



NSW Education Standards Authority

**2020** HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION

# Studies of Religion II

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**General  
Instructions**

- Reading time – 5 minutes
- Working time – 3 hours
- Write using black pen
- Write your Centre Number and Student Number at the top of pages 5 and 11

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**Total marks:  
100**

**Section I – 30 marks** (pages 2–11)

This section has two parts, Part A and Part B

- Allow about 50 minutes for this section

Part A – 15 marks

- Attempt Questions 1–11

Part B – 15 marks

- Attempt Questions 12–22

**Section II – 30 marks** (pages 13–15)

- Attempt TWO questions from Questions 23–27
- You must NOT choose the same Religious Tradition in both Section II and Section III
- Allow about 1 hour for this section

**Section III – 20 marks** (pages 16–17)

- Attempt ONE question from Questions 28–32
- You must NOT choose the same Religious Tradition in both Section II and Section III
- Allow about 35 minutes for this section

**Section IV – 20 marks** (page 18)

- Attempt Question 33
- Allow about 35 minutes for this section

## **Section I**

**30 marks**

**Allow about 50 minutes for this section**

### **Part A — Religion and Belief Systems in Australia post-1945**

**15 marks**

**Attempt Questions 1–11**

Use the multiple-choice answer sheet for Questions 1–10.

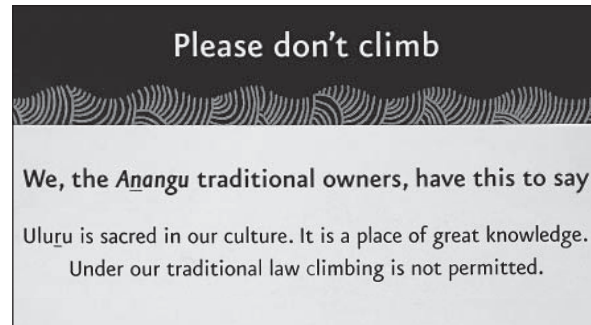
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- 1 What do most New Age religions have in common with Australia's major religious traditions?
  - A. They use sacred texts.
  - B. They prioritise music in worship.
  - C. They have a spiritual dimension.
  - D. They rely on a formal set of spiritual beliefs.
  
- 2 Communication between which of the following is an example of ecumenical dialogue?
  - A. Buddhists and Hindus
  - B. Baptists and Presbyterians
  - C. Catholics and Orthodox Jews
  - D. Muslims and the Salvation Army
  
- 3 Which of the following is a reflection of secularism?
  - A. Increasing participation in social activism
  - B. Growing tensions between religious traditions
  - C. The number of people switching denominations
  - D. The number of marriages being conducted by civil celebrants

- 4 Which Australian state has the highest percentage of people with a religious affiliation?
- A. New South Wales
  - B. South Australia
  - C. Tasmania
  - D. Victoria

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Use the following to answer Questions 5 and 6.



The Uluru Climb closed permanently on 26 October 2019

Visitors are advised that climbing Uluru is a breach of the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act*, and penalties will be issued to visitors attempting to do so.

Courtesy of Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park/Parks Australia

- 5 Why was closing Uluru to climbers important for the Anangu traditional owners?
- A. It recognised the power of ceremonial life.
  - B. It acknowledged obligations of land and people.
  - C. It educated younger generations about sacred sites.
  - D. It demonstrated the authority of Australian federal law.
- 6 How was the closure of Uluru to climbers significant for the land rights movement?
- A. It demonstrated the power of the environmental movement.
  - B. It demonstrated that traditional law cannot accommodate tourism.
  - C. It provided an example of traditional and Australian law working together.
  - D. It provided an example of traditional law being privileged over Australian law.

- 7 Which of the following is correct?
- A. Between 1996 and 2016, over 50% of Australian Pentecostal adherents migrated from the USA.
  - B. Pentecostal churches are socially conservative and experience little denominational switching in or out.
  - C. Between 1996 and 2006, almost 20% of Catholic adherents switched into a Pentecostal denomination.
  - D. Adherents switching into a Pentecostal denomination are more likely to have switched from another Pentecostal denomination.

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- 8 What was established by the 1998 *Native Title (Amendment) Act*?
- A. *Terra nullius* was deemed to be invalid.
  - B. The rights of leaseholders could override native title.
  - C. The rights of freehold property owners were recognised.
  - D. Native title could coexist with the rights of leaseholders.
- 9 Which decade saw the Catholic Church become the largest Christian denomination in Australia?
- A. 1950s
  - B. 1960s
  - C. 1970s
  - D. 1980s

© Commonwealth of Australia

- 10 We seek constitutional reforms to empower our people and take *a rightful place* in our own country. When we have power over our destiny our children will flourish. They will walk in two worlds and their culture will be a gift to their country.

*Uluru Statement from the Heart*, 2017  
National Constitutional Convention

According to the source, how would constitutional reform contribute to the progress of reconciliation in Australia?

