



NATIONAL SENIOR CERTIFICATE

GRADE 12

SEPTEMBER 2025

RELIGION STUDIES P2 MARKING GUIDELINE

MARKS: 150

This marking guideline consists of 20 pages.

INSTRUCTIONS AND INFORMATION

1. Mark the first THREE questions ONLY.
2. Note the maximum marks for each question.
3. TWO marks are credited for each point.
4. If more than the required points are given, mark the required number and draw a line and write MAX. to indicate maximum reached.
5. If the answers are not numbered, note the chronological sequence and mark.
6. The marking guideline is the bases of your marking.
7. Total according to the sub-questions to facilitate question by question analysis.

QUESTION 1**1.1 Discuss SIX symptoms that a person addicted to drugs and alcohol will have.****Mark first SIX responses only.**

- Physical appearance: weight loss, skin colour change and rashes
- Psychological symptoms: depression, isolation, violent behaviour, anxiety and paranoia
- Neglecting responsibilities such as work or personal obligations.
- Poor judgement: risky behaviour like unsafe sex, lying, etc.
- Criminal activities/ petty crimes: burglary, stealing, quick selling small items like cell phones, etc.
- Financial difficulties due to large amounts of money spent on drugs
- Mental disturbance like hallucination.

(12)

1.2 Explain FIVE causes of substance abuse.**Mark first FIVE responses only.**

Family background – anyone with family members who have developed substance abuse issues is at higher risk of developing substance abuse issues of their own.

- Mental health problems can sometimes lead to alcohol or drugs misuse.
- People use substance as a coping mechanism for stress, financial pressure, and relationship problems.
- Peer pressure – when substance abuse is a norm.
- Boredom and feeling of not having a sense of purpose in life lead to substance abuse.
- Feelings of depression, anxiety, and lack of control are also driving factors

(10)

1.3 With reference to any ONE religion you have studied, discuss its teachings regarding substance abuse.**EXAMPLE 1: CHRISTIANITY**

- 'And do not get drunk with wine in which lies debauchery but be filled with the Spirit'. (Eph. 5:18)
- This means that substance abuse causes one to be vulnerable to any form of bad behaviour.
- 'Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own (I Cor. 6:19).
- This means that one must respect his/her own body as a holy temple dedicated to God.
- 'Why spend money on what is not bread and your labour on what does not satisfy?' (Isaiah 55:2)
- This means that spending money on drugs has no benefit, and that drugs are not an essential expense.
- All those who keep their body holy must abstain from any form of substance abuse.
- 'Occasions of envy, drinking bouts, orgies, and like. I warn you, as I warn you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.' (Gal. 5:21)

- Wine is arrogant, strong drink is riotous.' (Prov. 20:1)
 - Substance abuse is forbidden as it causes the individual to be violent.
- 'Woe to those who are heroes at drinking wine and champions at mixing drink (Isaiah 5:22)
- The prophet warns people about the danger of liquor.

EXAMPLE 2: BUDDHISM

- Buddhism teaches that individuals must uncover the truth about the human experience that lies within themselves. Therefore, it prohibits people from using any mind-altering drugs.
- Meditation is also very crucial in Buddhism, as it helps to get insight and wisdom. Substance abuse interferes with meditation.
- In Buddhism, sobriety of the mind is highly promoted.
- Right mindfulness is important in reaching enlightenment, which is the highest goal of Buddhism.
- Substance abuse is condemned; it hinders one from reaching enlightenment.
- It is on this basis that in Buddhism, substance abuse is prohibited.
- Buddhism also condemns any substance that may harm the body.
- The Buddha taught that living a moral life would bring about self-discipline and self-control. That is necessary to stop the desire for drugs.
- The Buddha taught that only by following the Eightfold Path can humans become non-attached and free themselves from the painful experience of rebirth. Drug abuse is one example of the painful experience of attachment.

NOTE: Other relevant answers must be credited.

