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**EASTERN CAPE**  
EDUCATION

**NATIONAL  
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**GRADE 12**

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**RELIGION STUDIES P2  
MEMORANDUM**

**MARKS: 150**

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This memorandum consists of 9 pages.

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**SECTION A****QUESTION 1****1.1 Darwin's theory evolution and its impact on religious beliefs.**

- This theory teaches that all humans and other life forms on earth were created through the process of gradual development or evolution.
- Humans developed from apes/chimpanzees.
- Humans were not created by a divine being or a supreme being.
- This could mean that religions or that religious teaching were false.
- For some, this could mean the end of religion.
- This theory caused great divisions in many religious communities.
- Some felt that evolution is compatible with religious views. (14)

**1.2 The responses of the three Abrahamic religions (Judaism, Christianity and Islam).**

- The three Abrahamic religions tend to reject the idea of evolution.
- The greater part of the Jews, Christians and Muslims are more traditional or orthodox.
- They believe that everything in the universe, humans included, was created by their God.
- The Abrahamic religions belief that their holy text contains the Word of God, and therefore, the story of the Book of Genesis that explains how everything was created should be accepted as literal truth.
- This view is referred to as creationism.
- God created the universe as part of divine plan for humanity.
- Orthodox groups within Abrahamic religions say that it states in the Qur'an, the Bible and the Torah that God created Adam, the first human.
- It is impossible that the human race evolved from an animal.
- The other religious groups: the liberal or progressive Jews, Christians and Muslims argue that if everything in the universe was created by God, then the process of evolution is also part of God's divine plan.
- The synthesis of evolution and religious doctrine is referred to as guided or theistic evolution.
- According to this view, the theory of evolution is accepted as an explanation for how everything was created but that the process was guided by the divine force.
- They believe that God controls and guides everything. (16)

### 1.3 African Traditional Religion as example

- There are thousands of variations in African Traditional Religion.

#### AmaZulu Religion

- The traditional AmaZulu religion acknowledges the existence of a Supreme Being and Creator called, *Umvelinqangi* or 'the First to Exist'.
- All communication with the Supreme Being is done through the ancestors.
- The AmaZulu religion has a feminine divinity called *uNomkhubulwane*.
- The feminine divinity is associated with fertility.
- The ancestors are more significant as in other religions.
- Most of the rituals are led by the eldest male of the household.
- When the whole tribe is gathered for a celebration, the King of AmaZulu presides.

#### The Aka Religion

- The Aka from Central Africa are nomadic hunter-gatherers.
- There is great variance among the Aka tribes.
- They believe in the creator spirit, Bembe.
- They believe that Bembe retired from creation after the act of creation.
- The forest spirit, Dzengi, receives the most religious attention from the Aka.
- The Aka believe in reincarnation.
- They believe that animals and humans reincarnate within their own species.

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## QUESTION 2

### 2.1 2.1.1 Identity

- Means individually
- Personality
- Characteristics that define a religion
- An exclusive self-image
- A religion sets boundaries that separate one religion from all others.
- When we are talking about identity in religion we are saying that particular religion has a certain individuality.
- This individuality distinguishes it from other religions.
- Identity also carries the meaning of dignity and value
- It has unique features.
- No two religions are ever absolutely the same, down to every detail.
- Religious identity involves the self-declaration of those who believe in and follow a particular religion.
- Doctrines, rituals and customs are part of identity.
- Religious identities sometimes mix (syncretism).

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### 2.1.2 Uniqueness

- Means there is only one of its kind.
- Having no like, equal or parallel.
- This points to the peculiarity of the religion.
- To say that a religion is unique is not the same as saying that it is 'true'.
- To say that a religion is unique does not mean that it is 'better' than other religions.
- To speak of the uniqueness of the features in religion can also be a statement about relationships between religions.
- Uniqueness implies more than just differences.
- It may refer to the single most important feature which sets one religion apart from another.
- Each religion, no matter how closely linked to others, has unique features.
- To speak of uniqueness in religion can be an expression of how the adherents themselves see their own religion. (20)

### 2.1.3 Unity

- A feeling of being at one with something.
  - Harmony/agreement amongst people.
  - Religions co-operate actively to achieve certain goals in society.
  - Different religions have unit/agreement of certain core beliefs, e.g. Judaism and Islam share a common understanding of God.
  - A religious person finds unity with God/Supreme Being through prayer.
  - Through inter-religious movements, religions discover the similarities that create this unity.
  - Unity also refers to the institutional unification of two previously separate institutions. (10)
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**QUESTION 3****3.1 Religious Concepts****3.1.1 Contemporary inspiration**

- Inspiration is an extremely important normative source in many religions.
- The term contemporary inspiration refers to inspiration that still take place today.
- In most religions there are figures with followers who believe were inspired by a higher power or wisdom.
- The founding figures in religious history generally claim to be inspired.
- We do not know the names of all inspired figures, such as early African Traditional Religion or Hinduism figures.
- However many famous figures who were inspired were Abraham, Moses, Confucius, the Buddha, Jesus, Muhammed and Baha'u'llah.
- These figures are believed to have stood face to face with God.
- In African Traditional Religion people communicate with their ancestors and receive messages.
- In the Abrahamic faiths they believe that their prophets received divine inspiration which was written down as their holy scriptures.
- In the Eastern religions divine inspiration occurred to a number of people who became divine teachers.
- Baha'u'llah was the founder of the Bahai faith who lived in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- In terms of religious history it is quite recent, although he received divine inspiration.