- A. It would assist in promoting national unity in Australia.
- B. It would improve Australians' knowledge about Aboriginal traditions.
- C. It would support Aboriginal communities in making land rights claims.
- D. It would enable Aboriginal people to gain control of the reconciliation process.



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## Studies of Religion II

### Section I (continued)

#### Part B — Religion and Non-Religion

15 marks

Attempt Questions 12–22

Use the multiple-choice answer sheet for Questions 12–21.

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- 12 Which practice is most characteristic of polytheism?
- A. Veneration of sacred texts
  - B. Ritualised worship of animals
  - C. Appealing to the gods for protection
  - D. Offering sacrifices to the almighty transcendent being

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What is the main message being communicated by the poster?

- A. The benefits of meditation
- B. The emptiness of materialism
- C. The benefits of social responsibility
- D. The emptiness of social transformation

- 14** Which of the following is correct?
- A. Islam is the largest religion in Malaysia.
  - B. Christianity is the largest religion in Malaysia.
  - C. Hinduism is the largest religion in Bangladesh.
  - D. Buddhism is the largest religion in Bangladesh.
- 15** On which of the following are an atheist and a scientific humanist most likely to have a similar view?
- A. The causes of environmental change
  - B. The role of science as the key to all human advancement
  - C. The value of materialism in achieving personal fulfilment
  - D. The relevance of a transcendent dimension in everyday life
- 16** Which of the following accounts for religious groups acting on behalf of disadvantaged groups?
- A. They value social cohesion
  - B. They have an individualistic world view
  - C. They have a focus on personal achievement
  - D. They are concerned by the impact of atheism
- 17** Sandy travelled from a country where, of the five major religious traditions, Buddhism has the greatest number of religious adherents. She then travelled to a country where Hinduism has the greatest number of adherents.

Where did Sandy travel?

- A. From India to Japan
- B. From China to Nepal
- C. From Cambodia to Pakistan
- D. From Sri Lanka to Thailand



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Charlie: Would you ever accept someone's theory if it couldn't be proven logically?

Robin: No. All statements and theories are meaningless, unless they can be verified by experiment or observation.

Charlie: I think that every proposition has meaning, even though it may be unprovable, such as the existence or non-existence of God.

Robin: I think that truth can be revealed through human reason across all cultures and societies.

How would Charlie and Robin best be described?

- A. Charlie is a humanist and Robin is an atheist.
- B. Charlie is an atheist and Robin is a humanist.
- C. Charlie is a humanist and Robin is an agnostic.
- D. Charlie is an agnostic and Robin is a humanist.

19 Statement 1: Moon worship is compatible with animism.

Statement 2: The belief that clouds have souls is compatible with animism.

Which of the following is correct?

- A. Both statements are true.
- B. Both statements are false.
- C. Statement 1 is false and statement 2 is true.
- D. Statement 1 is true and statement 2 is false.

20 Which of the following best accounts for the rise in new religious expression?

- A. The desire for increased flexibility in traditional religions
- B. The increasing role of women in some religious traditions
- C. The search for traditional religious practices that accommodate materialism
- D. The belief that sacred texts are no longer relevant in the light of scientific progress

- 21** My generation ... knows that ... seeking more and more for yourself doesn't work ... the system is not working. We need to imagine a different way. And we see that in issues like climate change.

VIV BENJAMIN (adapted)

Extract from MEREDITH LAKE, *The Bible in Australia: A cultural history*

Which of the following is expressed in this statement?

- A. The value of intergenerational dialogue
- B. The role of social responsibility in society
- C. The decline of materialism in contemporary society
- D. The growth of ecological awareness within religious traditions



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## Studies of Religion II

### Section II — Religious Tradition Depth Study

30 marks

Attempt TWO questions from Questions 23–27

Choose DIFFERENT Religious Traditions in Section II from the one you choose in Section III

Allow about 1 hour for this section

Answer both questions in the Sections II and III Writing Booklet. Extra writing booklets are available.

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#### Question 23 — Buddhism (15 marks)

- (a) (i) Outline how ONE Buddhist belief is expressed through ONE of the following significant practices. 3
- Pilgrimage
  - Temple Puja
  - Wesak
- (ii) What is the significance for the individual of the practice outlined in part (a) (i)? 4
- (b) *Generosity and kind words, conduct for others' welfare, impartiality in all things; these are suitable everywhere.* 8

The Buddha's advice to Sigalaka

*Sigalovada Sutta*

*Sigalovada Sutta: The Buddha's Advice to Sigalaka* (DN 31)

Translated from the Pali by John Kelly, Sue Sawyer, and Victoria Yareham

Access to Insight (BCBS Edition), 30 November 2013

<http://www.accesstoinsight.org/tipitaka/dn/dn.31.0.ksw0.html>

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To what extent does the above advice give guidance to adherents in ONE of the following areas?