EXAMPLE 3: ISLAM

- Substance abuse is not allowed in Islam.
- Anything that interferes with one's intellect is an illegal substance.
- Substance abuse leads to the acts that are not permitted in Islam
- Substance abuse interferes with worship
- Substance abuse is haram

EXAMPLE 4: ATR

- Alcohol is used for ritual purposes only and excessive use is frowned upon
- Substance abuse disturbs the balance between the physical and spiritual realm, and leads to negative consequences of angering the ancestors
- Substance abuse disrupts social order of ubuntu and cause conflict.
- Substance abuse makes people to deviate from the moral and ethical conduct and make bad decisions.
- Substance abuse disturb the human virtues of kindness, humility, caring, etc.

(2 x 5) (10)

1.4 Discuss the impact of substance abuse on society.

- The rate of crime increases
- Child abuse and women abuse increases
- The society lives in fear
- Violence becomes the order of the day
- The moral fibre of society is eroded

(2 x 4) (8)

1.5 Discuss the practical strategies or steps that religious organisations can take to address substance abuse.**Mark the first FIVE points only.**

- Religious organisations must encourage youth to participate in health and sport programmes.
- Religious communities must hold workshops for substance abuse awareness.
- They must address congregants/followers and explain the dangers of substance abuse.
- Relevant religious teachings must be emphasised.
- Religious organisations must work hand in hand with community policing forums to conduct unannounced random search in society.
- They must report drug lords to the police since the drug lords live within the community
- The organisations must also invite former addicts to workshops, so that the community can learn first-hand the harmful consequences of substance abuse.
- Religious organisations must approach the local municipality and health department to establish a rehabilitation centre to help those who are affected.
- They must demand that at every police station there should be an alcohol and drug abuse desk funded by the provincial government. This will target substance abuse holistically.

(2 x 5) (10)
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QUESTION 2

2.1 Name any TWO branches within ONE religion and compare the internal differences that exist under the following headings:

2.1.1 Practices

EXAMPLE 1: CHRISTIANITY

Practices in Catholicism

- Attendance at Holy Mass on a Sunday is obligatory.
- As a child grows, it receives the sacraments at the appropriate stages: First Holy Communion and confirmation.
- They use the rosary in their prayers.
- Catholics are fond of the symbol of the cross and of the crucifix the latter is a cross with the figure of Jesus on it.
- The sacrament of confession involves confessing to a priest.

Practices in Protestantism

- They regularly attend church services on Sunday.
- As a child grows up, he/she receives appropriate formation, e.g. Sunday school and youth groups.
- They place great emphasis on the scriptures.
- There is performance of healing services.

Practices in the Eastern Orthodox Church

- Their rituals involve much use of incense.
- They are fond of icons (style of holy images) and the interior of their churches is richly decorated.
- In their prayers they kiss the icons and light candles.
- Eastern Orthodox women wear white clothes to church.

EXAMPLE 2: BUDDHISM

Practices in Theravada Buddhism

- The ideal in Theravada Buddhism is for the individual to lead a life of meditation to become enlightened.
- The monks live in monasteries, beg for food and meditate most of the day.
- They assist and co-operate with lay people in important life events such as births, weddings and funerals.
- The monks do not preside but attend to give weight to the events.
- Most religious practices are performed in the home although there is also individual and communal meditation and chanting in temples.

Practices in Tibetan Buddhism

- These Buddhists practise many rituals.
- They use rituals and chanting in prayer.
- They also engage in meditation.
- They engage in trances to obtain wisdom.

Practices in Mahayana Buddhism

- This form of Buddhism developed a concept called Bodhisattva.
- A Bodhisattva is a person who could on his/her own merit enter Nirvana, but has decided out of compassion for suffering humans, to delay this entrance in order to help others.
- The Bodhisattva is thus available to assist humans in reaching enlightenment and could become a Buddha later on.
- In Mahayana Buddhism, ordinary people can approach divine beings to assist them in search for salvation.
- Mahayana Buddhists may practise more ritual elements than is observed in Theravada Buddhism.
- Examples are prostrating themselves, chanting and lighting incense.

NOTE: Other relevant answers must be credited.