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**3.1.2 Sacred books**

- Writing entered the religious scene roughly four thousand years ago.
- As technology of writing became more prevalent, it is increasingly entered into the texture of tradition itself.
- Tradition became more fixed.
- Oral traditions which can run parallel to written tradition are very fluid.
- In Hinduism revealed (heard) writings (shruti) are distinguished from secondary, (remembered) derived from humanly composed writings. The sacred book is the Vedas.
- In Judaism the primary scripture are collectively known as the Tenach. Of these the first group enjoys canonical status.
- Of all religions Islam takes more seriously the idea of divine revelation as perfectly written down.
- The Qur'an itself is generally seen as a perfect copy of an original eternal inscribed tablet in heaven.
- Often sacred books do not exist just as an individual writing, but as parts of a larger collection.
- An important distinction must be made between primary sources and commentaries.

- Commentaries are secondary writings.
- It is explanations and applications of the normative primary resources.
- Most religions with sacred books also have many commentaries on primary scripture.

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### 3.1.3 **The hermeneutical principles that apply to the normative sources of the selected religion.**

- The word hermeneutics means to interpret.
- Taken in its traditional context, hermeneutics has meant the attempt by men and women of either secular or religious viewpoints or bias to interpret scripture primarily in the light of their own beliefs and secondly in its historical context.
- The principles of hermeneutical interpretation are:
  1. Grammar and historical context
  2. Clearest meaning
  3. Plan, purpose and context
  4. Meaning of words
  5. Figurative language
  6. The consideration of other sacred texts.
- The Christian Bible consists of the Old and the New Testaments.
- These scriptures were declared authoritatively by previous faith communities.
- Never in the history of the Bible has there been only one way of interpreting Biblical texts.
- According to Islam, the Qur'an is a sacred scripture which contains divine revelation from God to his messenger.
- Muslim scholars refer to interpretation, commentary, and hermeneutics as "tafsir".
- The "tafsir" is a complex term and refers to the comprehensive understanding and knowledge of the Qur'an.
- It also refers to the process of finding its meaning and to the process of stating and applying its rules, wisdom and maxims.

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**QUESTION 4****Central teachings of Christianity as an example****4.1 Nature of divinity**

- 4.1.1
- Christians believe in the existence of a supreme and divine being known as God.
  - God manifests Himself as three persons:
    - God the Father as Creator of the universe.
    - God the Son as Saviour and Liberator of humanity.
    - And God the Holy Spirit as Counsellor of Christians
- (10)

**4.1.2 Place and responsibility of humanity in the world**

- Christians believe 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.
- (10)

**4.1.3 Life after death**

- Christians believe that human beings were created to be immortal.
  - However, Adam and Eve disobeyed God's commands.
  - The penalty for their sin was death for the human race.
  - Even after this condemnation, God still tried to liberate humanity from evil and death.
  - After death Christian envisaged a new community that will be marked by love, sharing and caring.
- (10)

**4.1.4 The origin of the evil**

- 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.
- (10)

#### 4.1.5 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.
- Human, marine, animal and plant life all belong to God.
- According to Christian understanding the world is subject to the governance of humanity.

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### QUESTION 5

#### 5.1 PRACTICAL STEPS TO CURB AN ESCALATION RATE OF CRIME

- Crime should be condemned in strongest possible terms by all religious leaders.
- The leaders of various religions should engage with other social structures to fight against crime.
- The structures are community forums
- The social workers.
- The Department of Education
- The Police Department
- Projects like sewing, farming, vegetable gardens.
- Skills should be introduced, such as brick making, carpentry, tiling, painting etc.
- The various religious leaders cannot do this alone successfully.
- Other departments – Social Development and Agriculture needs to be engaged.
- Youth should be engaged in sporting activities so that the youth ceases to be idle because it is a well-known fact that devil finds work for an idle person.
- Awareness campaigns by all stakeholders need to be held.
- Religious conferences should be held in which the danger of criminality is clarified.
- Crime does not pay concept needs to be reiterated and stressed.
- Religious leaders alone cannot overcome this mammoth evil of the society; it calls for collective effort.

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## 5.2 The learner may discuss HIV/Aids, violence against and children, etc.

### Example: HIV/Aids

- This is one of the biggest social challenges facing Sub-Saharan Africa.
- This is because it has a negative impact on an individual's health and life expectancy.
- Family units are broken up and it results in absent parents.
- The economy is affected because of the loss of productive young adults.
- The health system is under pressure because HIV treatment is very expensive and long-term, but it is not a cure.
- In Uganda, the HIV pandemic was reversed by joint interaction between faith-based organisations (FBOs) and the government.
- The government focused on the funding of publicity, prevention and treatment.
- Religious teaching in every faith emphasise the sanctity of the family unit;
- And warn of the severe consequences of adultery
- E.g. The Bible states "thou shall not commit adultery" – EXODUS.
- E.g. the Quran warns, "Do not even go near to adultery, as it open the way to other evils" –Sure Isareal
- In South Africa, the NRLF (National Religions Leaders Forum) informs the government's approach to religious groupings.

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