

RELIGION STUDIES

NOTES

PAPER 1 AND PAPER 2

RELIGIONS	FOUNDER/GOD	SACRED BOOK
Baha'i faith	God Baha'u'llah is a founder of Baha'i faith He was a Persian nobleman and a prophet. Baha'u'llah appointed his oldest son Abdul Baha as his successor and leader of the Baha'i faith	Kitab-i-Aqdas - It is the sacred text of the Baha'i faith.
Taoism	Lao-tzu-The founder of Taoism	The sacred scripture of Taoism is the Tao-te Ching.
Islam	God – Allah Prophet Mohammad	Hadith is a collection /teachings of the Prophet Muhammad. Qur'an
Buddhism	No supreme/God Buddha - Siddhartha Gautama is the founder and first Buddha of Buddhism. The name 'Buddha' comes from Sanskrit and means "the Enlightened one	The sacred scripture for Buddhism is the Pali Canon . Sometimes they call their book Tripitaka , meaning 'three baskets'(of wisdom)
Judaism	God Moses	Tanach – is a sacred book for Judaism. Torah
Christianity	God Jesus – t he founder of Christianity.	Bible
Hinduism	Brahman	Vedas The sacred books for Hinduism are Veda the old version and the common one, the Bhagavad Gita . They are divided into two main categories, namely Shrutu and Smriti. The Bhagavad Gita is the most popular Hindu Holy Book

Religion	Belief/teachings/dotrines	Leader/successor
Taoism	The two opposing forces in Taoism are called Yin and Yang	
Islam		Abu Bakr – was the father in-law of Prophet Muhammad. He was the successor to Muhammad/the first caliph.
Buddhism	Nirvana – a state of perfect happiness and peace in Buddhism. Buddhism does not teach about a god/gods but encourages a way of living to end suffering	The most well-known Bodhisattva is Dalai Lama
Judaism	The tangible expression of the oral Torah is Talmud. Mitzvot-These are 613 rules observed by Jews.	It is a synagogue ceremony, performed by a rabbi
Hinduism	Karma is the belief that every action has a consequence which is either good or bad. Reincarnation - This is a belief that, after death, the soul is reborn in another body. This is a belief in Hinduism and Buddhism Hindu goals(• Dharma, artha, karma • moksha)	Guru - A religious figure who teaches, gives personal guidance and instructs devotees in yoga and meditation
ATR	Ilimo- helping one's neighbours unconditionally UBUNTU	Diviner(ISANGOMA) - Someone who gains insight into, or makes discovery of the unknown by supernatural means

CONCEPTS

- A ritual based on Jesus' last meal is the Eucharist
- The Bahá'í faith originated in the country presently called **Iran**
- The German priest whose teachings led to Protestantism was **Martin Luther**
- The two opposing forces in Taoism are called **Yin and Yang**
- Jews observe Divine Law called the Halakhah
- **Nirvana** – a state of perfect happiness and peace in Buddhism.
- **Halal** - Food permissible to eat according to Islamic law./Any act permissible in Islamic law
- **Sanskrit** – an ancient language of the Far East.
- The Shi'a holy shrine of Karbala is in **Iraq**.
- The longest epic in Hinduism is the **Mahabharata**.
- The tangible expression of the oral Torah is **Talmud**.
- The highest goal of Buddhist practice is **Nirvana**.
- **Ilmo**- helping one's neighbours unconditionally
- **Haifa** - headquarters of the Bahá'í faith
- **Similarity** - It refers to features that are common in different religions.
- **Sufism** is the mystical dimension of Islam.
- **Identity** -Religious identity is a form of self-identification. It refers to a certain individuality that distinguishes a particular religion from other religions.
- **Colonialism** - A foreign government imposes their ruling upon the people of an other country.
- **Unity** - Different religions are able to co-exist quite peacefully irrespective of their differences.
- Different religions actively co-operate to achieve certain particular aims in society.
- **Uniqueness**- Uniqueness in a particular religion can be an expression of how adherents themselves see their own religion.
- **Karma** is the belief that every action has a consequence which is either good or bad.
- Buddhism does not teach about a **god/gods** but encourages a way of living to end suffering.
- The African Traditional Religion is recognised as an official religion in the world./It is common in **urban and rural areas**.
- Abrahamic faiths believe that in the beginning there was **God and nothing**. God made creation out of nothing.
- According to Baha'i teachings, all religions can be seen as different stages of humanity's spiritual development as we move towards one world faith.
- Buddha - **Siddhartha Gautama** is the founder and first Buddha of Buddhism.
- Buddha means 'Enlightened One' in Buddhism.
- **Baptism** - This is a Christian ceremony in which a person is made a member of that church community. Water is used during the ceremony as a sign of purification and new life.
- **Caliph**- A Muslim religious leader whose authority is believed to be derived from Prophet Muhammad. His authority is believed to be derived from Prophet Muhammad. A successor of Prophet Muhammad.
- **Bar Mitzvah** - A Jewish boy's coming of age or initiation. It is a synagogue ceremony, performed by a rabbi.

- **Guru** - A religious figure who teaches, gives personal guidance and instructs devotees in yoga and meditation
- **Monotheism** Refers to the belief in one God
- **Dalai Lama** - The most well-known Bodhisattva
- **Diviner** - Someone who gains insight into, or makes discovery of the unknown by supernatural means
- **Polytheism** - belief in the plurality of gods
- **Creed** - statements or set of religious beliefs
- **Atheist** - someone who does not believe that God exists
- **Meditation** - the act of stilling the mind as a spiritual exercise
- **Pluralism**- a system which acknowledges more than one ultimate principle
- **Secularism** - Conducting life independently of religious institutions and symbols.
- **Dharma** - The way of Higher Truths, and the teachings and doctrines of the Buddhist religion.
- **Syncretism** - A new religion formed by combining the teachings, beliefs and practices of different religions. E.g. Sikhism, Shembe
- Yin and yang are the **two opposing forces** in Taoism that make up the entire world's processes.
- **Trance** is a state of altered and peaceful consciousness of mind
- **Bodhisattva** is someone who helps others attain Nirvana.
- **Non-theism** is an approach that does NOT reject God's existence but simply ignores it
- **Syncretism** . Syncretism refers to two different belief systems combined to form a new one. Example: African Initiated Churches, Sikhism
- Yoga - A spiritual discipline including breath control and simple meditation
- Non theistic - An approach that does not reject God's existence, but simply ignores it
- Heretic - Someone who is against orthodox religious beliefs
- Ubuntu - Showing respect and empathy for human beings
- Shaman is someone who acts as a medium between the visible and the spiritual world.

Myths

- A type of sacred story.
- It is mainly about the origin or the end of time or key events in time.
- A myth refers to a story which explains why something is as it is.
- A sacred story that explain why the world is as it is and the nature of human experience.
- There are different types of religious myths. Examples of myths are creation myths, End of time myths and foundation myths among others. They reveal the deepest truths about creation, life and death.

Beliefs

- This refers to what the adherents claim to be true.
- They are what form the foundations that bring people together for a common cause and help to create a shared identity.

- Beliefs mean a firm conviction e.g. according to the Jewish faith, there is only one God called Jehovah.
- This is also the acceptance of a thing, fact, statement or teaching.

Dogma

- The concept 'dogma' refers to the beliefs that people are expected to accept without doubt.
- It means a principle, tenet or system of beliefs, particularly laid down by a collective religious authority.
- A dogma is presented by the collective religious authority, as founded in divine inspiration.

Ancestor

- In religion, the term refers to family members who have died, but are still being remembered.
- They are regarded as messengers of the Creator.
- The veneration of ancestors is common in African Traditional Religion.
- It is also believed that they can guide and protect the living.

Reincarnation

- This refers to the rebirth of the soul or spirit into a new body.
- It is a central belief in Hinduism.
- It teaches that life is cyclical, as represented by the 'wheel of life'.
- It emphasises the 'cause and effect' relationship between our present actions and the quality of future life.

parable

- provides a deeper meaning than the obvious surface one.
- It is a kind of a story that demonstrates a moral point
- Parables are used in religion, e.g. Christianity.
- These stories are designed to teach spiritual truths.

descriptive - statements as applied in religion are the statements that can be proven true or false by observation. An example a person may say that the members of the Catholic branch of Christianity worship the idols.

normative statement - aims to affirm how things should be ,e.g. how the followers of a particular religion should behave according to its teachings. An example is that all Jews should observe the Sabbath.

normative source

- refers to the origins of religious teachings.
- They have mostly been adopted from the oral tradition.
- In some religions, the oral traditions have been written down which have led to the availability of canons of the sacred texts

Divinity

- Refers to the concept of a supreme/supernatural being.
- Referred to as god/God in many religions.
- Possesses attributes such as being all-knowing, omnipresent, etcetera.
- Refers to any object or being that is god-like.

Tao

- Tao means 'path' in Taoism.
- It also means path or majestic way of the 'universe'.
- It is the source of everything.

Comparability

- This means that the things being compared are similar.
- In a religious context, the religions have particular characteristics that are common e.g. search for the meaning and truths.