EXAMPLE 3: ISLAM**Practice in Shi'a**

- Religious practices are strictly in accordance with the Sunnah of the Prophet, as laid down in the Hadith.
- In Sunni Islam, an 'Imam' is simply a leader of a congregational prayer.
- Imam does not denote formal training in Sunni Islam.
- Muttah (temporary marriage) is forbidden.

Practice in Sunni

- Imams are only descendants of the Prophet Muhammad, who they believe to be divinely appointed
- The shrine of Hussein in Karbala is an important pilgrimage for the Shi'as
- Muttah (temporary marriage) is allowed
- They practise self-mutilation, for example at the commemoration of the tragedy of Karbala
- There are two schools of legal opinion – Akbar and Usuli (10)

2.1.2 Governance**EXAMPLE 1: CHRISTIANITY**

- The head of Catholicism is the Pope.
- The centre of power is in Rome (Vatican).
- The church is governed at parish level by priests, deaneries by deans, dioceses by bishops and archdioceses by archbishops.
- The cardinals are the representatives of the Pope in different geographical regions, e.g. the Southern African Region is under Cardinal Napier.

Governance in Protestantism

- The churches are governed by ordained ministers and bishops or elected elders.
- Overall rule is by a higher authority such as a synod or general assembly, chaired by the presiding bishop.
- Some Protestant churches are independent and not accountable to higher authority than the congregation.
- Under the Presbyterian system, the congregation are governed by the church council/session. The latter consists of the church minister and elders.

Governance in Eastern Orthodox Church

- The differences between the Catholic and Orthodox Churches are that the latter do not accept the leadership of the Pope.
- Authority within the church is in the hands of the bishops and archbishops.
- Their ordained ministers include priests, bishops and archbishops.
- Their ordained clergy may be married. They do not have to be celibate.

EXAMPLE 2: BUDDHISM**Governance in Theravada Buddhism.**

- Basically, the governance of the Theravada and Mahayana branches is the same.
- Theravada Buddhism is one compact branch, with little or no deviation in different parts of the world.
- The monastery has greater significance in Theravada Buddhism than in other branches

Governance in Mahayana Buddhism

- Each group of the Mahayana is governed by a senior monk.
- The senior monk is assisted by a council of other senior monks and sometimes senior nuns.
- This form of Buddhism has developed into many groupings that have led to much flexibility regarding governance.

Governance in Tibetan Buddhism

- Tibetan Buddhists have a leader called the Dalai Lama.
- There has been a succession of Dalai Lamas from the 17th century until 1959.
- When the People's Republic of China invaded Tibet in 1959, the current Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso, fled Tibet.
- He has been a spiritual leader in exile ever since.

NOTE: Other relevant answers must be credited.

Example 3: ISLAM**Governance in Sunni**

- There is no clergy in Sunni Islam
- Any Muslim can serve on the community boards
- Governance is community based
- Scholars of Islam and community members serve on the governing boards of mosques, madrassas and schools
- In governance, the Sunnah of the Prophet is observed

Governance in Shi'a

- Shi'a Muslims revere the descendants of the Prophet.
- Muhammad, and believe that they have divine right to lead Muslims.
- Such a leader is referred to as imam.
- The final word in any uncertainty about any religious or political issues lies with the representative of the imam.
- Governance is in the hands of mullahs (priests) who rule by religious decree. (10)

2.2 Discuss the advantages of internal differences in religions.

- Internal differences allow for differences in the interpretation of sacred texts.
- There is potential for religious growth, arising from interaction of subdivisions.
- It is also more accommodating, as human beings are not all the same.
- Internal differences encourage tolerance, as different views are also accepted within the same religion.
- They force the adherents to focus on what is common, rather than the differences.
- Major beliefs remain unchanged, but practices may differ among subdivisions of the same religion.
- E.g. In Islam, the shahadah (testimony that Allah alone is worthy of worship, and that Muhammad is His Messenger) is non-negotiable, but differences in jurisprudence and rituals do exist.
- In African Traditional Religion, ancestral worship is non-negotiable, but rituals are very different across the various branches. (8)

2.3 Answer the following questions:**2.3.1 Discuss inspiration in the context of religion.**

Inspiration is an important normative source in many religions.

