the struggle against HIV/Aids? Give reasons for your answer.**

Yes

The increased rate of attendance in different religious organisation through their different healing strategies and life-styles contributes to the struggle against HIV and Aids.

- Awareness campaigns organised by different religious groups.
- Home-based organisations run by different religious organisation are seen operating.
- Religious groups are working with the government as joint force for effective implementation of strategies.
- Most established 'safe house' are organised by religious organisations in order to take care of orphans.
- Seminars to raise awareness are organised by different religious groups.
- Counselling and help desks are operating effectively to bring help to communities
- Religious groups are seen doing outreach and giving hand-outs to families for them to have something to eat and wear.

No

- People go to religious organisations only when things are bad and when faced with difficult situations.
- Religious organisations can't do it alone without funding
- It becomes difficult for the organisation to attend to large numbers.
- Statistics show that the infection rate is still very high, compared to other African countries.
- Religious organisations are too fragmented to be effective in the struggle. If they made a joint effort, they would be more effective.
- Religious organisations should make more input into government policy, via the National Religious Leaders' Forum (NRLF)

NB. This is an open-ended question. The learners should be credited for the responses that are relevant even when the strategies are drawn from more than one religion

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QUESTION 2**2.1 Comparison of ONE religion with Darwin's theory of evolution****N.B.: A maximum of 10 marks is allocated to each of**

- nature of man,**
- nature of the world, and**
- Darwin's theory.**

The Baha'i Faith*The nature of man*

- Baha'u'llah calls the human being the noblest and most perfect of all created things.
- Humans are the greatest representatives of God.
- Unlike animals human beings are endowed with intelligence and spiritual powers that enable them to know God.
- They can acquire angelic qualities such as love, compassion, trustworthiness and integrity.
- The purpose of life is to know and love God, and to progress spiritually.
- Every human being has the capacity to recognise the truth and follow it.
- Every individual has to look for truth independently of other people.
- Avoid blindly imitating the past.

The nature of the world

- According to the Baha'i Faith, God created the universe and humanity is supreme among its creatures.
- Human beings with their rational powers are able to conquer the world.
- The world is a transitory place.
- The world and what is in it are not worthy of attachment.
- Humans are continually reminded that they must detach themselves from things of this world.
- Living in this world, the Baha'is believe they are given a chance to develop virtues, build character and advance spiritually.
- The world is one place, the home of all humankind.

Christianity*The nature of man*

- According to the creation stories found in Genesis, God created humanity.
- The creation of humanity is seen as the climax of the manifestation of God's glory.
- Unlike the animals, humans were formed in the likeness of God and were infused with the breath of God.
- Human beings therefore reflect the characteristics, the attributes and even the personality of God.
- They have intellect and free will, but animals have instincts and live in accordance with the laws and commands of nature, over which they have no control.
- God created Adam and Eve in His own image.
- Following the model of the holy Trinity, humanity should have a relationship of mutual respect and love.

- Humans should be a community in the same way that the three persons of the holy Trinity are a community.
- Individuals have to look after one another and protect one another.

The nature of the world

- According to Christianity the world was created for the pleasure of humanity.
- God created the earth and allowed humans to use the resources of the Garden of Eden
- Humans, marine, animal and plant lives all belong to God.
- It is God who is in charge of the weather, climate, time and seasons of the year.
- God the Father sent his Son, Jesus, into the world.
- After ascending into heaven, the Son then sent the Holy Spirit.
- The Holy Spirit in turn sent the Church into the world to continue God's missionary work.

Darwin's Theory of Evolution

Darwin's theory consists mainly of the following 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 aren't 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.
5. All forms of life are connected and go back to a common origin.
6. The different types of life are not absolutely different, but occur on one single continuum
7. Life evolves in a process leading from simple to complex.
8. The various forms of life did not appear perfectly formed, but developed over time.
9. The theory of evolution says that humans are not created by a religious being. Rather, they have evolved from apes.
10. The theory proposes that all life evolved from primitive forms and continues to evolve.

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2.2 Comparison of ONE religion and the big bang theory**A maximum of TEN marks is allocated for each of****-divinity and creation of the universe****-the Big Bang Theory****Baha'i Faith**Teachings about divinity and how the universe came into being.

- God is the creator of the universe and is infinitely exalted above his creation.
- Human beings do not have the capacity to fully understand God's unknowable essence.
- They can see the signs of God's power and qualities in creation.
- God is not limited to or defined solely by his or her creation.
- Neither is God limited in any way by the qualities of his creation.
- Both the spiritual and the physical creations are creations of the same God.