Uniqueness

- Means limited to a person or some object. /It would also mean limited to a specific situation.
- In a religious context it would mean a specific religion having its particular features that distinguishes it from other religions.

Creationism

- This is the belief which is based on the understanding that what is living and non-living were created.
- This also refers to a Supreme Being who created the universe. ☒ A substitute for religion✓

Ideology

- ☒ It is a system or a set of beliefs.✓
- ☒ Values and opinions that determine the way a person or a group behaves and thinks. ✓
- ☒ It is the science of ideas.

A **doctrine** is a set of beliefs that provide the central beliefs of a religion.

- The word comes from the Latin word “doctrina”, meaning “teaching”.
- Doctrine may refer to the entire belief system of a religion.

Dharma

- This is the way of Higher Truths.
- Dharma implies the universal laws of nature that uphold the cosmos.
- It is also the way of the doctrines in the Buddhist religion.

- Dharma carries the teachings of Buddha.
- Dharma integrates within its meaning certain concepts.
- For example: Justice, virtue, morality, righteousness, law and duty.

A parable is a story that is told to illustrate a religious principle, or answer a religious question.

- A parable is more direct than an allegory
- A parable is usually short, and contains a definite moral./It is designed to
- teach a spiritual truth
- Parables can be an art form, such as a poem The word hermeneutics originates from Greek.

An example of a parable from any ONE religion

EXAMPLE: Christianity

- The 'Prodigal Son' is a well-known parable in the Bible.
- A son leaves his home and family to lead a wild and wicked life.
- He returns home after a long absence, and is joyously welcomed by his family, especially his father.
- The moral is that God rejoices in the return of a sinner.
- It encourages forgiveness and love on the part of the family.
- It also shows the importance of repentance by the prodigal son.
- Submission to parents is also implied in this parable.

Religious tolerance different in Western and Eastern cultures

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Western culture everyone should have only one religion. • Religious tolerance means allowing people to convert from one religion to another. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Eastern culture religious tolerance means that a person may subscribe to multiple religions at the same time . • People are not forced to convert.
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UNIQUE FEATURES OF RELIGIONS

The importance of uniqueness in a religion

- ☐ Uniqueness in a religion helps the members to explain why they have chosen that religion.
- ☐ Uniqueness helps the members to strengthen their faith.

- ☐ It also helps members to identify who belongs and who does not belong.
- ☐ Uniqueness of various religions assists in enriching the wider society with values and morality.
- ☐ Uniqueness also provides believers with reasons for why their religion is 'best'.
- ☐ It provides the features that distinguish each religion from the other.
- ☐ Uniqueness strengthens the unity of the members in a particular religion.

EXAMPLE OF UNIQUE FEATURES IN THE FOLLOWING RELIGIONS

AFRICAN TRADITION RELIGION

- They venerate the ancestors.
- Communal way of life is central.
- It is a clan-based religion.
- It is characterised by the concept of ubuntu.
- There is a veneration of ancestors.
- Life after death does not involve reward or punishment.

Christianity

- Christianity believes in the Trinity; that there is only one God and in this one God there are three persons.
- The three persons of the Trinity are God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.
- Jesus is the Son of God.
- Jesus is God incarnate.
- Jesus died on the cross and rose again from the dead/ resurrection.

Hinduism

- Hinduism has many gods and goddesses who represent aspects of Brahman. Krishna, Shiva, Vishnu are examples.
- In Hinduism the soul is regarded as eternal and unchangeable.
- Hinduism teaches that human beings are the causes of all evil.
- Hindus have four aims in life: dharma (the way of Higher Truth), artha (acquisition of wealth), karma (sensual enjoyment), moksha (release from suffering).
- There are four castes/classes in society: priestly (Brahmanas/Brahmins), ruler (ksatriyas), workers or traders (vaisya/vaishyas), servants (sudras).
- There are four stages of life (ashramas): student, married, retirement and the optional devout stage (sannyasins).

- Hindus believe in reincarnation, where the soul goes through a series of births and deaths.
- The soul is driven from birth to death and from death to birth in a continuous cycle called samsara.
- A unique feature of Hinduism is the concept of reincarnation –rebirth in various life forms.

JUDAISM

- They believe that they are the nation chosen by God.
- They believe that Messiah will come and rule the world with them.
- God revealed Himself and His Law to the Jews.
- They believe that there is only one God who is righteous and at work in the natural and social order.

ISLAM

- The belief is that there is only ONE God called Allah.
- They believe that God sent various prophets but the final messenger is Prophet Muhammad.
- They believe that the Qur'an was revealed in Arabic language and must be read in Arabic language.
- Their way of life is much the same as their religion.
- Their sources are the Qur'an and Hadith.

TAOISM

- The Tao-te-Ching was written in a night by its legendary founder Lao-tzu.
- He was born with white hair.
- He spent eight or 80 years in his mother's womb.
- According to Tao it is impossible to describe divinity completely.
- The working of the universe is divine.
- All things come from being and being comes from non-being.
- According to the Taoist, everything in creation consists of two kinds of forces, the yang and the yin.

SIMILARITIES

AFRICAN TRADITION RELIGION

AMAZULU, THE YORUBA and THE AKA

- They all venerate the ancestors.
- The diviners or mediums are mediators between the ancestors and the living death.
- They all carry out ritual practices.
- They all believe in the Supreme Creator.

Abrahamic Religions

- The three Abrahamic Religions – Judaism, Christianity, and Islam – are all monotheistic.
- They are sometimes called 'religions of the book' because they all believe in divinely inspired holy scriptures.
- The holy scripture is very important in these religions, and leads to their placing strong emphasis on teaching.
- They are known as Abrahamic Religions because they all recognise Abraham as a great prophet.
- They believe in angels.
- They believe in life after death.
- They share a common belief about creation.
- They believe in the Final Judgement of all mankind.
- In all three religions the discipline of fasting is encouraged to nurture spirituality.
- They believe in the prophets.

JUDAISM

ORTHODOX, CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM

- They all believe that the Torah is the sacred scripture.
- They live their life according to the Ten Commandments.
- They choose one rabbi as their leader in a particular area.
- They believe in one God called YHWH or Elohim.

Ways that religions used to develop an identity

- They have common rituals
- They have a set of common, non-negotiable fundamental beliefs.
- These are referred to as doctrine
- They have a common dress code, especially at ceremonies.
- Each religion uses unique symbols (e.g. Crucifix for Christianity, Yin/ Yang for Taoism.)

- The practice of imprintment (permanently marking the body) also develops religious identity.

Steps that the South African government has taken to ensure interreligious harmony in South Africa

- It establishes South Africa as a secular state, with no state religion.
- It forbids discrimination on the basis of religion or belief.
- Religious observance may be conducted at State institutions, provided that:
 - They are conducted on an equitable basis, and attendance at them is free and voluntary.
 - These provisions ensure that there is harmony, freedom of association is entrenched.
 - Respect for different rituals, practices, beliefs and tolerance among the various religions.
 - Freedom of opinion gives a platform to religions to pronounce on matters of state or social issues.
- Freedom of expression encourages mutual communication between religions without fear.
 - By promoting freedom of opinion and belief.
 - By encouraging freedom of expression.
 - By encouraging cultural, religious and linguistic practices.
 - By promoting tolerance and appreciation of diversity.
 - Religious holidays are recognised.
 - Different religions are allowed to operate the shops to provide for the needs of their adherents.
 - Many religions are now being officially involved in peace-making processes.

Interreligious organisation in South Africa and in the world

THREE African organisations that develop cordial relationships between different religions

- The Programme for Christian – Muslim relations in Africa (PROCMURA)
- The Inter – Faith Action for Peace in Africa (IFAPA)
- The African Council of Religious Leaders (ACRL)

the organisations and their goals.

<p>The World Council of Churches</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The WCC encourages cooperation across the different religious traditions. • It takes active steps to redress prejudice, distortion, and insensitivity. • It encourages dialogue with people of different faiths. 	<p>The World Conference of Religions for Peace (WCRP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conflict transformation and reconciliation. • Disarmament and security. • Development and ecology. • Human rights and responsibilities. It is committed to issues such as: • Conflict and reconciliation • Disarmament and security • Development and ecology • Human rights and responsibilities • Peace and education 	<p>The World Parliament of Religion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interreligious education to encourage respect for people of different religions. • Their focus is on addressing prejudice and intolerance. • Violence-free communication and conflict resolution. • Environmental and developmental education to raise awareness of the importance of preserving the Earth and its resources for all
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The work done by interreligious organisation in South Africa