- It is the true origin of all religions.
- Inspiration refers to the power or force of an extraordinary being taking over a chosen being.
- The founding figures of many religions were inspired by a higher power or wisdom.
- Such people felt they received 'revelation' from an extraordinary being.
- In African Traditional Religion the mediums or diviners receive inspiration while they are in a trance.
- Inspiration is a powerful motivation for the followers of a religion.

- There are several types of inspiration, namely:
 - Divine inspiration that is direct and immediate and inspired the founders of religions.
 - Contemporary inspiration that is ongoing and serves to unite worshippers with their Creator.
 - Mediums and diviners in ATR communicate with the spiritual realm through inspiration.

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2.3.2 Name and explain THREE hermeneutical principles.

Mark first THREE answers only

Grammar and historical context

- This means that the writings must be understood within the context of the time and circumstances.
- Rules of grammar means use of exact and ordinary meaning of words.

Clearest meaning

- The meaning that is clearest or most obvious to the reader must be considered, when interpreting normative sources.

Plan, purpose and context

- The plan or structure of the whole document must be taken into account
- An extract must be seen as part of the whole within the context
- For example, is the writing poetry or prose

Meaning of words

- The meaning of words changes over time, context and in different places
- E.g. "Adam knew Eve" meant he had sexual intercourse with her
- For correct interpretation, the original meaning must be used

Figurative language

- This implies using certain words to represent something in sacred text, like the 'seed' and 'soil' in the parable of the sower, in Christianity
- It must be identified to avoid literal interpretation
- Examples include parables in Christianity, Buddhism and Hinduism
- Require considering other hermeneutical principles to interpret correctly

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QUESTION 3**3.1 3.1.1 The state of religious co-operation in South Africa prior to the 1994 democratic elections**

- In pre-1994 or apartheid South Africa all aspects of society, including religion, were dominated by the policy of apartheid.
- Only Christianity was recognised in public and taught in schools.
- Other religions were simply ignored, or misrepresented
- Thus, religions were 'apart' from each other and even within a religion, there was separation along racial lines
- During the height of the struggle years, however, religion proved to be a powerful force of resistance and unity among different religions
- Leaders from different religions stood together and often led the protest in a strong show of interreligious co-operation
- Examples of struggle religious leaders include Rev Dr Frank Chikane, Arch-bishop Desmond Tutu, Rev Dr Allan Boesak, Archbishop Denis Hurley, Imam Haron, Chief Rabbi Cyril Harris, Ashwin Trikamjee, etc
- The South African Council of Churches (SACC) was formed in 1968
- The SACC united Christians of various denominations
- The Call of Islam was formed in 1984
- Jews for Justice was formed in 1985
- The World Conference of Religions for Peace (WCRP – SA) branch was established in 1984

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3.1.2 The achievements of the NRLF or NICSA

- They are succeeding with HIV/Aids as the numbers of new infections have decreased, and free treatment is available
- They have also succeeded in promoting all religions in education because different religions are given fair opportunities in schools
- They are succeeding in preventing inter-religious conflict in South Africa because there is religious co-operation among different religions in South Africa
- They are failing in addressing child abuse and GBV, because the numbers of cases are increasing
- They are failing in promoting ethical and moral values because the rate of fraud and corruption is increasing daily'

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3.1.3 The purpose of PROCMURA

- The purpose of PROCMURA is to bear witness to the gospel (living a Christian lifestyle and be a living testimony) within an interfaith environment
- To promote:
 - peaceful co-existence among the Christians and the Muslims
 - constructive engagement within Muslims for peace
- To empower women and youth through educational programs
- To facilitate reconciliation between Christians and Muslim

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3.2 3.2.1 Discuss humanism in religious context

- Refers to the teaching that human matters take priority than supernatural or divine matters.
- The term generally applied to the overreaching social and intellectual philosophies of the Renaissance era.
- Enlightenment philosophers like Hobbes and Hume's influences help the spread of humanism through Europe and America
- During the age of enlightenment, science, reason, and intellectualism advanced. God was no longer the starting point to understand the world, but the mind.
- It was first used as a concept in the 1950s. The term 'humanism' was originally a religious term.
- In the 19th century the meaning of 'humanism' shifted to mean 'atheism' to most English speakers.