ChristianityTeachings about divinity and how the universe came into being

- Christians believe in the existence of a supreme and divine being known as God.
- Christians believe that God manifests himself, or is experienced, as three persons, the 'holy Trinity'.
- God the Father as creator of the universe.
- God the Son as saviour and liberator of humanity.
- God the Holy Spirit as counsellor of Christians and advocate for their cause.
- In the beginning there was nothing but chaos.
- God said, 'Let there be', and creation came into being.
- God created the universe in six days.
- The world was perfect after the holy Trinity had finished with the creation project.
- The creation of the world is still continuing, and in a sense as human beings we are playing a crucial role in the ongoing process of creation.

The 'Big-Bang' theory

- Currently, the most popular scientific theory of the universe is the so-called big bang theory.
- Before the big bang it was not known what existed.

- After the big bang the universe had appeared and filled out to an enormous size. It happened about 15 billion years ago.
- Small temperature differences in the initial explosion led to varying densities throughout the universe.
- These eventually formed into clusters throughout the universe.
- The clusters continued to condense in a lumpy way and eventually formed the vast collections of stars we call galaxies.
- Over time they became more complex and eventually human beings evolved.
- Scientists estimate that the first forms of life appeared on the earth a few billion years ago.
- Our earth is part of the solar system.

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QUESTION 3

3.1 3.1.1 **Interreligious relationships in South Africa during and after apartheid**

Interreligious dialogue in South Africa, prior to 1994:

- Christianity was the state religion.
- Other religions were given little or no recognition.
- Religious freedom and equality were not in the statute books.
- There was separate observation of religious observances.
- This was in line with apartheid government's goal of separate development.
- People were not educated about other religions.
- However, Apartheid served to unite religions.
- The South African Council of Churches (SACC) was formed in 1968. It united Christians of various denominations.
- The Call of Islam was formed in 1984.
- Jews for Justice was formed in 1985.
- The inter-faith struggle against apartheid resulted in the formation of the South African branch of the World Conference of Religions for Peace (WCRP) in 1984.

The post apartheid era (1995 to present)

Healthy interreligious relations in South Africa:

- In 1997 President Nelson Mandela called on religious communities to work together to build a free and just South Africa.
- This coalition was called the national Religious Leaders' Forum (NRLF).
- A moral summit was held in October 1999.
- Concerns were poverty, children and women abuse, prevention of HIV and Aids, etc.
- The SA Constitution was adopted in 1996.
- It establishes SA as a secular state, with no state religion.
- It forbids discrimination on the basis of religion or beliefs.

- Religious observance may be conducted at state institutions, provided that
 - they are conducted on an equitable basis, and
 - attendance at them is free and voluntary.
- These provisions ensure that there is harmony, (freedom of association is entrenched).
- Respect for different rituals/practices/beliefs and
- Tolerance among the various religions in South Africa.
- Freedom of expression encourages mutual communication between religions, without fear.
- Freedom of opinion gives a platform to religions to pronounce on matters of state or social issues.
- As recognition of South Africa's progress towards religious tolerance, the world Parliament of Religions was convened in Cape Town in 1999.

N.B. Other relevant facts must be credited

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3.1.2 Which ONE do you choose?

The apartheid era

- Racial groups had their own identities.
- The crime rate was low.
- Each religion was practised in its own community
- Whites enjoyed tremendous benefits.
- Churches had their own schools.
- Christian organisations received state support, as Christianity was the state religion

OR

The post apartheid era

- The Constitution is implemented without discrimination.
- Human rights are observed according to the Constitution.
- Freedom of religious choice- everyone is free to practise the religion he or she likes.
- Religion Studies are freely taught at schools.
- Information on religious matters is accessible.
- All religions are treated with dignity and respect.

N.B. Other relevant facts must be credited

3.2 The history and work of the World's Parliament of Religions**World's Parliament of Religions**

- The initiative was started in 1893 (World's Parliament of Religions).
- The Unitarian and Universalistic churches were the main drivers of this initiative.
- Western and Eastern religions were represented.
- Swami Vivekananda introduced Hindu thought to the West.
- This was a crucial stage in interreligious dialogue, as previously eastern religion was not understood/ accepted as a religion by the Western world.
- Christianity, Islam, Buddhism and Judaism were represented. This was the starting point of modern inter-religious dialogue.

Native American and African religions were not represented.

- A hundred years later the second parliament was held in Chicago.
- Here, a decision was taken to hold the parliament every five to six years, in different cities.
- The 1993 Parliament issued a document called 'Towards a Global Ethic'
- The 1999 Parliament in Cape Town had representation from nearly all of the world's religions.
- The last Parliament was held in Barcelona in 2004. The focus was on religions commitment to addressing global challenges.
- E.g. war/religious conflict, drug trade, poverty, global warming, etc.
- Interreligious bodies follow through in their commitments, because of their strong beliefs.

The World Conference of Religions for Peace (WCRP)

- It was formed in 1970.
- It was made up of leaders from all religions.

