



basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

NATIONAL SENIOR CERTIFICATE

GRADE 12

RELIGION STUDIES P1

NOVEMBER 2025

MARKING GUIDELINES

MARKS: 150

These marking guidelines consist of 12 pages.

SECTION A (COMPULSORY)**QUESTION 1**

1.1	1.1.1	C✓	(1)
	1.1.2	A✓	(1)
	1.1.3	B✓	(1)
	1.1.4	C✓	(1)
	1.1.5	C✓	(1)
	1.1.6	A✓	(1)
	1.1.7	D✓	(1)
	1.1.8	A✓	(1)
	1.1.9	A✓	(1)
	1.1.10	A✓	(1)
1.2	1.2.1	Polytheism✓	(1)
	1.2.2	Lineage✓	(1)
	1.2.3	Yoga ✓	(1)
	1.2.4	Theravada ✓	(1)
	1.2.5	Pantheon✓	(1)
	1.2.6	Cosmology ✓	(1)
1.3	1.3.1	Sudra✓ The others are Islamic concepts. The others are the Five Pillars of Islam'✓	(2)
	1.3.2	Mikvah✓ The others are concepts in Buddhism.✓	(2)
	1.3.3	Atheism✓ The others have to do with belief/beliefs in a God or gods.✓	(2)
	1.3.4	iSangoma✓ The others are names referring to a Supreme Being. /The others are Deities✓	(2)
	1.3.5	Karma✓ The others are from the four classes of Hinduism/the others are the caste system according to Hinduism.✓	(2)

NOTE: Credit the candidates if the correct word is provided instead of the letter.

1.4	1.4.1	G✓	(1)
	1.4.2	F✓	(1)
	1.4.3	D✓	(1)
	1.4.4	A✓	(1)
	1.4.5	C✓	(1)
	1.4.6	B✓	(1)

- 1.5 1.5.1 True ✓✓ (2)
- 1.5.2 False✓
 • Dogma refers to a set of beliefs that is taken to be absolutely true and fixed. ✓
 • A doctrine is a set of beliefs/principles. ✓ (2)
- 1.5.3 False✓
 • In African Traditional Religion, when the first generation died, their spirits joined the spirit world where the Creator lives. / they became ancestors and messengers of God.' ✓ (2)
 • The doctrine of heaven is found in the Abrahamic religions. ✓
- 1.5.4 False✓
 • The Reformation in the church was started by Martin Luther the German priest. ✓
 • Martin Luther King Jnr was an American human rights activist. ✓ (2)
- 1.5.5 False✓
 • Kosher is that which is permissible in Judaism. ✓ (2)
- 1.5.6 False✓
 • Bahá'u'lláh is the founder of Bahá'i Faith. ✓
 • Siddhartha Gautama is the founder of Buddhism. ✓ (2)
- 1.6 1.6.1 Difference
 • It means features that separate religions or people. ✓
 • It means 'being unlike', 'distinction' between religions. ✓
 • A point in which religions are not the same. ✓
NOTE: Other relevant responses should be accepted.
Relevant examples that illustrate the term must be credited (2)
- 1.6.2 Unity
 • Where two or more religions co-exist. ✓
 • Harmony/Agreement among religious people. ✓
 • A religious person finds unity with God/Supreme Being through prayer. ✓
NOTE: Other relevant responses should be accepted
Relevant examples that illustrate the term must be credited (2)
- 1.6.3 Immortality
 • The belief that humans are meant to live forever. ✓
 • The belief that the soul of a human being exists after death. ✓
 • A belief that humans were not created to die but live forever. ✓
NOTE: Other relevant responses should be accepted
Relevant examples that illustrate the term must be credited (2)