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Discuss the positive contribution made by secularism to religion.

- Religious influence has declined in many spheres of society.
- It promotes religious freedom.
- It promotes religious tolerance.
- As a result of secular influence, no religion is officially favoured by the state.
- There is peaceful coexistence because all religions are recognised as being equal.
- In a secular constitution, all religions may practise and worship in their own ways but must not infringe on the religious rights of others.
- In state functions, such as the inauguration of the president, all religions participate.
- Religion cannot dictate terms on the laws of the state.
- Secularism has led to re-evaluation/re-interpretation of scriptures.

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QUESTION 4**4.1 Compare Darwin's theory of evolution and any ONE of the Abrahamic religions' versions of creation.****ISLAM / CHRISTIANITY / JUDAISM**

- Teaches that Allah / God is the creator of all that is in heaven and on earth.
- The first human was Adam, who God made from clay.
- Allah breathed his spirit into Adam, and he came to life.
- Eve (Hawwa) was then created from Adam's rib.
- Humans were given the highest status of all God's / Allah's creation.
- They originally lived in Paradise / Garden of Eden.
- Humans were created that they may worship God / Allah
- According to the theory of evolution, humans were not created perfect.
- Like all other species, humans gradually evolved (changed their form) and became more complex by developing along the path of successful variation.
- Darwin believed that humans have no higher status but, in the fight for survival, they adapted better and were favoured, while those that did not, became extinct.
- Both the world and its species change over time.
- It is thus clear that Islam rejects the notion that Man is just another animal that evolved from apes.

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4.2 Explain the Big Bang theory

- According to the Big Bang theory, it is not known what existed before the Big Bang.
- The Big Bang happened about 13,7 billion years ago.
- The Big Bang Theory teaches that there was an enormous explosion from which the different planets were formed.
- This enormous explosion occurred in space and, the universe appeared and expanded to an enormous size.
- The Big Bang theory states that this process of creation took a split second.
- Small temperature differences in the initial explosion resulted in the formation of matter and energy.
- The matter condensed into lumps and formed the stars and galaxies.
- Some of the lumps in galaxies condensed into a combination of stars and planets.
- Scientists believe that the universe is still expanding.
- It is not known whether or how the universe will end.
- Earth was formed about 4,5 billion years ago.

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4.3 Discuss responses of ANY ONE to Darwin's theory:

Christianity / ISLAM / JUDAISM EXAMPLE

- Christianity has no doubt that God created the universe as part of His divine plan for humanity.
- The book of Genesis describes how God created the world in six days (and on the seventh day He rested).
- God created Adam and Eve thus there is no place for the theory of evolution in creation.
- Darwin's work was regarded as controversial by the church.
- The theory was criticised as follows:
 - There is no evidence in human history for the development of new species.
 - There is no evidence of one species having developed from another.
 - The attempts to create new species by cross-breeding tend to be unsuccessful because the hybrids cannot breed.
 - Christians argue that certain aspects of creation are too complex to have happened by natural selection.
- Many Christians resolve the conflict by suggesting that the Bible should be interpreted symbolically and not literally

HINDUISM EXAMPLE

- Hindus have no problem with evolution.
- They believe that the universe is based on evolution.
- They believe that they have a more advanced theory of evolution than the scientific one.
- The scientific theory is limited.
- It focuses only on the physical perspective of creation.
- Hindus believe that humans have control over their spiritual and physical evolution.
- Hindus believe that if one lives a good life one will evolve through many rebirths until one is physically and spiritually advanced.
- Ultimately, one will achieve liberation from the physical and be one with God.
- Hindus believe that there is an intelligent designer behind everything like evolution of humanity and of the universe.