- Its common goal is peace.
- This body believes that its interreligious relationships are the best way to bring people of different races, and classes and cultures together, for a common goal.
- This is because religions organise people into cohesive bodies that are committed to helping others in need.
- Their focus areas are:
 - Conflict and reconciliation
 - Children and families
 - Disarmament and security
 - Human rights and responsibility
 - Peace education
- It has been involved in mediating talks and agreements between groups at war with each other in countries such as Sierra Leone.
- Helped with reconciliation in communities that are in conflict with each other because of ethnic and political differences, such as in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kosovo.
- Religions for Peace, with the help of other organisations, worked to strengthen peace education efforts in nations such as Israel, Thailand and Japan.

WCC –World Council of Churches

- Founded in Amsterdam in 1948.
- It is purely Christian.
- It re-affirms the Trinity of God.
- It included the following Christian denominations:
 - Anglican
 - Baptist
 - Congregational
 - Lutheran
 - Methodist
 - Moravian
 - Old Catholic

QUESTION 4**4.1 Hermeneutic principles of interpreting normative sources**

- Grammar and historical context: this means one must use the rules of grammar and the historical facts to interpret sacred texts.
- Clearest meaning: one should take the literal meaning of the text.
- Plan, purpose and context: a piece of writing should be viewed as a whole. What is the writing plan or structure? What was the author's purpose in writing this text? What is the context of the passage being looked at?
- Meaning of words: the meaning of words change over time and in different places. Find out the original meaning as they were used in the normative source.
- Figurative meaning: figurative and non-literal meaning must be taken into account.
- Other sacred texts: sacred texts themselves may be used to interpret other sacred texts.

NOTE: Marks must be awarded even if no reference is made to any religion.

ATR (as an example)

- There are specific rules for the interpretation for both the primary and the secondary sources.
- The procedure differs from community to community.
- However, in general the maternal brother and the paternal sister are the key to opening the sacred lineage text.
- They must be the first to open the text by invoking the dead of the lineage, in order of seniority and familiarity.
- Once they have opened communication, the other members of the lineage present at the occasion have a chance to provide their own interpretation and express their wishes.
- The family's traditional healer ensures that the wishes of the living and those of the living dead are expressed according to the specific requirements of the particular occasion.
- When interpreting secondary sacred texts the king or chief takes the lead.

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4.2 Divine inspiration**4.2.1 African traditional religion (ATR)**

- Such immediate contact with a dimension beyond everyday life lies at the root of African religion.
- Mediums and diviners specialise in communication with ancestors and spirits in general
- E.g. The Yoruba in West Africa mediums often go through a process of death and rebirth during their training.
- In this process, they believe, the personality is terminated and the medium or diviner receives a new personality, dedicated to the supernatural forces.
- Most such diviners have an intermediary function between the realms of human beings and spirits.

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- Priests are also very important intermediaries between the divinity and human beings.
- In Southern Africa the priestly function usually rests with the head of the family.

4.2.2 ONE middle Eastern religion (Judaism, Christianity, Islam)

- Examples are Abraham, Moses, Jesus, Prophet Muhammad
- The inspiration of these figures is accepted by their followers as having been direct and immediate.
- They are believed to have stood face to face with God.
- They have received their messages straight from God.
- These religions believe in some higher, deeper wisdom to which great figures are held to have had direct and immediate access.

Note: A maximum of 4 marks should be awarded if 'divine inspiration' is merely defined

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4.3 4.3.1 **The nature of evil**

Christianity:

- 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.

Buddhism:

- Evil is not the problem in Buddhist, understanding, but ignorance is.

- Sees people as basically good, but unaware of their potential.
- Evil has no origin, because reality itself has no origin.
- Universes arise, last for a while and then disappear.
- Within these universes, Buddha appears to show people how to escape from the suffering that characterises reality.
- Because people are ignorant of how the universe works, they desire things
- To get these things, they are prepared not only to suffer themselves, but also to make others suffer.
- Ignorance leads people to regard themselves as permanent, unconnected entities, and to deny that their actions have consequences. This is the origin of evil.

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4.3.2

Life after deathChristianity:

- Christians believe that human beings were created immortal. This means that they were created to live forever.
- Since Adam and Eve disobeyed God's commands, the penalty was death.
- This applied to all of human kind.
- God sent Prophets so man could redeem himself.
- This did not help, so Jesus was sent to earth.
- He suffered and died for human sins.
- As a result, Christians will suffer only the physical death, or the 'first' death.
- They will not suffer the spiritual death, or 'second' death.
- The Christian faith stands or falls on faith in the resurrection.
- Christians envisage a new community that will be marked by love, sharing and caring.

Buddhism:

- Rebirth after rebirth occurs for the unenlightened beings.
- Enlightened beings can see the process, realise its futility, and step out of it.
- A Buddha has attained nirvana
- Most Buddhas are not serious in their search for enlightenment.
- Life after death is not desired or striven for.
- The Buddha refused to say what becomes of the enlightened person after death.

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[50]**TOTAL: 150**