<p>The World Council of Churches</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 1979 they published two textbooks, Guidelines on Dialogue with People of Living Faiths and Ideologies and My Neighbour's Faith and Mine. • The WCC has made theological discoveries through interdenominational dialogue. • People of different faiths are now able to worship and pray together. • There is co-operation across religion in many countries today. • Much of the projects of the WCC are ongoing projects in the world and are successful. 	<p>The World Conference of Religions for Peace (WCRP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The World Conference of Religions for Peace has been involved in mediating talks and agreements between groups at war with each other. • It helps with reconciliation in communities that are in conflict with each other because of ethnic and political differences. • It organises a worldwide network of religious women's organisations and has a programme to help children in Africa who are affected by Aids. 	<p>The World Parliament of Religion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They were able to get 8 000 signatories from different religions, who signed a commitment to work for peace. • They have worked with different governments of the world, reducing internal and international debt. • They help people to get access to safe and clean water. • They are responding to the plight of refugees. • They are promoting interreligious dialogue in countries affected by religious and political conflicts.
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<p>WCRP (World Conference on Religions for Peace)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides a forum for dialogue among different religions and find common solutions. • The dialogue helped the Christian denominations not to discriminate against each other. • Encouraged religious communities to vote in the elections. • South African elections have become the success story in Africa. • Promoted no discrimination amongst religions. • State functions are conducted by leaders of different faiths. 	<p>NRLF (National Religious Leaders' Forum)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To stop the abuse of children and women. • They are not succeeding in their campaigns as statistics shows an increase in children and women that are abused. • To spread awareness of HIV and Aids and to help people with HIV and Aids. • This assisted in the minimisation of the spreading of HIV and Aids. • To promote ethical and moral values. • To promote religion in education. • To promote peace.
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ACHIEVEMENTS OF INTERRELIGIOUS ORGANISATION (Africa-based organisations)	
<p>Interfaith Action for Peace in Africa Achievements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☐ Bringing together religious communities, civil society, private sector and governments. ☐ Being inclusive of different religions e.g. African Traditional Religion, Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism and Baha'i Faith. ☐ It has been able to send its delegation to the areas of conflict. ☐ Its members have also been able to bring conflicting groups together in reaching understanding and co-operation among each other. ☐ The members of this organisation have been able to participate in the legislative election in Togo. ☐ They have been able to organise exchange visits between landmine victims and survivors from Ethiopia, South Sudan and Uganda. ☐ They were also participating in the World Social Forum held in Kenya (2007). ☐ They also sent women's delegation to Nordic countries. ☐ They were also successful in forming IFAPA Women Network. ☐ This organisation was also able to organise the Nakanyonyi Youth consultation forum. 	<p>African Women of Faith Network Achievements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☐ They have been able to solve some problems in Africa, such as poverty and illness. ☐ They have also made an important contribution towards solving conflict in Africa. ☐ They have made a contribution towards change and development in Africa. ☐ They have also been successful in dealing with challenges of poverty and lack of education faced by women in African communities. ☐ They have worked to uplift women by teaching them skills and providing financial support. ☐ They have also worked hard towards educating women about their human rights. ☐ They have also made a significant contribution towards the fight against HIV and AIDS pandemic. ☐ They have managed to make a considerable contribution towards bringing about peace and justice in Africa as a whole.

WORK OR ACHIEVEMENTS OF INTERRELIGIOUS ORGANISATION (GLOBAL)

PARLIAMENT OF THE WORLD'S RELIGIONS (PWR)

- Meeting for the first time in 1893, it brought people of different religions together to engage in dialogue.
- This is often regarded as the start of modern time awareness of positive inter-religious relationships.
- At the second meeting a 100 years later it was decided to meet regularly every approximately five years.
- The document/declaration of who they are and what they stand for, called 'Towards a Global Ethic', was an outcome of this second meeting.
- The initial idea of PWR was to provide a space for religious dialogue. That was seen as the need of those times.
- There has been a progression from that beginning towards joint action to tackle social problems across the world.
- Successive PWRs have tackled issues such as HIV/Aids, religious violence, safe water, refugees, and eliminating external debt in developing countries.
- They supported and gave input for the Millennium Development Goals for the eradication of poverty.
- Included in the Millennium Development Goals are reconciliation, global climate change and sustainability.
 - They were able to get 8 000 signatories from different religions, who signed a commitment to work for peace.
 - They have worked with different governments of the world, reducing internal and international debt.
 - They help people to get access to safe and clean water.
 - They are responding to the plight of refugees.
 - They are promoting interreligious dialogue in countries affected by religious and political conflicts.

WORLD CONFERENCE OF RELIGIONS FOR PEACE (WCRP)

- WCRP was involved in training communities about the human rights of the child (Convention on the Rights of the Child, the most widely ratified human rights agreement in history).
- It helped build reconciliation in Bosnia and Kosovo in Europe.
- It mediated among warring groups in Sierra Leone.
- It set up an international network of religious women's organisations.
- In partnership with other organisations it formed Hope for African Children which tackled the problem of vulnerable children as a result of HIV/AIDS in Africa. This included malnutrition, abuse and exploitation; orphans, absence from school because of having to look after sick family members, poverty.

AIMS AND BACKGROUND OF THE AFRICAN BASES-ORGANISATION

Interfaith Action for Peace in Africa

- ☐ This is a pan-African non-profit organisation.
- ☐ It was founded in 2002.
- ☐ This organisation was established to unite religious communities across Africa.
- ☐ This organisation was also established to promote co-operation among religions.
- ☐ It was also initiated to combine the efforts of different religions to work for peace in the African continent.

African Women of Faith Network

- ☐ This organisation has strong connection with the African Council of Religious Leaders (ACRL).
- ☐ This organisation is made up of women from different religious organisations.
- ☐ It was formed so that women could make the contribution towards change and development.
- ☐ This organisation was formed in order to solve socio-economic problems in Africa.
- ☐ The African Women of Faith Network was established so that it included members from across the continent.

Reasons for its successes of interreligious organisation

EXAMPLE 1: PARLIAMENT OF THE WORLD'S RELIGIONS (PWR)

- There is an attitude of mutual respect, inclusivity and dialogue.
- Barriers between religions have been broken down.
- It moved from dialogue to action.
- It responds to the needs expressed in dialogue.

EXAMPLE 2: WORLD CONFERENCE OF RELIGIONS FOR PEACE (WCRP)

- There is an attitude of mutual respect, inclusivity and dialogue.
- Religions are working co-operatively towards world peace.
- It is the largest international inter-religious body and it is active on every continent.
- From its reconciliation and mediation work in conflict areas it can be seen that it is a trusted negotiator.

Ways the interreligious relationships being promoted in South Africa today

- At state functions, such as the opening of parliament, the inauguration of the state president, etc. religious leaders from a variety of religions are invited to participate in the ceremony.
- At public holiday celebrations, such as Human Rights Day and Heritage Day, religious leaders from different religions take part.
- Interfaith services are held.
- There are many religious NGOs (Non-Governmental Organisations) serving the needs of the vulnerable of all faiths and none.

ONE religious leader who has worked to bring about interreligious harmony

EXAMPLE 1:

- In 2000 Pope John Paul II spoke of the need to bring peace to the Middle East.
- He was the first pontiff to speak publicly of a political situation from a religious perspective.
- To symbolise his acceptance of other faiths, he visited the Western Wall in the Jewish quarter of Jerusalem.
- He acknowledged that the Holy land is equally sacred to Muslims, Jews and Christians.
- In another symbolic act of interreligious harmony, Pope John Paul II issued an unprecedented apology for the past sins of the Catholic Church.
- This included the unjustified violence of the Crusades and the Inquisition.

EXAMPLE 2:

- King Goodwill Zwelithini is both a Zulu king and a traditional religious leader.
- While he is a member of the Anglican Church, he also presides over African Traditional Religious rituals. He illustrates that both religions are complementary .
- He has officially represented the Zulu nation at religious gatherings of various Christian denominations.
- An example is his visits to the Sheme Church.
- Another example is his May 2016 visit to the Juma Masjid (mosque) in Durban, where he emphasised respect and tolerance for all faiths.

COOPERATION AND ROLES PLAYED BY RELIGIONS(RELIGION LEADERS) BEFORE 1994 (APARTHEID ERA)

- ☐ There was much more interfaith cooperation during the apartheid years.
- ☐ All religions were facing one common enemy which was apartheid.
- ☐ If an imam was killed in detention, Jews, Christians, Hindus and others joined in the protest, just as they would for their own.
- ☐ The South African branch of the World Conference of Religions for Peace (WCRP) led by Rev. Frank Chikane and Archbishop Desmond Tutu, played a significant role.
- ☐ Different religions held joint prayer meetings to plead for the divine intervention.
- ☐ Religious properties e.g. church buildings were used for political gatherings.
- ☐ Religious communities led and participated in the public marches against apartheid laws.
- ☐ Anti-apartheid groups included the South African Council of Churches which was formed in 1968.

☒ The call of Islam was formed in 1984.

☒ Jews for justice was formed in 1985.

Factors that could make inter-religious dialogue difficult

- The history of inter-religious relationship started with religious conflict.
- Examples are the Crusades, and missionary work among indigenous.
- Fundamentalist thinking among religious leaders hampered the development of harmonious relationships, in the past, and could do the same in future.
- Religion can be used as a tool for political gain.
- E.g. Middle East politics, Hindu-Muslim relations in India, Sierra Leone, where warring communities are split along religious lines. The same is occurring in Ivory Coast.
- Economic interests can manipulate dialogue among religions to gain control of scarce resources.
- E.g. Foreign interest in Darfur because of Sudan's oil reserves.
- Territorial conflict that uses religion to stir up emotions.
- E.g. India and Pakistan, Sri Lanka (conflict between Tamils and Buddhists).