TOTAL SECTION A: 50

SECTION B**QUESTION 2**

- 2.1 2.1.1
 - They believe that they are the nation chosen by God.
 - God revealed Himself and His Law to the Jews.
 - They believe that the Messiah will come and rule the world with them.**NOTE: Other relevant responses should be accepted.** (4)
- 2.1.2
 - Hinduism teaches that human beings are the cause of all evil.
 - In Hinduism the soul is regarded as eternal and unchangeable.
 - Hinduism is the only religion that says, 'You can be god'.
 - Belief in the cycle of death and rebirth, i.e. reincarnation.**NOTE: Other relevant responses should be accepted** (4)
- 2.2 2.2.1
 - Buddhism and Taoism do not believe in the concept of God(s) or a Supreme Being.
 - Buddhism and Taoism do not believe in life after death.
 - They are both religions of the Far East.
 - Both have sacred books.**NOTE: Other relevant responses should be accepted** (4)
- 2.2.2
 - They both believe in the existence of a Supreme Being.
 - They both believe there is life after death.
 - They both believe that we should show respect and empathy for human beings and helping those who are physically, emotionally, socially and spiritually in need.**NOTE: Other relevant responses should be accepted.** (4)
- 2.3 2.3.1
 - This means that the religions being compared are similar enough for a fair comparison to be made.
 - In a religious context, the religions have characteristics that are common.
 - E.g. divinity can be compared in Christianity and African Traditional Religion.**NOTE: Other relevant responses should be accepted.** (4)
- 2.3.2
 - It is the pursuit of social justice in Reformed Judaism.
 - E.g. males and females praying together in the synagogue with no separation. There is gender equality.**NOTE: Other relevant responses should be accepted.** (4)
- 2.3.3
 - It is a story that demonstrates a moral point.
 - These stories are designed to teach spiritual truths.
 - E.g. The blind man and the elephant in Buddhism.**NOTE: Other relevant responses should be accepted.** (4)

- 2.4
- Incarnation is the belief that God became human.
 - E.g. Jesus Christ is the incarnation of God in Christianity.
 - Resurrection is the act of raising someone from the dead.
 - E.g. Jesus died and rose from the dead after three days.
- (8)
- 2.5
- Buddha had no divine qualities.
 - He only showed the way to nirvana.
 - Each person is responsible for his/her own fortune or misfortune.
 - There is no intervention (such as forgiveness, divine punishment) by a Supreme Being.
- (6)
- 2.6
- The student stage**
- To show respect for the teacher.
 - To study diligently.
 - Not to have sex before marriage and not to take alcohol, drugs or tobacco.
- The married, family stage**
- To support one's spouse, children, elderly parents and sick relatives.
 - To earn money honestly.
 - To perform rituals and celebrate festivals.
- The retirement stage**
- To devote time to study scripture.
 - To pray and to train one's grandchildren.
- The optional stage**
- The devout person withdraws from society.
 - Gives up all possessions and wanders.
- NOTE: Any TWO of the above must be credited.**
- (8)
[50]

QUESTION 3

- 3.1 3.1.1 • It was to identify how much of a global appetite there is for an enhanced discussion of faith in the media space.
• It was to identify global media coverage of religion. (2)
- 3.1.2 • She means that coverage of religious issues fails to address real religious issues. Instead, it focuses on sensationalism.
• Media coverage fails to address the needs of people who are religiously inclined. (2)
- 3.1.3 • There is a growing gap between the coverage of religion and needs of the faithful.
• There is a global desire for better coverage, understanding and representation of faith issues in mainstream media.
• Global digital news depends on clickbait and controversy. (6)
- 3.1.4 • It refers to traditional forms of mass communication that reach a large audience. (2)
- 3.1.5 • Hard stories attract more interest from the public than soft stories.
• The media industry is a profit driven business, and hard stories are more profitable.
• The lack of knowledge and familiarity of journalists with subject matter, cause them to prefer controversial stories.
• There are limited economic resources available to journalists to cover religious issues.
• Journalists express fear around getting religion coverage right in a secular newsroom. (8)
- 3.1.6 • There is little editorial support for reporting on religious matters.
• They need to strike a balance between pleasing editors and also the religious community.
• Religion is reported on only if it is profitable. (6)
- NOTE: Other relevant responses should be accepted.**

- Negative reporting about religion leads to panic or unnecessary fear among the public.
- Continuous exposure to controversial and scandalous stories can increase rates of anxiety and depression in the society.
- Negative reporting can shape belief and attitudes about religion.
- By focusing on controversy, media outlets can create societal divisions.
- Religion can lose support and trust in society.
- Continuous exposure to scandals or distressing news can desensitise society and become more tolerant of scandals.
- Negative reporting about religion can create a pessimistic or fearful world view about religion.