Example 3: BUDDHISM

- Many Buddhists argue that the theory of evolution and Buddhism are in agreement.
- Since Buddhists believe in the impermanence of everything, even gods are impermanent.
- Even Buddhas do not live forever.
- Buddhism does not have an account for creation.
- Buddhists do not mind what scientists say about how the universe and people came into being.
- They do, however, attach special significance to human existence.
- Buddhists believe that all life involves constant transformation and evolution.
- Buddhists believed in evolution long before Western scientists did.

- Buddhists believe in the continuity of all living beings.
 - Therefore, they have no problem with the idea that human beings may have evolved from more primitive primate forms.
- (10)

4.4 Why have some religions rejected Darwin's theory of evolution?

- It is mainly the Abrahamic religions that are against the theory of evolution because it is against their fundamental teachings about the creation of humans and their status in the universe.
- Evolution does not recognise the existence of a Creator.
- Nor does it put human beings at the centre of creation.
- According to evolution, a human being is simply another organism.
- This is contrary to the teachings of the Abrahamic religions, as well as the African Traditional Religion.
- The Abrahamic religions teach that human beings are created in the image of God, which places human beings above all creation.
- According to evolution, humans are part of the process of life, coming into being and passing away.
- This is against religious teachings which teach that human beings are immortal, and that they possess a spiritual part (soul).
- Religions teach that everything was created by God and each creation was perfect.
 - This implies that human beings were created perfectly, and they did not evolve from primates
 - They further argue that the evolution of a new species had never been recorded.

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QUESTION 5

5.1 With reference to any ONE religion that you have studied, discuss its central teachings under the following headings:

5.1.1 The nature of humanity with reference to community and the individual

EXAMPLE 1: Hinduism

- According to the traditional Hindu view, human beings may be divided into four categories called varnas/castes.
- These varnas serve the purpose of organising society.
- Individuals then know their place or role in society.
- The resultant division of labour moulds the relationship between the community and the individual.
- Varnas is to categorise people according to their intrinsic qualities.
- The highest caste consists of Brahmanas, the spiritual teachers, priests, philosophers and law-makers.
- They must provide spiritual guidance and intellectual sustenance to society.
- The second caste is the Ksatriyas, rulers and warriors, whose duty is to govern the nation and to protect it against aggression.
- They must use their power to protect the weak and punish the wicked.
- The third category is the business persons. They must earn wealth.
- They must spend their wealth in charity and for the welfare of society.
- The fourth caste is Sudras, or labourers who must be active and honest.

EXAMPLE 2: Islam

- Islam creates a balance between the rights of individuals and the rights of the community.
- If there is conflict between the right of individuals and that of the majority, the community's right takes precedence.
- Individual rights must not cause harm to or violate the right of the majority.
- The individual has specific rights which cannot be denied, but with those rights comes obligations to the family, community and state.
- Islam believes that its followers are obliged to provide support and assistance to weak members of the community.
- The community should create a context in which the physical and intellectual capabilities of all its members can flourish.
- The community must encourage all that is good or beneficial and forbid or discourage all that is evil.
- The collective affairs of the community should be run on a basis of mutual consultation.
- Muslims have social obligations not just to their communities, but towards all humanity.

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5.1.2 Nature of divinity.

Example 1: African Traditional Religion

- God created humans to live as a community. Humans were given principles and values so that they would always live-in harmony.
- Most of the teachings and practices that make up the ATR are concerned with harmony and good relationship with family/clan, community, ancestors, natural world, God.
- The individual cannot grow/develop without the community.
- The individual derives the meaning of life from the community which is the source.
- Individual security is attained through the construction of the community.

Example 2: Islam

Islam believes in a universal God called Allah.

- Belief in the oneness of Allah is the foundation of Islam.
- Allah has other titles, which reflect His attributes.
- He is the Creator (Khaliq) and Originator (Badi) of the universe, continuing to create new forms of life and sustaining all of creation.
- Human beings must affirm and acknowledge the existence of Allah and lives in accordance with His divine will.
- The Muslim understanding of divinity is shaped essentially by the Qur'an.