- Bioethics
- Environmental ethics
- Sexual ethics

**Question 24 — Christianity (15 marks)**

- (a) (i) Outline ONE significant practice within Christianity from the following. **3**
- Baptism
  - Marriage ceremony
  - Saturday/Sunday worship
- (ii) What is the significance for the Christian community of the practice outlined in part (a) (i)? **4**

- (b) **8**
- This material cannot be displayed,  
due to copyright issues.

To what extent has ONE significant person or school of thought, other than Jesus, encouraged adherents to be *faithful* to Christian teachings?

**Question 25 — Hinduism (15 marks)**

- (a) (i) Outline the contribution to Hinduism of ONE person or school of thought, other than the Vedas. **3**
- (ii) What impact has the person or school of thought identified in part (a) (i) had on Hinduism? **4**

- (b) **8**
- This material cannot be displayed,  
due to copyright issues.

How do the ethical teachings of Hinduism guide adherents towards *the path of righteousness*? In your response, refer to ONE of the following ethical areas.

- Bioethics
- Environmental ethics
- Sexual ethics

**Question 26 — Islam (15 marks)**

- (a) (i) Outline ONE significant practice within Islam from the following. **3**
- Friday prayer at the mosque
  - Funeral ceremony
  - Hajj
- (ii) What is the significance for the Islamic community of the practice outlined in part (a) (i)? **4**

- (b) **8**

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due to copyright issues.

How does the above teaching give guidance to adherents in ONE of the following areas?

- Bioethics
- Environmental ethics
- Sexual ethics

**Question 27 — Judaism (15 marks)**

- (a) (i) Outline ONE ethical teaching in Judaism. **3**
- (ii) How does the teaching outlined in part (a) (i) guide adherents in their daily living in ONE of the following areas? **4**
- Bioethics
  - Environmental ethics
  - Sexual ethics

- (b) **8**

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due to copyright issues.

How does observance of the *laws and rules* express the beliefs of Judaism within ONE of the following significant practices?

- Death and mourning
- Marriage
- Synagogue services

## Section III — Religious Tradition Depth Study

20 marks

Attempt ONE question from Questions 28–32

Choose a DIFFERENT Religious Tradition in Section III from the ones you chose in Section II

Allow about 35 minutes for this section

Answer the question in the Sections II and III Writing Booklet. Extra writing booklets are available.

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Your answer will be assessed on how well you:

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding relevant to the question
  - incorporate significant aspects of religion to illustrate your answer
  - communicate using language and terminology appropriate to the study of religion
  - present ideas clearly in a cohesive response
- 

### Question 28 — Buddhism (20 marks)

*The mentor\* can be identified by four things: by restraining you from wrongdoing, guiding you towards good actions, telling you what you ought to know, and showing you the path ...*

Translated from the Pali  
by JOHN KELLY, SUE SAWYER and VICTORIA YAREHAM  
*Sigalovada Sutta*

\* mentor *tutor or teacher*

*Sigalovada Sutta: The Buddha's Advice to Sigalaka* (DN 31)  
Translated from the Pali by John Kelly, Sue Sawyer, and Victoria Yareham  
Access to Insight (BCBS Edition), 30 November 2013  
<http://www.accesstoinsight.org/tipitaka/dn/dn.31.0.ksw0.html>  
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To what extent has one significant person or school of thought, other than the Buddha, assisted adherents by showing them *the path*?

### Question 29 — Christianity (20 marks)

*Don't let the world around you squeeze you into its own mould, but let God re-make you so that your whole attitude of mind is changed.*

Romans 12:2

How does this teaching guide Christians in their ethical behaviour?



**Question 30 — Hinduism (20 marks)**

Question posed to H H Swami Vivekananda: *‘What do you gain by prayer?’*

Response by Swami Vivekananda: *‘I gained NOTHING. In fact, I LOST anger, depression, jealousy, irritation and insecurity.’*

Sri Venkateswara Temple  
svtsydney.org  
Courtesy of Sri Venkateswara Temple

How does the response by Swami Vivekananda reflect the essence of Hinduism as a living religious tradition?

**Question 31 — Islam (20 marks)**

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To what extent has ONE significant person or school of thought, other than Muhammad and the Four Rightly Guided Caliphs, provided *knowledge that is meaningful* to adherents?

**Question 32 — Judaism (20 marks)**

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How does this affirmation guide adherents to live a meaningful life?

**Please turn over**

## Section IV — Religion and Peace

**20 marks**

**Attempt Question 33**

**Allow about 35 minutes for this section**

Answer the question in the Section IV Writing Booklet. Extra writing booklets are available.

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Your answer will be assessed on how well you:

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding relevant to the question
  - incorporate significant aspects of religion to illustrate your answer
  - communicate using language and terminology appropriate to the study of religion
  - present ideas clearly in a cohesive response
- 

**Question 33** (20 marks)

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How do significant writings within sacred texts encourage *peace and harmony* in today's world? Make detailed reference to at least ONE religious tradition.

**End of paper**

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