Religious freedom

- Religious freedom refers to the state whereby different religions are at liberty to practise their religions.
- Everyone has a right to freedom of conscience, religion, thought, belief and opinion. However, the religious rights of others must be respected at all times.
- Religious observances may be conducted at any state institutions on an equal basis
- Attendance must be free and voluntary.
- Persons belonging to a religious community have a right to enjoy practising their religion and to maintain religious association with other organs of civil society.

EXAMPLE OF THE SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY WHERE THERE IS A RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

- All candidates are free to practise and participate in any religion of their choice.
- Attendance at religious practices and gatherings is voluntary and open to everyone.

- Religious holidays of all religions will be treated equally.
- Religious dressing is allowed on special religious holidays

TWO religious teachings that refer to the protection of human rights

EXAMPLE 1: Buddhism

- The basis for Buddhism is its teaching of non-violence to living creatures, including humans.
- Though Buddhism was the first missionary religion to come out of Asia, it has never used war to spread its message.
- It rather uses the power of logic to persuade.
- The Eightfold Path of Buddhism is based on moving humans away from experiencing a painful life and encourages respect for all living things.
- Tolerance and acceptance of people as they are, is fundamental in Buddhism.
- The concept of ahimsa (never doing any harm) promotes human rights.

EXAMPLE 2: African Traditional Religion

- In ATR individualism is seen as inhuman.
- The religion emphasises the importance of the unity of the community regardless of religious affiliation.
- The ATR promotes the philosophy of 'ubuntu' which means that a person is a person because of other people.
- This means that by treating others with consideration and respect that is how they will treat you in return.
- This is the confirmation of human dignity.

EXAMPLE 3: Islam

- The basis for Islam is Muslim scriptures.
- They can find the basis in the teachings for living in harmony with everyone, while at the same time expressing their views.
- They teach that all human beings are created by Allah and are all part of the same
- Islam rejects conversion by force or by compulsion, e.g. 'Let there be no compulsion in religion' (Qur'an, Sura 2, verse 256)
- Islam encourages interaction on the basis of respect and goodwill.

- Islam does not promote violence, e.g. 'Repel evil with what is better' (Qur'an, Sura 41, verse 34).

Teachings of religions that is promoting UNITY, PEACE, TOLERANCE, LOVE

EXAMPLE 1: Christianity (UNITY)

- Scripture readings and prayers in the family: A teaching that the family that prays together, stays together.
- The teaching that the church begins at home as a unit and proceeds to the community of believers, who become the bigger family.
- The Christian faith teaches love for one's neighbour, which promotes unity in the community.
- The teaching that every human being is created in the image of God affirms the unity of mankind as the people of God.
- The First Commandment emphasises love for God. This makes one feel unified with God.
- The Christian faith teaches that one must give and share with the poor; this promotes unity in the community.
- The teaching that the widows and orphans must be taken care of also promotes unity in the community.

EXAMPLE 2: African Traditional Religion (UNITY)

- The veneration of ancestors leads the believer towards unity with the Supreme Being.
- This is because the ancestors are seen as intermediaries between the living and God.
- The principle of 'ubuntu' is essentially one that unites a community.
- It means that one is a person through serving other persons.
- It teaches collective responsibility.
- An African community jointly owns land and access to water.
- In this way, ubuntu teaches unity.
- The teaching of 'ilima' is another example of how African Traditional Religion creates unity.
- People who are in need are helped by other community members as a means of unconditional assistance.
- For example, a farmer with abundant produce will give some of it to those who are in need.

Media in religion

Negative and positive impact of the media on people's religious beliefs

<p>Negative impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• People might easily turn away from their religions due to what they hear/see from the media.• They might be tempted to model characters they see in the media.• People might be misled and think that the media is the solution to their problems.• Most of the time what we see in the media does not reflect the true life of those people.• People become addicted to media and they socialise less.	<p>Positive impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Media can be used effectively to reach people who are unreachable, e.g. Khumbulekhaya• Media can be used to promote an awareness campaign to people.• Media can be used to promote religious events and educate people on recent matters.
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Different ways in which religions can respond to negative media coverage of religious issues.

- They can protest against the media.
- They can organise their members to boycott the media.
- They can approach the legal challenge.
- They can be involved in counter-argument and challenge the media in order to voice their side of the story.
- They can be engaged in a collective response from interdenominational or interreligious organisations.
- Religions must have knowledge of how to use media and its restrictions.
- Religions should be proactive and explain their point of view in the media.
- Religion must also understand the responsibilities that media have towards communities.
- Religious organisations must teach their members how to handle media.
- Religious organisations must invite media experts for advice.
- Media need to have knowledge and understanding of different religions before reporting on religious issues.
- Media have a responsibility to present the information in an unbiased manner.
- Because articles are written by individuals with personal opinions, these opinions may influence the readers on significant issues.

- Media must exercise caution in making comments and statements that seem judgemental about religious issues.
- Constitutional rights make provision for fair coverage on religious issues.

The representation of religion in the media' in South Africa

Negative media coverage	Positive media coverage
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☐ Coverage differs both in terms of time and quality of coverage. ☐ More time is given for majority religions, like Christianity, while smaller religions get no coverage. ☐ Minority religions are excluded from mainstream media, e.g. Jain, Tao. ☐ Some religions are selectively represented, e.g. Islam is shown as a violent religion, with protests and terrorist attacks getting maximum coverage. ☐ Buddhism is shown as a religion of peace; the Dalai Lama gets positive coverage, as do Buddhist monks. ☐ Religions are heavily stereotyped, some positively, others negatively. ☐ Minority religions get positive coverage. ☐ Christianity gets the most coverage. ☐ International visits by the Pope get full coverage, whereas other religious leaders are hardly mentioned. ☐ The media also remains silent on (or downplays) some religious issues. ☐ The ethnic cleansing of Myanmar's Rohigya Muslims by Buddhists is rarely mentioned. ☐ The rise of Hindu fundamentalism in India is largely ignored, while fundamentalism in Christianity and Islam are always emphasised. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☐ The public broadcaster gives equal coverage to all major religions. ☐ The morning prayer on TV is presented by various religions in rotation. ☐ There are dedicated TV channels for each religion, according to community needs. ☐ Islam Channel and Rhema church are two such examples. ☐ Radio channels too, cater for a variety of religions. ☐ Hindvani, Radio Pulpit, Radio Highway and Radio Al Ansaar are some examples. ☐ The Internet has no limit on the establishment of websites dedicated to any religion.

Factors that may cause the media to be biased against reporting religious issues

- There are political reasons.
- Religion is a highly contentious political issue. The public have very strong attitudes towards religion, and media bias can influence such a sentiment.
- The media thrives on sensationalism, as this sells papers/advertising space.
- Reporters often do not have the specialist knowledge to interpret religious issues.

- The media relies on generation of income. They therefore report selectively on issues that will sell newspapers.
- Editorial decisions are influenced by political interests.
- Advertisers also influence how religious issues are covered in the media.

ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF MEDIA IN RELIGION

Advantages

- ☒ Social media presents up-to-date information to the public.
- ☒ Religious organizations can use social media to promote themselves.
- ☒ Different religions can use media to announce their activities e.g. Easter celebrations in Christianity, Diwali celebrations in Hinduism.
- ☒ Individuals can also air their views on different aspects of life.
- ☒ Social media can assist in ensuring that messages that are intended for specific sections of the community reach the intended recipients.
- ☒ They can also use media to convey messages of hope to the whole nation.

Disadvantages

- ☒ It can promote radical personal opinions that may impact negatively on significant religious issues.
- ☒ It can be an effective tool for religious propaganda.
- ☒ It may cause degeneration of moral values in society, as children can have easy access to undesirable material.
- ☒ People can become addicted to media and live self-centred lives.

TWO examples of how media coverage can influence public opinion about religions

EXAMPLE 1: Boko Haram

- The media has highlighted the atrocities committed by this organisation.
- There are regular articles highlighting the attacks by this organisation on civilians
- These attacks are shown as attacks against Christians.
- The fact that Boko Haram kills Muslims too is not emphasised.
- The battle between Boko Haram and the Nigerian government is not given the same coverage.
- The recent kidnapping of some 200 girls by Boko Haram was given worldwide publicity.

- It was used to highlight the faction's objection to educating girls.
- It is described as a fundamentalist Islamic organisation.
- This paints Islam in a negative light.
- The media generalises the action of a fundamentalist group to represent a diverse Muslim population of some 2 billion people.
- Positive contributions such as charity and social cohesion that form part of religion are ignored.

EXAMPLE 2: Collapse Of Church Building In Nigeria

- South African media were very quick to report on the collapse.
- This was because the majority of victims were South African.
- The church was criticised for not making details available immediately.
- TB Joshua (leader of the church) was labelled a false prophet.
- He is also painted as a person only interested in financial gain.
- He is said to be the richest church leader in Africa.
- All the good work done by his church, throughout the world, is not highlighted.
- This points to the selective, sensationalist media coverage that religion is given.