Example 3: Judaism

- They believe in the existence of a Supreme Being called Yahweh.
- God is the Creator of the universe.
- God revealed Himself to the forefathers and prophets.
- God is the Spirit but has the attributes of man.
- He is eternally present, through history and beyond.
- God continuously creates, judges, redeems, and has personal involvement in human life.

Example 4: Buddhism

- Most forms of Buddhism accept that there are beings who are more powerful and who live longer than humans.
- They may be referred to as 'gods'.
- The core Buddhist teaching that everything is impermanent implies that even the gods in Buddhism are not immortal.
- They may live for millions of years but eventually will die and be reborn.
- They did not create the universe, for they themselves are part of it.
- Buddhists may pray to a local god, but they do not believe that the god can help them become enlightened.

Example 5: Hinduism

- Vedas teach that although there are many different gods and goddesses in the universe, they are all manifestations of the same divine power.
- This power is referred to Brahman – Brahman is not a supreme being or deity
- Brahman is the divine power that makes up the entire universe
- It is the 'World Soul' that exists everywhere, and everything is part of it
- Brahman is an impersonal power that cannot be described or known by humans, unless and until they attain spiritual liberation (moksha)

Example 6: Christianity

- Christians believe in the existence of the supreme and divine being known as God
- God manifests himself in three persons
- God the Father creator of the universe
- God the Son the Saviour and Liberator of humanity
- God the Holy Spirit the Counsellor and advocate of Christians
- Christians believe in the existence of the supreme and divine being known as God

Example 7: Baha'i Faith

- 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

Example 8: Taoism

- In Taoism all there is, is the universe and so all there is, is divine.
- The workings of the universe are divine.
- Taoists suggest that the Tao cannot be described.
- The things that are seen and touched are 'being'.
- Unlimited divine is described as 'non-being'
- The non-being is the starting point of everything.
- According to the Taoists everything in creation consists of two kinds of forces: the yang is active, light, forceful, male, and the yin is passive, dark, and female.

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5.1.3 Nature of the world.

EXAMPLE 1: AFRICAN TRADITIONAL RELIGION

- For the indigenous traditional African, the nature of the world includes all that exists.
- The world is understood more as the cosmos than simply as the planet Earth.
- All that exists is looked upon as a living wholeness manifesting itself in a variety of forms and phases.
- Life is understood as a perpetual exchange of interconnected forces among and between all beings.
- According to this understanding, the cosmos or the universe does not have a centre.

EXAMPLE 2: ISLAM

- According to the Qur'an, Allah created the universe in six phases.
- Allah also provides the energy that everything in the universe needs for survival and growth.
- The existence of the universe is not accidental and life is not purposeless, but planned and purposeful.
- The universe, having been created in time, is not eternal but has a fixed time span.
- Since Allah alone is eternal, to believe in the eternity of the universe would mean equating creation to the Creator.
- This is a major sin (shirk)

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5.2 Compare the advantages and the disadvantages of the oral Tradition in religions.

- This refers to the way of passing the original message, from one generation to another, by word of mouth, through story-telling, verbal teaching and rituals
- In all religions, it serves as an effective way of passing the original message, from one generation to another.
- Oral tradition provides more clarity than written text, owing to narrative style
- However, the original message may lose its meaning with the passing of time
- Some religions lay more emphasis on oral tradition than their sacred texts
- Oral tradition still plays an important role in some religions, e.g. African Traditional Religion.
- Oral tradition still runs parallel to written texts.
- The chain of narrators is also important, as it leads to the source.
- Oral tradition reflects local dialect and culture. It is therefore more easily understood in each culture.

- The disadvantage of oral tradition is that it can give rise to different and contradictory versions.
- Rituals in many religions include oral traditions.
- E.g. Baptism in Christianity and initiation ceremonies/ veneration of ancestors in African Traditional Religion

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[50]**TOTAL: 150**