



NSW Education Standards Authority

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Centre Number

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Student Number

2024 HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION

Studies of Religion II

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 this page and pages 5, 7 and 11

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.

- 1** Which of the following lists aspects of Aboriginal spirituality that are determined by the Dreaming?

 - A. Language, social status
 - B. Totems, sacred writings
 - C. Naming ceremony, land management
 - D. Kinship, obligations to the land and people
- 2** Which statement demonstrates why the Dreaming is important for the Land Rights movement?

 - A. It underpins connection to Country.
 - B. It allows for land to be bought and sold.
 - C. It provides an opportunity for economic growth.
 - D. It enables Australians to communicate in a common language.
- 3** What is the most significant ongoing effect of dispossession on Aboriginal spiritualities?

 - A. No obligation to the land or people
 - B. Disruption to Aboriginal Christian customs
 - C. No connection to individual and communal totems
 - D. Disruption to Aboriginal Peoples' cultural practices
- 4** Which of the following is contributing to the declining influence of religion in Australian society?

 - A. Increasing secularism
 - B. Increasing sectarianism
 - C. Decreasing ecumenism
 - D. Decreasing multiculturalism

- 5 What is the most likely reason for switching denominations within the current religious landscape?
- A. To create a dynamic and living religious tradition
 - B. To find a spirituality that aligns with an adherent's values
 - C. To have a scientific understanding of the origins of the universe
 - D. To acquire greater power and influence over individuals in society
- 6 Which of the following lists of components are emphasised in New Age religions?
- A. Environment, salvation, community
 - B. Sacred writings, class systems, meditation
 - C. Ethical teachings, institutional hierarchy, mysticism
 - D. Individualism, spiritual transformation, personal morality
- 7 According to Australian census data (2021), which of the following is correct?
- A. Judaism is the fastest growing religion in Australia.
 - B. Religions other than Christianity are increasing in Australia.
 - C. Decreasing numbers of Australians identify as 'No religion'.
 - D. Buddhism is the second largest religious tradition in Australia.
- 8 Which of the following best describes the importance of interfaith dialogue in multifaith Australia?
- A. It encourages peaceful coexistence.
 - B. It supports those considering switching denominations.
 - C. It promotes greater cooperation between different Christian denominations.
 - D. It contributes financial assistance to those fleeing war and natural disasters.

- 9 Which row of the table shows the religion that represents Islam in Australia in 2021?

RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION IN AUSTRALIA, 2021		
		% of adherents
A.	Religion 1	0.4%
B.	Religion 2	2.7%
C.	Religion 3	3.2%
D.	Religion 4	43.9%

Australian Bureau of Statistics
(Religious affiliation in 2021, released
in 2022) Religious affiliation in Australia -
<https://www.abs.gov.au/article/religious-affiliation-australia#sources>, accessed
05 November 2024

- 10 Statement 1: The *Wik Decision* (1996) extinguished pastoralists' rights on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander land.

Statement 2: The *Native Title Act 1993* (Commonwealth) required all states and territories to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander land rights claims to Commonwealth lands.

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.

2024 HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION

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Centre Number

Studies of Religion II

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Student Number

Section I Part A (continued)**Attempt Question 11**

Answer the question in the space provided. This space provides guidance for the expected length of response.

Question 11 (5 marks)

With reference to ONE of the following ecumenical organisations, describe the impact of a Christian ecumenical movement in Australia.

- National Council of Churches
- NSW Ecumenical Council

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Centre Number

Studies of Religion II

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Student Number

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.

12 Monotheism is the belief that there

- A. is no god.
- B. are two gods.
- C. are many gods.
- D. is only one god.

13 Jesse believes that elements of the natural world possess a soul and therefore humans are required to respect and care for the environment.

Jesse is most likely to be

- A. a polytheist.
- B. a humanist.
- C. an animist.
- D. an atheist.

14 Which of the following statements best represents an understanding of social responsibility shared by religious and non-religious belief systems?

- A. Social responsibility promotes material success.
- B. Social responsibility benefits members of society.
- C. Social responsibility is a feature of God’s enduring law.
- D. Social responsibility is an important message in sacred texts.

- 15** Which statement best reflects the core aspect of Scientific Humanism?
- A. It emphasises the role of traditions and experiences in the world.
 - B. It emphasises reason and systematic experimentation.
 - C. It prioritises history as the driver of knowledge.
 - D. It prioritises empathy over empirical evidence.
- 16** Which statement about the aspirations or behaviour of individuals with particular non-religious world views is true?
- A. Atheists seek to be rewarded in the afterlife.
 - B. Agnostics are taught by religious doctrines to act ethically.
 - C. Rational humanists' actions are guided by reason and logic.
 - D. Scientific humanists desire to control and influence the world.
- 17** Statement 1: The intention demonstrated by religious charitable organisations assisting the disadvantaged is social transformation.
- Statement 2: The intention demonstrated by different religious leaders coming together to promote unity is social cohesion.
- Which of the following is correct?
- A. Both statements are true.
 - B. Both statements are false.
 - C. Statement 1 is true and Statement 2 is false.
 - D. Statement 1 is false and Statement 2 is true.
- 18** Which of the following is NOT a main reason for the rise of new religious expressions?
- A. People are trying to improve their material wealth.
 - B. People are trying to clarify their role in society.
 - C. People are searching for personal fulfilment.
 - D. People are seeking ethical guidance.

19 Three people make the following statements.

KIM:	I believe that we live only one life. There is no god.
MORGAN:	I am open to the idea that there might be something greater than us, but I do not think we can know for sure.
DES:	I see evidence of a higher power in the beauty and complexity of the world.