EXAMPLE WHERE MEDIA CAUSE RELIGIOUS CONFLICT

- In 2012, a short movie called Innocence of Muslims was aired on YouTube.
- This was an attack on the character of Prophet Muhammad.
- It resulted in violent protests in many Muslim countries.
- Initially it was reported that the movie was made and funded by Jews in the U.S.
- It was later found that it was in fact made by a Coptic Christian, living in the USA.
- It was funded by a Christian company called 'Media for Christ'
- This act led to a heightening of tensions between Christians and Muslims.
- Media should remain sensitive, impartial and objective.

Benefits of living in a multifaith society

- All religions are treated equally
- Religions holy days are equally observed.
- There is tolerance and respect amongst all the religions.
- The Constitution is respected by all religious groups.
- People are not forced to join any religion, but have a right to choose their own religions.
- The Constitution guarantees every citizen, community and religious community the right to practise their religion in peace as they see fit.

TEN possible reasons for Conflict between Muslims and Christians is more common in Africa than on other continents.

- Poverty is often a catalyst in religious conflict.
- This is because, when people compete for scarce resources (arable land, water, etc.) there is bound to be conflict.
- Both Christianity and Islam have a strong presence on the continent.
- Each has its own identity.
- People live in communities which have a strong religious identity, being either Muslim or Christian.
- Both religions are actively propagated. This can lead to confrontation.
- Since the poor usually work in the informal economy, they remain within their religious groupings.
- This further reinforces the religious divide.
- Governments in Africa are weak, and do not enforce law and order.
- They also sometimes favour one religion over another. This then leads to religious tension.
- African countries have poor border control.
- This allows for trade in illegal weaponry.

Conditions under which a religious war can be seen as just or permissible

- Evangelical wars

These are wars waged by a religious state to convert a neighbouring state to the 'true' religion.

- Wars of conquest

One state conquers another, for the 'glory of God'.

- Wars of retaliation

These are fought to avenge a wrongdoing. An offence committed against a specific religion, can be avenged.

- Wars of self-defence

Such wars are seen as being waged in the interest of justice: evil must be opposed, and good must be upheld.

ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF THE ARRIVAL OF CHRISTIANS MISSIONARIES

DISADVANTAGES

☒ The majority of Africans in our country are Christians.

☒ This is the influence of Christian missionaries.

☒ However, they do not own the land, but they are like foreigners in their own country.

☒ The blacks, who are the majority in South Africa, are excluded from the economy of the country because they have no land.

☒ Most black South Africans live in informal settlements which have no infrastructure, because the ownership of the land is in question.

☒ The white monopoly capitalists are the owners of the land in our country. They used illegal methods to take land from indigenous blacks.

☒ Christianity was used as a tool to take the land that belonged to the Africans.

ADVANTAGES

☒ Missionaries had come to spread the Gospel of Christ.

☒ Missionaries introduced health services.

☒ They also introduced education and built schools.

☒ The white man brought technology for the benefit of all.

☒ They facilitated the development of indigenous languages and translated the Bible into different African languages.

☒ This shows that they were sincere in propagating the religion.

- ☒ The issue of land ownership is a complex one, with some land belonging to tribal authorities.
- ☒ Individual ownership of that land is not permissible.
- ☒ The government is still dealing with the land claim issue.

PAPER TWO NOTES

The different ways in which religions deal with their internal differences. And examples

- ☒ Some religions are more accepting of their internal differences.
- ☒ An example of this is Hinduism.
- ☒ From its beginnings, local customs and beliefs were incorporated into the main body of Hinduism.
- ☒ There is therefore tolerance of internal differences.
- ☒ Inter-denominational organisations are formed, to find common ground, and to unite the various subgroups of a religion.
- ☒ An example of this is the South African Council of Churches.
- ☒ Its aim is to unite the various branches of Christianity, after the divisions caused by apartheid.
- ☒ In addressing common social challenges (e.g. poverty), various denominations work together for the common good of humanity.
- ☒ A coordinated effort allows for a more efficient and economical use of resources.
- ☒ Examples of this are the Salvation Army and Gift of the Givers.

The internal differences within the religion (The internal differences that exist under the following headings):

❖ Differences in governance

EXAMPLE 1: Christianity

Catholic Church

- Political control is traditional and seen to be centred in Rome.
- The head of the Catholic Church is the Pope.
- The first Pope is said to be St. Peter.
- The Catholic Church has many orders of monks, priests, friars and nuns.
- All Catholics are governed by the Vatican.
- The Parish is an area or district with a particular church and priest.

Eastern Orthodox Church

- Political control was traditionally in Constantinople (Istanbul).
- They are found in the Middle East, parts of Africa, Greece and Russia.
- The church structure comprises of priests and bishops.
- There is no single leader.
- Authority within the church is in the hands of a group of bishops.
- A diocese is a group of parishes under the leadership of the bishop.

Protestantism

- This movement was started in 1517 by a German monk, Martin Luther.
- The local churches are guided/ ruled by the ordained ministers and bishops or elected elders.
- There is no uniformity in the governance of Protestant churches.
- The overall rule is by higher authority such as a synod or General Assembly, chaired by a presiding bishop.
- In the Protestant churches, each church is independent.
- The churches are not responsible to any higher authority than the congregation.

EXAMPLE 2: Islam

Sunni Islam

- 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.

Shi'a Islam

- The Shi'a Muslims revere the descendants of the Prophet Muhammad.
- They believe that the descendants have a divine right to lead the Muslims.
- They reserve the title Imam for certain past leaders who were believed to be chosen by God.
- The governance is in the hands of mullahs.
- The Mullahs also have considerable political influence.

❖ Differences in beliefs (teachings)

EXAMPLE 1: Christianity

- The Catholic Church
- Considers itself the original Christian Church.

- This Church teaches that God is made of three separate yet equal parts, namely, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This is known as Trinity
- This Church practises a number of rituals called Sacraments, such as confession, baptism, confirmation, the last rite before the death of a person, Confirmation, ordination to priesthood and sacrament of marriage. (It practises seven sacraments).
- The centre of Christian life is based on the Eucharist (Holy Communion).

Eastern Orthodox Church

- The Trinity and the Holy Spirit are understood in a different way to the views of the Catholic Church.
- At the end of the 6th century CE, the RCC of the West (Western Church) introduced the filioque (from the Son) clause.
- This clause taught that the Holy Spirit came from God.
- The Eastern Church disagreed with adding the Son because they believed that this made the Father and Son superior than the Holy Spirit.
- The Eastern Church also challenged the idea that the Western Church and the Pope had more power to add or change Christian teachings and traditions.
- The clergy within the Church do not have to be celibate and are allowed to marry.
- The Eastern Orthodox Churches see devotion as a more important expression of faith than the right doctrine as in the case of the Roman Catholic Church.

Protestantism

- Unlike Catholicism, the Protestant Churches did not believe that salvation was something that had to be earned through rituals and practices.
- Protestants believed that salvation was attainable as a gift given freely by God through the works of Jesus Christ on earth.
- Protestantism is made up of different Churches.
- They believed that the teachings of the Bible had more authority than the Pope or the Catholic Church.
- Priests and ministers do not have to be celibate and they are allowed to marry.
- Unlike the Catholic Church the Protestant Churches allow women to be priests or ministers.

EXAMPLE 2: Islam

Sunni Islam

- Sunnis believe that the faithful rather than the descendants of the Prophet should elect their leaders.
- Sunni refers to following the sunnah (example) of the Prophet Muhammad.
- All the companions of the Prophet are believed to be given equal respect in Islamic jurisprudence.

Shi'a Islam

- They believe that caliphate (successor) should be from the descendants of the Prophet Muhammad.
- They believe that the caliphs are divinely appointed imams.
- They also believe that caliphs have supernatural knowledge and authority to lead the faithful.
- They share a collective guilt for not coming to the aid of Husain when he was killed.

Example 3: African Traditional Religion

AmaZulu

- AmaZulu acknowledge the existence of a Supreme Being, called Umvelinqangi.
- They believe that His status is so lofty that one cannot directly approach Him.
- Communication with Umvelinqangi is done through the ancestors.
- AmaZulu believe in the feminine divinity, called uNomkhubulwane.
- UNomkhubulwane is associated with fertility and agriculture.
- They also believe in the ceremony called 'brought back', where the living dead is established as an ancestor

Aka (Central Africa)

- The Aka believe in a creator spirit, called Bembe.
- They believe that Bembe retired after the act of creation.
- Because they are nomadic and hunter gatherers, they believe in the forest spirit called, Dzengi.
- They believe that Dzengi assists them in the successful hunting of elephants.

Yoruba (South West Nigeria)

- Olodumare is the principal Creator
- Each human possesses a fate or destiny.

- Life and death are seen as cyclical (reincarnation in human form).
- The aim is spiritual improvement.
- Good spirits become one with Olodumare.

❖ Differences in practices

EXAMPLE: CHRISTIANITY

Catholicism

- Celibacy among the clergy is mandatory.
- Practices include fasting during the Lent, to observe the crucifixion of Jesus.
- Penance is the paying of penalty for sinning.
- This penance is determined at the time of confession.
- Pilgrimage to holy lands (e.g. the Vatican) and meditation are key practices for Catholics.
- The most important practice is receiving of the Eucharist.