(8)

NOTE: Other relevant responses should be accepted.

3.2 **ADVANTAGES**

- When religious organisations use social media it helps the organisation to reach new audiences.
- It is an affordable and efficient marketing and a promotion strategy for the organisation.
- The organisation can monitor posts from the public, and respond accordingly.

DISADVANTAGES

- The organisation can face challenges like spreading misinformation, privacy compromised and difficulty in maintaining authenticity.
- Negative publicity can damage the organisation's reputation.
- It can cause social disruptions within religious communities, as different opinions and perspectives can clash.

(8)

NOTE: Other relevant responses should be accepted

3.3

- It would be helpful if a religion had strong policies and procedures that give guidance about how it should conduct itself.
- It needs to appoint a spokesperson who is media-savvy to interact with the media.
- Members of the religion need to know and follow media protocol.
- Religions should avoid being confrontational and should be aware that there are usually several sides to a story, 'Yours, mine and the truth'.
- An open and objective approach is better than an angry and defensive response.
- Religions can be confrontational, where they feel they have been wronged.

(8)

NOTE: Other relevant responses should be accepted

[50]

QUESTION 4

4.1 • Burma (2)

4.2 • They exploited religion to get popularity.
 • The military government wanted to champion the cause of Buddhism as the only religion in Myanmar.
 • They would get support from the Buddhist priests.
 • Buddhist monks would use their influence to increase support for the military government.
 • They framed the Rohingya as a 'common enemy,' and portrayed themselves as champions of Buddhism. (8)

4.3 • It is the expulsion or killing of a race or religious group in order to form a new community.
 • It is a systematic removal of a race or religious group.
 • It is to deny a certain ethnic group citizenship, or right to citizenship in their country of birth. (4)

4.4 • This is a religious conflict to a large extent.
 • It is because Buddhism was used by the military government to strengthen its legitimacy.
 • Myanmar is a Buddhist country with Rohingya-Muslims as a minority group.
 • Buddhist monks have turned against Rohingya people, blocking humanitarian aid and calling for social and political exclusion.
 • A Buddhist activist group composed of monks and laity incited the violence.
 • The international media agrees that the Rohingya as a Muslim minority are suffering from religious persecution at the hands of the Buddhist majority.

OR

• Religion contributes to a lesser extent.
 • It is also a political and ethnic conflict.
 • The government discriminated against other groups like Kokang and Panthay.
 • The Rohingya were tolerated for several generations, but the persecution started only with the military government.
 • This is evident because the military government denied Rohingya citizenship. (10)
 • Buddhism teaches tolerance. The political changes caused the conflict

NOTE: Other relevant responses should be accepted.

4.5 • Intervention from international communities is necessary in order to uphold human rights.
 • International organizations can better expose any human rights violations, where local organizations might fear reprisals from the military government.
 • This conflict has resulted in the persecution and displacement of minority religious groups, violating fundamental human rights. International intervention can help to ensure human rights are protected.

- International intervention can help to promote peace and stability as this conflict has had far-reaching consequences, destabilising entire regions and creating conditions for further violence.
- International communities have a moral and legal obligation to intervene to stop atrocities.
- The international community have access to vast numbers of resources to help the Rohingya Muslims to rebuild their lives.

NOTE: Other relevant responses should be accepted.

(8)

4.6

- There must be disarmament of all warring factions.
- They should form a government of national unity (GNU), which must include all groups of the society.
- Constitutional protection for all.
- All corruption and bias by government officials should be exposed and punished.
- Legal recourse against discrimination and hate speech.
- The state must adopt a secular approach and must protect all religions equally.
- A religious leader's forum must be established so that all religions can interact with the government.
- An independent judiciary must be established
- Formation of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission

NOTE: Other relevant responses should be accepted.

(10)

4.7

- **YES**
- The government of Myanmar discriminated against minority groups in their country.
- There are human rights violations that are perpetrated by the military government.
- The government encouraged civil unrest in the country by supporting a group that attacked and killed people from minority groups.
- The government has failed to protect and recognise some of its citizens.
- More than 1 million people have been displaced due to discrimination and persecution, and the government has done nothing to help.

