Tasmanian Certificate of Education

STUDIES OF RELIGION

Senior Secondary

Subject Code: REL315111

External Assessment

2013

Time: Three Hours

On the basis of your performance in this examination, the examiners will provide results on each of the following criteria taken from the syllabus statement:

Criterion 1  Structure and express relevant ideas and arguments clearly.
Criterion 2  Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of relevant concepts.
Criterion 3  Use credible evidence and reasoned argument.
Criterion 4  Analyse and evaluate the significance and implications of religious viewpoints.

Pages:                8
Questions:              9

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CANDIDATE INSTRUCTIONS

You **MUST** ensure that you have addressed **ALL** of the externally assessed criteria on this examination paper.

This paper has **TWO** sections.

You must complete **FOUR** essay answers in total — **ALL** questions from Section A and **ONE** question from Section B.

Answer each question in a **separate** booklet.

All questions are of equal weight.

All written responses must be in English.
Answer ALL questions in this section.

Write each answer in a separate answer booklet.

This section assesses **Criteria 1, 2, 3 and 4**.

**Question 1 – Beliefs**

Psychologist and author Steve Biddulph tells the story of two cab drivers.

One is a refugee who has escaped an horrific situation and works himself to a standstill to secure a future for his family: the other, Australian-born, is embittered because of his inability to forgive and move on from the breakdown of his relationship with his wife and his ungrateful children.

Drawing on one religious tradition you have studied, discuss the ways in which members of this tradition might respond to each of these two situations in the light of their core beliefs.

**Question 2 – Aspects of Belief**

‘But religion is more than rite and ritual. There is what the rite and ritual stand for.’

(Yann Martel, *Life of Pi*)

Choose one of the following Aspects of Belief:

- sacred texts
- ritual
- structures, practices and festivals
- lived traditions.

How does this aspect assist or not assist individual believers and their faith communities in their search for meaning?

In your response you must refer to core beliefs.
Section A (continued)

**Question 3 – How do we know what is right? (Ethics and Morality)**

‘If you live your life for yourself, it can’t help but be of interest and meaning to a very small group of people.

However, if you live your life for others — be that your family but, more importantly, people who are beyond your intimate circle — life and its meaning grow much more powerful.’

(Source: Adapted from ‘Meaning’ by Sam De Brito – *Sydney Morning Herald*, 22 July 2011.)

Critically discuss the **tensions and conflicts** within one religious or philosophical tradition when dealing with a particular ethical issue.
Answer ONE question from this section.

Write your answer in a separate answer booklet.

This section assesses Criteria 1, 2, 3 and 4.

**Question 4 - Significant Historical Challenge**

‘Religious certainties are frequently challenged by historical developments or circumstances and, in order to survive, religious traditions adapt by re-interpreting their earlier views.’

By referring to one historical challenge to a religious tradition, analyse the ways in which this challenge questioned established views and evaluate the response of the religious tradition to that challenge.

**Question 5 – Significant Contemporary Challenge**

‘Religious traditions which fail to live up to their own standards of morality do not deserve to be respected.’

By referring to a significant contemporary challenge to a religious tradition, show how the failure of religious authorities to confront that challenge head-on has affected society’s views of the religious tradition and its leaders.

**Question 6 – Founders, Fictions and Facts**

Critically examine how modern scholarship of sacred texts assists in the understanding of the life and message of the founder(s) of a religion of your choice.

**Question 7 – How did the Universe come into Being?**

Evaluate the claim that modern science has replaced religion in explaining the origins of the universe.

Section B continues opposite.
Section B (continued)

**Question 8 – Why do Humans Suffer?**

Describe the way(s) in which a religious tradition explains the existence of suffering and how this tradition believes that its followers should respond in thought and action to suffering.

Evaluate the notion that it is possible to maintain religious faith in the face of suffering.

**Question 9 – Do Human Beings have a Soul?**

‘If there is such as thing as a soul it is not exclusive to humans.’

Critically discuss this statement from the point of view of at least one theist and one non-theist perspective.