Eastern Orthodox Church

- Clergy are not celibate, and are allowed to marry
- Devotion is seen as more important than right doctrine
- Baptism is by immersion.
- This is followed by anointment (Chrismation).

Protestantism

- Ordination of women is a Protestant practice.
- They conduct healing through prophecy.
- Priests and ministers do not have to be celibate and they are allowed to marry.

NOTE: Other differences in practices must be credited.

EXAMPLE: ISLAM

Shi'a Islam

- They are allowed to combine the five daily prayers to three.
- They practise 'mut'a' (temporary marriage).
- They practise self-mutilation on observance of the martyrdom of Hussein, grandson of Prophet Muhammad.
- They undertake pilgrimage to Karbala in Iraq.Sunni Islam
- Sunnis are not allowed to combine the five daily prayers.
- Mut'a is not permitted.
- All practices are according to the 'sunnah' (practices) of the Prophet.

African Traditional Religion

Example 3: African Traditional Religion

AmaZulu

- They burn incense during communication with the ancestors.
- When there is misfortune or illness, they consult the traditional healer or diviner.
- UNomkhubulwane (feminine divinity) is approached through a pilgrimage to the mountain during the times of natural disasters or drought.
- Young girls undertake a pilgrimage to the mountain to communicate with uNomkhubulwane.

Aka (Central Africa)

- Dancing and singing are performed in honour of Dzengi.
- They slaughter an animal in communication rituals with the ancestors.
- When they go for hunting they perform a ritual which involves animal slaughtering to communicate with the animal spirit.
- They consult ngangas when taking difficult decisions.
- When there is illness or crisis in the family or community, the ngangas (traditional healers) are consulted.

Yoruba

- Religious practices focus on Ori-Orun (spiritual self)
- Sincere meditation and veneration strengthen one's links with the spiritual realm.
- Spiritual contact is made via various intermediaries, including Orisas (lesser divinities) and

- Babalawo (priest of divination)
- Each town has its own orisa, and a temple dedicated to it.

Features of internal differences

Zen Buddhism

- Zen practitioners meditate in order to attain enlightenment.
- An important belief of Zen Buddhism is that there is a line of authority that goes back to the Buddha.
- Zen tradition emphasises direct communication and not scriptural study or the study of religious texts.

Normative source, sacred book ,hermeneutical principles and the importance of hermeneutical principles

Normative sources in the context of religion

- 'Normative' can be defined as setting standards.
- They have defining statements which affirm how things should be.
- They also show values, what is good or bad, and what is right or wrong.
- These sources originated mainly from oral tradition.
- Some religions believe God 'talks to' followers who then write down the text.
- Each religious tradition has a beginning, a source, which is normative.
- Source does not refer to the origin, but suggests how people return to it to find answers.

Hermeneutics

- Hermeneutics means 'to interpret.'

- Hermeneutics directs the interpretation of scripture according to its own context.

The importance of hermeneutical principles in the interpretation of religious text

- Hermeneutics ensures that there is **no bias in interpretation** of religious text.
- Hermeneutics takes into account that texts are created at a **specific time in history and in a particular culture**.
- This results in a **clearer, more accurate** interpretation of a religious source.
- Hermeneutics provides for **verification by cross-checking** one text against another or one verse against another.
- They create unity in the church/religion through common understanding of beliefs.
- They lead to common understanding of sacred text.
- We learn culture and language from people of the past.
- We learn history and appreciation of lifestyle of the past.
- We learn wisdom and philosophy through hermeneutical principles.

Hermeneutical principles/Steps.

Grammar and Historical context

- This means that the writings must be understood within the context of the time and circumstances in which the text was written.
- Grammar and historical context and historical facts to interpret sacred text. One must use the rules of grammar

Clearest meaning

- The meaning that is clearest to the readers should be considered.
- Clearest meaning- one should take the literal meaning of the text.

Plan, purpose and context

- The writing plan or structure of the whole document must be taken onto account.
- The purpose of the writer should also be taken into account.
- The extract should be seen as the part of the whole.
- A piece of writing should be viewed as a whole. What is the writing plan or structure? What was the author's purpose in writing the text? What is the context of the passage being looked at?

Meanings of words

- For the correct interpretation, the original meaning must be used because the meaning of words often changes over time.
- Meaning of words/ Etymology: The meaning of words change over time and in different places. Find out the original meaning as they were used in the normative source.

Figurative language

- Figurative language used in sacred texts must not be interpreted literally.
- Figurative meaning: Figurative and non- literal meaning must be taken into account.

Other sacred texts

- Sacred texts may be used to interpret other sacred texts on the same topic because there is consistency among teachings of a religion and its sacred texts.
- Other sacred texts: Sacred texts themselves may be used to interpret other sacred texts.

Oral tradition/Sacred book/Inspiration

Discussion and evaluation of the role of the following, In the context of religion:

Oral tradition

- Oral tradition in all religions serves as an effective way of passing the original message, from one generation to another by word of mouth.
- 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.
- Oral tradition provides more clarity than written text, owing to narrative style.
- 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

Sacred text

- Writing entered the religious scene roughly 4 000 years ago.

- As the technology of writing becomes more prevalent, it increases the way of spreading religious teaching.
- The written text changes the tradition to be more fixed
- The written texts provide fixed yardsticks of measuring right and wrong teachings.
- Sacred texts are more central especially in the religions of books, e.g. Abrahamic religions.
- Sacred texts usually form part of larger collections.
- The accepted collection of sacred books referred to as 'canons' provide more authority than religious leaders.
- Sacred texts also have numerous commentaries.
- These explanations are governed by specific laws of interpretation (hermeneutical principles)

Inspiration

- 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 that they received 'revelation' from an extraordinary being.
- Examples are Moses, Jesus Christ, Abraham, Prophet Muhammad, Buddha and Baha'u'llah.
- In ATR, mediums or diviners receive inspiration while they are in a trance.
- This inspiration is on-going, while that of the Abrahamic faiths did not go beyond their founders.
- Inspiration is a powerful motivation for the followers of a religion.

The role of sacred text in any ONE religion/origin and development of normative source (Sacred text refers to the written normative source of a particular religion.)

The importance of sacred books in religion: SACRED BOOK

- Written sacred text is more rigid than oral texts.
- Sacred books are fixed yardsticks of measuring right and wrong.
- Sacred books contain the history of different eras of the past.
- They also reflect the languages and cultures of the past eras.

- Sacred books serve as reliable references of the teachings and beliefs of a religion.
- Sacred books serve as a unifying source of religion.

Normative source

(The role of oral tradition as a normative source in the African Traditional Religion)

African Traditional Religion

- African Traditional Religion does not have a written text.
- All its beliefs and teachings are passed down in two ways: 1. The Spoken Word 2. Ritual actions
- In ATR, religious teachings, morals, values and knowledge are communicated by the telling of stories. These are known as proverbs and Myths (sacred stories that explain certain key events) form a key aspect of oral tradition.
- An oral religion does not mean that its teachings are only shared through speaking.
- Actions and rituals are an important part of ATR. E.g. it is through the ritual of ancestor veneration that the belief in ancestors is communicated.
- In ATR, the Supreme Being is unknowable.
- This leaves the believer to be silent about this.
- ATR has no sacred text, but religion is written in the minds and actions of the people.
- The daily practical routines reinforce the oral tradition. E.g. respecting the elderly, siblings, oneself.
- The clan is consulted before undertaking an action, rather than consult a book.

Islam as an example:

- Muslims believe that God revealed His final message to humanity through the Prophet Muhammad.
- As the Prophet was illiterate, he shared the revelations orally with his followers, who wrote them down.
- The text containing the revelations is known as the Qur'an.
- This book is regarded as the supreme scripture of Islam.
- It is regarded as the word of God.
- The Qur'an cannot be separated from the language in which it was revealed (Arabic).

- It should be studied in that text, so as to keep the correct meaning.
- After the Qur'an, the most important text is the Hadith.
- It contains the sayings of the Prophet.
- Hadith shows the examples set by the Prophet.

Buddhism as an example:

- Buddha's central teachings were written down in the threefold Canon.
- These texts were known as the Tripitaka.
- The three parts are Vinaya Pitaka.
- It describes the code of conduct expected of Buddhist monks and nuns.
- The Sutta Pitaka.
- It relates stories from Buddha's life. It contains the teachings of the Buddha.
- Sutta describes its main characters, the setting and reason why it was first preached.
- The Sutta also has its own internal literary context, its own explanation of what it is about.
- Abhidhamma Pitaka.
- It contains philosophy, poetry and commentary on doctrines

Example 3 : Judaism

- The sacred book in Judaism is called the 'Tenach.'
- The Tenach is categorised into three sections, namely Torah, Neviim and Ketuvim.
- The Tenach was written in Hebrew.
- The Jews believe that the Torah existed even before the world was created.
- The Torah was revealed by God to Moses and through him to the Jewish nation.
- It is eternal and unchangeable.
- The Torah contains God's divine words that were revealed in the first five books of Moses.
- The Neviim contains the historical books that recorded parts of the prophecies of the early pre-literary prophets.
- The Ketuvim represents the additional writings that were not Torah or Neviim; such as Psalms, Proverbs, Song of Songs, etc.