Which of the following is correct?

- A. Des is a humanist and Kim is an atheist.
- B. Kim is an agnostic and Morgan is a theist.
- C. Des is an atheist and Morgan is an agnostic.
- D. Morgan is an agnostic and Kim is an atheist.

20

Non-religious belief systems shape an individual's sense of self by giving meaning and purpose to relationships, achievements and the pursuit of knowledge.

According to the above statement, non-religious belief systems hold that the human person develops

- A. through life experiences.
- B. by participating in ritual practices.
- C. in response to their experience of the divine.
- D. because of their connection to the natural world.

21 Taylor and Charly were unhappy with their faith's strict adherence to worship. They decided to join a new religious community that encourages flexibility in spiritual practice and focuses on sustainability in its approach to life.

Which two aspects of new religious expressions are most likely to have influenced Taylor and Charly's decision?

- A. Rise in materialism, decline in scientific progress
- B. Rise in materialism, growth in ecological awareness
- C. Disenchantment with traditional religious practice, decline in scientific progress
- D. Disenchantment with traditional religious practice, growth in ecological awareness

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2024 HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION

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Centre Number

Studies of Religion II

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Student Number

Section I Part B (continued)**Attempt Question 22**

Answer the question in the space provided. This space provides guidance for the expected length of response.

Question 22 (5 marks)

Describe the current global distribution of TWO religious traditions. In your response, make reference to statistical data.

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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.

Question 23 — Buddhism (15 marks)

- (a) (i) Outline ONE ethical teaching in Buddhism. **2**
- (ii) Explain how the teaching outlined in part (a) (i) is reflected in ONE of the following areas within the religious tradition of Buddhism: **5**
- Bioethics
 - Environmental ethics
 - Sexual ethics.
- (b) *Religious practices are the sacred threads that weave together adherents' beliefs and connect them to the divine.* **8**

With reference to this statement, explain how ONE of the following practices expresses the beliefs of Buddhism:

- Pilgrimage
- Temple Puja
- Wesak.

Question 24 — Christianity (15 marks)

- (a) (i) Outline ONE ethical teaching in Christianity. 2
- (ii) Explain how the teaching outlined in part (a) (i) is reflected in ONE of the following areas within the religious tradition of Christianity: 5
- Bioethics
 - Environmental ethics
 - Sexual ethics.
- (b) *Religious practices are the sacred threads that weave together adherents' beliefs and connect them to the divine.* 8

With reference to this statement, explain how ONE of the following practices expresses the beliefs of Christianity:

- Baptism
- Marriage ceremony
- Saturday/Sunday worship.

Question 25 — Hinduism (15 marks)

- (a) (i) Outline ONE ethical teaching in Hinduism. 2
- (ii) Explain how the teaching outlined in part (a) (i) is reflected in ONE of the following areas within the religious tradition of Hinduism: 5
- Bioethics
 - Environmental ethics
 - Sexual ethics.
- (b) *Religious practices are the sacred threads that weave together adherents' beliefs and connect them to the divine.* 8

With reference to this statement, explain how ONE of the following practices expresses the beliefs of Hinduism:

- Marriage ceremony
- Pilgrimage
- Temple worship.

Question 26 — Islam (15 marks)

- (a) (i) Outline ONE ethical teaching in Islam. 2
- (ii) Explain how the teaching outlined in part (a) (i) is reflected in ONE of the following areas within the religious tradition of Islam: 5
- Bioethics
 - Environmental ethics
 - Sexual ethics.
- (b) *Religious practices are the sacred threads that weave together adherents' beliefs and connect them to the divine.* 8

With reference to this statement, explain how ONE of the following practices expresses the beliefs of Islam:

- Friday prayer at the mosque
- Funeral ceremony
- Hajj.

Question 27 — Judaism (15 marks)

- (a) (i) Outline ONE ethical teaching in Judaism. 2
- (ii) Explain how the teaching outlined in part (a) (i) is reflected in ONE of the following areas within the religious tradition of Judaism: 5
- Bioethics
 - Environmental ethics
 - Sexual ethics.
- (b) *Religious practices are the sacred threads that weave together adherents' beliefs and connect them to the divine.* 8

With reference to this statement, explain how ONE of the following practices expresses the beliefs of Judaism:

- 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.

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)

Significant people or schools of thought have been agents of change, enriching the faith and inspiring new forms of religious expression.

With reference to the statement, analyse the impact of ONE significant person OR school of thought, other than the Buddha.

Question 29 — Christianity (20 marks)

Significant people or schools of thought have been agents of change, enriching the faith and inspiring new forms of religious expression.

With reference to the statement, analyse the impact of ONE significant person OR school of thought, other than Jesus.

Question 30 — Hinduism (20 marks)

Significant people or schools of thought have been agents of change, enriching the faith and inspiring new forms of religious expression.

With reference to the statement, analyse the impact of ONE significant person OR school of thought, other than the Vedas.

Question 31 — Islam (20 marks)

Significant people or schools of thought have been agents of change, enriching the faith and inspiring new forms of religious expression.

With reference to the statement, analyse the impact of ONE significant person OR school of thought, other than Muhammad and the Four Rightly Guided Caliphs.

Question 32 — Judaism (20 marks)

Significant people or schools of thought have been agents of change, enriching the faith and inspiring new forms of religious expression.

With reference to the statement, analyse the impact of ONE significant person OR school of thought, other than Abraham or Moses.

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.

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)

Religious traditions are the pathways to inner peace, as they teach us the values and actions that foster harmony within ourselves.

Analyse how ONE religious tradition's *values and actions* foster inner peace.

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