Tasmanian Certificate of Education

STUDIES OF RELIGION

Senior Secondary

Subject Code: REL315111

External Assessment

2014

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 make sure that your responses to the questions in this examination paper will show your achievement in the criteria being assessed.

This paper has TWO sections.

You must answer FOUR questions in total in essay form — 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.
Question 1 – Beliefs

‘Does God exist? More to the point: what does it matter if God exists or not? After all everything else seems to exist, so what’s the problem?’

(Leunig)

Leunig raises the issues of God’s existence and its importance.

Discuss the ways in which members of a particular religious tradition might respond to the above quotation, in the light of their core beliefs.

Question 2 – Aspects of Belief

‘Religion … is alive, it is people doing certain things, acting in certain ways. If we want to have any understanding, we must capture this “aliveness”, find these people in action …’

(Terence Lovat)

Describe how the beliefs of one particular religious tradition are brought to life, by examining one of the following aspects:

- sacred texts
- rituals
- structures, practices and festivals
- lived tradition.

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

Critically discuss the tensions and conflicts in applying one ethical framework (religious or philosophical) to 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**

Analyse the ways in which one historical challenge to a religious tradition questioned established views and evaluate the response of this religious tradition to this challenge.

**Question 5 – Significant Contemporary Challenge**

Religious traditions offer relatively straightforward answers to some of life’s most challenging questions. Many of these answers are now being questioned, contradicted and sometimes rejected.

Analyse the ways in which one contemporary challenge to a religious tradition is questioning established views and evaluate the response of this religious tradition to this challenge.

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

‘Glimpses of the historical characters behind the legends about religious founders can be gathered from the sacred texts of their religious traditions.’

With reference to this quotation, show how contemporary scholarship has confirmed some aspects of the accepted understanding of the life and message of the founder of a religious tradition while questioning other aspects of that understanding.

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

Has Science replaced Religion in explaining the origins of the Universe?

Respond to the question above by discussing competing beliefs and theories concerning how the Universe came into being.

Section B continues.
Section B (continued)

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

Evaluate the ways that one theist and one non-theist worldview respond to the existence of suffering.

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

Explain the ways that one theist and one non-theist worldview understand the concept of ‘soul’. How do these understandings assist in answering the question: What does it mean to be human?
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