- The Talmud is an additional writing of the Rabbis' laws about marriage, prayer and rituals.

EXAMPLE: CHRISTIANITY

- Christians believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of the living God
- His teachings were first passed to His Apostles by word of mouth.
- The Apostles were eyewitnesses of the life and teachings of Christ. After the death and resurrection of Christ they started to spread His message, called the gospel.
- The evangelists of the gospel of Christ recorded the first four books of the New Testament.
- The four books were named after their authors, Mathew, Mark, Luke and John.
- After the ascension of the Lord His apostles were filled with the power of the Holy Spirit and demonstrated the power of the gospel.
- The acts of the Apostles were recorded by Luke, the author of the gospel, as the Book of Acts of the Apostles.
- The other books were written by the Apostle Paul as letters to different persons and churches.
- Some others were letters from different apostles to Christians of that time.
- All these writings were written by different people, for different reasons, at different times.
- The books were collected later and accepted by the church as authentic.
- The church compiled them to develop a new book, called the New Testament.

EXAMPLE : Hinduism

- ☐ The sacred text for Hinduism is the Vedas.
- ☐ The Vedas are the collections of knowledge in the sense of all the phases of the human search for meaning.
- ☐ Hindus believe that the truth embodied in the Vedas is eternal and that they are not creation of the human mind.
- ☐ Historians believe that the Vedas were written between 2 500 and 500 BCE.
- ☐ The Vedas were compiled by a great sage or wise man, Krishna Dwipayana.
- ☐ He gathered all the oral teachings passed on by the Rishis (wise men), and by teachers to students.
- ☐ He compiled them into four standard collections or books: the Rigveda, Yajurveda, Samaveda and the Atharaveda.

CENTRAL BELIEFS OF RELIGIONS

(The core teachings of religions, under the following headings):

Reward and punishment

EXAMPLE 1: Christianity

- Reward and punishment is fair.
- Rewards motivate believers to sacrifice their life because of the greater rewards.
- Rewards have influenced people to die for their belief.
- Punishment helps believers to live according to their religious teachings.
- Punishment is one of the motivation factors to adhere to religious teachings.
- We are all rewarded in this world by doing good. There is no need for extra reward.

The role of divinity

EXAMPLE 1: Christianity

- God is one, but is made up of three personalities/persons.
- They are God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.
- He created the universe/earth to be used by man.
- He created everything visible and invisible.
- Man relates to God through Jesus Christ
- He is continuously involved in the world; His creative energy is constantly at work in the world.

The nature of the world

ATR as an example:

- The idea of the world includes all that exists.
- The world is seen as a cosmos, rather than simply earth.
- The universe does not have a centre .
- This understanding of life is called ' vitalogy'.
- It is impossible to make accurate predictions about life, because life contains an element of secrecy.
- Uncertainty is built into life itself.
- This fundamental uncertainty impels humans and other living beings to seek certainty.
- Thus religion becomes imperative in ATR.

Christianity as an example:

- 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 HolyTrinity 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.
- But in control of God.
- Just as God has created the world, he can destroy it.
- He will destroy the world infested with evil and create a new one

The origin and role of evil:

ATR as an example:

- In ATR evil originate from human actions.
- It is possible for humans to act in a way that is against the ethical principle to protect and promote life.
- This can take many forms such as ignoring the 'living dead'.
- These are the ancestors.
- The ethical principle can also be violated by harming others by using witchcraft or through disrespectful nature.

- In ATR, evil consists in the wilful disturbance and disruption of the communal and cosmic order.
- The living Dead are reputed to be able to punish the evil doers.
- The role of evil is to disrupt the communal and cosmic order.

Christianity as an example:

- 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, through human activities, 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.
- Evil separates humans from God, their maker.
- It relegates humans to being strangers in God's eyes.
- But God has provided a remedy for this alienation through Jesus Christ

Overcoming evil

ATR as an example:

- The remedy for overcoming evil (madimabe) is a ritual cleansing.
- This cleansing is known as 'go tlhaphisiwa' (being cleansed in Sesotho or Setswana), which is intended to appease the living dead.
- It allows the evil doer to reconcile with the community at large.
- The living dead may also punish evil with disease, drought or floods.
- In this case the community will follow appropriate cleansing procedures to appease the living dead and reconcile them with the community.
- The traditional leader (sangoma) holds the key to the reason and remedy for cleansing.
- Correcting one's disruptive actions may reconcile the evil doer with the community or the ancestors.

Christianity as an example:

- Christians believe that evil cannot be overcome as long as sin prevails.

- After the first sin human nature became susceptible to evil intentions and actions.
- There is an ongoing struggle between evil and good, darkness and light, Satan and God.
- Eventually God will triumph over Satan.
- This triumph will come with a catastrophic end of this world, and the beginning of a new one.
- Christians believe that overcoming of evil has been made possible by the birth, death and resurrection of Jesus.
- Jesus teaches that the response to evil should be good actions

The place and responsibility of humanity in the world

ATR as an example:

- Life is based on the intricate relationships between and among all human beings.
- The ATR principle is 'I am related, therefore I am'. (Ubuntu)
- The community is the inescapable source from which the individual derives the meaning of life.
- The individual can neither grow nor develop without the community.
- The responsibility of humanity is to live in harmony with one another, and with the ancestors.
- The community also has to respect and recognise the individual.
- ATR consists of three dimensions: Living human beings, the Living Dead, and the Yet-to-be-born.
- Memory is the cement that binds the three groups together.

Christianity as an example:

- Christians believe that humans were created in the image of God.
- After creating of 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.
- Humans are accountable to God.

Life after death

ATR as an example:

- When a human being dies he/she departs to the land of the spirits.
- This world after death is understood as a place; a space that is occupied by the living dead.
- From this world the living dead keep watch over the deeds of the living and protect or punish them and sometimes appear to them.
- Death takes them away from planet earth but does not take away life from them.
- Death turns them into invisible but living beings.
- There is no heaven or hell in the traditional understanding of life.
- But this does not mean that after death all humans are automatically the same.
- Evil doers become evil spirits when they die.
- They torment the living, and influence the living to do evil.

Christianity as an example:

EXAMPLE 1: Christianity

- According to Christianity, life does not cease with death, but continues beyond the grave.
- Those who die enter a new phase, called paradise/heaven, which lasts from the moment they die to the day of Resurrection.
- Sinners go to Hades/hell, where they are punished.
- It is believed that on the Last Day, the ordinary world will no longer exist and everything will come under the control of God
- On this day, there will be a final judgement and everyone will either be punished or rewarded.
- Only those who have lived a life according to the will of God will be allowed into an eternal life.
- Death, therefore, is not the end of life, but a phase in the journey of humankind.
- The resurrection implies that life has a purpose, that good and evil must have reward and that there is a higher life beyond this world.
- Christians believe that human beings were created immortal.
- However Adam and Eve disobeyed God's commands.
- The penalty for this sin was death for the human race.
- Even after this condemnation, God still tried to liberate humanity from evil and death.
- After death Christians envisage a new community that will be marked by love, sharing and caring.
- However, the evil doers' destination after death is eternal suffering in hell.

- This includes the Devil himself.

The nature of divinity

Example 1: Christianity

- Christianity believes in the existence of the Divine and Supreme Being known as God.
- God is omnipresent.(not confined to physical laws of space)
- God is omniscient (all knowing).
- God manifested Himself as Three Persons (Trinity):
- God the Father as the Creator of the universe.
- God the Son, the Saviour and Liberator of humanity.
- God the Holy Spirit as Counsellor for the Christians

Nature of world

Example 1: Christianity

- According to the Christian faith, in the beginning there was nothing.
- The Book of Genesis states that God created the world and the universe in six days.
- The world was perfect after the Holy Trinity had finished with the creation.
- Human, marine, animals, plants and life all belong to God.
- God is in charge of the weather, climate and seasons.
- The world is subject to the governance of humanity.

Nature of humanity

Example 1: Christianity

- Christianity believes that humans were created in the image of God.
- Adam and Eve were instructed to look after the Garden of Eden and the whole of the creation.
- As co-creators with God, humans are God's representatives on earth.
- God appointed human beings to look after the world on His behalf.
- Human beings were also given the highest status above all God's creation.

Judaism

The nature of divinity

The Jewish concept of divinity involves several of Maimonides' Thirteen Articles.

God exists, and He is one.

Judaism is a monotheistic faith.

It does not allow the Christian concept of Trinity.

Man relates directly to God.

God has no form.

God is continuously involved in the world.

God does not have a material body.

He continuously judges the world and intervenes in history.

God has a personal relationship with every person.

God is eternal.

God alone is to be worshipped.

No prophet will ever be as great as Moses.

The nature of the world and humanity

To understand the world, humans must understand the Torah.

The Torah is a book, an idea and a quality of life.

The Torah is a Pentateuch.

It is all tradition and reflection dealing with God, man and the world.

God is universal and relates to all people of the world.

Jews express their faith through what they do.