NOTE: Other relevant responses should be accepted.

(8)

[50]

QUESTION 5

- 5.1 5.1.1
 - This means that people should be able to accept and understand different religions and their beliefs as valid.
 - It is the ability to appreciate spiritual values, beliefs and practices which are different from your own. (2)
- 5.1.2
 - According to the extract, modern human rights in Europe started as a response to the conflict caused by the Protestant Reformation and the Catholic Counter Reformation.
 - Human rights were adopted as a foundation for peace, life and laws that excluded conventional religion. (4)
- 5.1.3
 - The Reformation led to the establishment of Protestantism, a new branch of Christianity.
 - It led to the divisions of Western Christianity, impacting religious, political and social structures across Europe, and the world at large.
 - The Reformation ended the religious unity of Western Christianity, leading to religious diversity and conflict.
 - It also led to the rise in secular world views.

NOTE: Other relevant responses should be accepted. (4)

5.2

EXAMPLES:**Freedom from discrimination**

- You have the responsibility to uphold this right both for yourself and for others.
- You must not discriminate against others on the basis of race, colour, sex, language or political opinion.

The right to education

- You have the responsibility to attend classes.
- You have the responsibility to be a diligent learner/student doing the work and study required.

The right to marriage and family

- You have the responsibility to support and promote family life, especially your own.
- You have the responsibility not to act in any way that would lead to the break-down of a family.

NOTE: Other relevant responses should be accepted. (8)

- 5.3
- Religious organisations can hold workshops to conscientise people about human rights.
 - Take an active part in activities that prevent the violation of human rights, e.g. xenophobia.
 - Hold interreligious conferences to promote freedom of worship.
 - Plan and organise activities to highlight violation of human rights, e.g. women and children abuse.
 - Form forums that will serve as a watchdog in communities, to ensure that acts of violence are reported to relevant people.
 - Work hand in hand with media to promote human rights.
 - Publicly denounce acts of hate speech, violence and discrimination in the name of religion
 - Make places of worship accessible and welcoming to everyone.
 - Challenge traditions that violate human rights, such as child marriage, female genital mutilation or caste based discrimination.

NOTE: Other relevant responses should be accepted.

(10)

- 5.4 5.4.1 **Example 1: Christianity**
- 'Love the lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind.'
 - This teaching serves as the core principle for living a righteous life, prioritizing love for both God and others.
 - 'Love your neighbour as you love yourself'.
 - This is summarised as the Golden Rule with emphasis on forgiveness and service to others.
- Example 2: African Traditional Religion**
- 'The ancestors are the guardians of goodness and morality.'
 - Human beings are expected to strive for good actions, with a strong emphasis on community harmony.
 - 'Umuntu ngumuntu ngabantu.'
 - This teaching emphasizes oneness and interconnectedness of the people within the community and encourages harmony and respect amongst each other.

NOTE: Other relevant responses should be accepted.

(8)

- 5.4.2 **Example 1: Buddhism**
- Buddhism teaches the Eightfold Path to attain Nirvana.
 - The Eightfold Path encourages each one to work towards spiritual fulfilment, regardless of the particular religion. This is freedom of religion in practice.
 - Buddhism does not reject other religions.
 - This means that among all religions in the world there are minor differences in their various teachings and practices, thus promoting religious freedom.

5.4.2 Example 2: Islam

- 'Let he who wishes to believe, do so and let he who wishes to disbelieve, do so.'
- This encourages citizens to exercise the right to freedom of thought and expression.
- The Qur'an states 'There is no compulsion in religion.'
- People have freedom of belief because it is impossible to force people to believe in something.

NOTE: Other relevant responses should be accepted.**(8)****5.5**

- The purpose of the Holy Office was to try to keep Catholic beliefs and practices pure by prosecuting people who did not follow an orthodox path.
- The court was established partly to ensure that converts to Catholicism from Judaism and Islam were genuine.
- If there was suspicion that a person was not really a Catholic, they would be tried by the Spanish Inquisition.

(6)**[50]****TOTAL SECTION B: 100**
GRAND TOTAL: 150