'A person cannot live by faith alone' is a Jewish fundamental message.

Meaning and principles should be used to determine our ordinary behaviour.

Jews are expected to keep the 613 Commandments, known as Mitzvot.

Each person has to do what is right, and in doing so, the whole world will be perfect.

A Jewish community should be structured such that it looks after and uplifts the dignity of its members.

Those who are needy must be taken care of.

The poor must be looked after and not only those of the Jewish religion, even the non-Jewish people.

The Jew who benefits financially in the town where he or she lives is obliged to give back to it.

No one is supposed to be a parasite on society.

Individual Jewish communities must form structures to practically alleviate poverty.

Reward and punishment

God is interested in every person's deeds.

Every person is required to fulfil a Torah of deed.

The Torah speaks of reward and punishment.

Judaism believes in a world to come and a world of the soul.

Jews believe that humans will never fully understand the divine system of reward and punishment.

As people do God's will, the world slowly evolves to its perfection.

Jewish believers expect the coming of the Messiah, known as the Mashiach, or Anointed One in Hebrew.

Life after death

The thirteen articles of faith say that there will be resurrection of the dead in the time of the Mashiach.

When a person dies, the soul moves to another existence.

However, the Torah does not discuss the world of the soul; it only hints on it.

One attains a place in the world to come by performing good deeds in this world.

Belief in the world to come is based on the belief that the soul returns to a place of spiritual closeness to its source.

Heaven and hell are part of a spiritual reality that has no time or space.

The Maimonides states that the righteous of all nations have a place in the world to come.

The origin and role of evil

People are born free of evil.

Each person is a divine soul with unlimited potential good.

According to Judaism, God is all good and all loving.

Everything that emanates from Him is good, that is trials and challenges that life presents us with.

God gives each person the choice of how to relate to the world around him/her.

The study and the practice of the Torah are seen as the antidote to evil.

This helps humankind to appreciate the true goodness and strive for it.

Through repentance, human beings are able to draw close to God.

Religious conflict (ONE area of recent conflict in the world)

Causes of the conflict

- EXAMPLE 1: CONFLICT IN DARFUR/SUDAN
- Divisions in Darfur society can be traced back over 100 years.
- The two main causes of the divisions are ethnic and cultural.
- Religion itself does not appear to be a radical source of division.
- Most people in the area are Sunni Muslims although there are also a number of African traditionalists.
- There are also those who are Christians.
- Through the centuries, nomads and farmers worked out a way to co-exist.
- Darfur was a centre of the slave trade in North East Africa, and some acrimony persists.

The extent to which religion is involved in the conflict

- In 2005 South Africa brokered a peace deal between North and South Sudan however, conflict.
- A UN backed referendum in 2011 decided on partition of the South.
- The harmonious relationship between Khartoum and Juba was short-lived.
- The conflict continues, with the main issue being the Heglig oil fields
- Ethnic and tribal conflicts continue in South Sudan.
- As a result, South Sudan is faced with a huge humanitarian crisis.

What religions did to resolve the conflict(DURFUR)

- Religious aid organizations such as Islamic Relief Agency and the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development focus on practical support.
- They supply building materials and medical assistance.
- They build and repair clinics and schools.
- They supply food.
- They also train the local communities on Life Skills.
- These organizations are not able to play a role in stopping the conflicts.
- There is some degree of coordination that has taken place between these agencies.

EXAMPLE 2: ISRAEL-PALESTINE CONFLICT

Causes of the conflict

- After World War II Britain issued the Balfour Declaration.
- This made Palestine a British Protectorate.
- Palestinians were never consulted on the matter.
- In terms of the Balfour Declaration, sections of Palestinian land were set aside for Jews from Europe to settle. Jews initially bought land from Palestinians, but later forced them off their lands.
- In 1948 Jews declared their independence from Palestine and named their land Israel.
- Jews emigrated en masse from Europe and Muslim countries to the new Jewish state.
- Muslims were forced to flee the land Jews called Israel.
- The settlers soon invaded land belonging to Palestinians, and the latter became refugees.
- Today Jews still continue to build settlements in confiscated Palestinian land.

The extent to which religion is involved in the conflict

EXAMPLE 2: ISRAEL-PALESTINE CONFLICT

- It is only some Jews who claim the land as a 'God-given right'.
- Orthodox Jews reject the concept of a Jewish homeland.
- In this case, Jews use religion to both justify and reject the existence of a Jewish homeland.
- This leads to low-level intra-religious conflict among the Jews.
- However, the Palestine-Israel conflict is not religious: it is about land and human rights.

Roles that religions can do to resolve the conflict

- EXAMPLE 1: ISRAEL-PALESTINE CONFLICT
- Each of the Abrahamic religions should develop understanding and respect of the other.
- This will lead to tolerance, so that religion may not be used as an excuse to oppress one another.
- They should foster interreligious partnerships among the various communities, as they are divided along religious lines.
- They should have joint prayer meetings at sites holy to each religion.
- Religion should never be used to abuse the human rights of people from other religions.

Role that religious organisations play to prevent conflicts

- They can have multi-faith gatherings to create religious tolerance.
- All religions should work with government, so that all religions are treated equally by the state.
- All religions should advocate freedom of religion. People would then choose religions or world views, based on free will.
- Both Christian and Muslim leaders should support peace initiatives.
- They should show support for the African Union peacekeepers.
- They should jointly participate in humanitarian efforts, so as to develop a working relationship.
- There must be disarmament of all warring factions.
- They should form a government of national unity (GNU), which must include all factions of the society.
- All corruption by government officials should be exposed and punished.
- They should establish a truth and reconciliation commission, so that past atrocities may be brought to light.

- Those who confess their political crimes should be given amnesty.
- The state must adopt a secular approach and must protect all religions equally.
- An independent judiciary must be established.
- A religious leaders' forum must be established so that all religions can interact with the government.

Example no 2 : Nigeria

(parties involved in the conflict)

Example : (parties involved in the conflict) The warring parties are the Nigerian government and the Muslim fundamentalist group Boko Haram.

Example : Nigeria main reasons for the conflict

- Boko Haram means 'anti-West' (against Western culture).
- This fundamentalist group aims to establish an Islamic state in northern Nigeria.
- The Nigerian population is almost equally split between Muslim and Christian.
- Christians fear that they will be dominated by a Muslim government.
- Muslims fear the same.
- Some Muslim leaders have lost faith in the Nigerian government.
- They have taken the law into their own hands .i.e. they support Boko Haram.
- Nigeria has porous borders with its neighbours.
- The fighters can therefore escape to the neighbouring countries when they are pursued by government forces.
- Corruption in the Nigerian government also contributes to the support of Boko Haram.
- Rural communities are disadvantaged by the unfair distribution of state resources.
- Such communities are supported by groups such as Boko Haram.

Negative impact of religious conflict in community and in the country.

- Destruction of lives and property
- Lower economic growth
- Lack of education

- lack of social interaction
- most important is loses of innocent people
- The increase of the feeling of hatredness among religions
- Tension and limited social activities
- Ruin country reputation at international level
- Promote ill-discipline in the religions
- lead people not to tolerate each other in the community
- Any other relevant answers. (1x8) (8)

Religions VS Science

The explanation of the Big Bang theory.

- The scientific theory of the creation of the universe is called the 'Big Bang' theory.
- It explains how the universe came into existence.
- The theory of evolution explains the development of life from a simple form to its most complete form today.
- This development includes the evolution of humans through primitive stages to modern humans.
- It is believed that evolution still continues today.
- The study of evolution of the universe is called 'cosmology.'
- What existed before the Big Bang is not known.
- There was a big explosion in space and within seconds the universe had appeared and expanded to an enormous size.
- It happened about fifteen billion years ago.
- Small temperature differences in the initial explosion led to varying densities throughout the universe.
- These eventually formed into clusters of matter and energy.
- Huge spaces separated these clusters.
- They formed vast collections of stars that we call galaxies.
- Some galaxies condensed into a combination of stars and planets called solar systems.
- Our earth is in one of the solar systems.
- This is where the evolution of life takes place.
- Again the theory does not dispel the existence of a divine being.

- It only provides a scientific explanation of the structure and composition of the universe.

How each religions and explain has responded to the Big Bang Theory.

EXAMPLE: HINDUISM

- Hinduism does not have a problem with the Big Bang Theory.
- To the Hindu Religion, the universe is the creator.
- The creator has existed and will exist for all times.
- The creator has no limitations and, therefore is not a 'He' or 'She' or anything else.
- The creator is simply a creator.
- The creator exists in the active or passive state.
- The passive state is a state of rest when nothing happens.
- At rest the universe has no form and is undifferentiated, and is sort of 'flat' all over.
- After a long time the creator becomes active.
- This is when parts of the universe look and are different from parts and the creation begins.
- Humans are a by-product of the dance.

The creation of the universe is explained by any TWO religions

EXAMPLE 1: Judaism

- Creationism is explained in the Book of Genesis.
- The scriptures of Judaism are said to be inspired by God.
- There is one omnipotent, omniscient, perfect creator.
- He created human beings as a centrepiece of creation.
- Creation took six days: it started by separating light from dark.
- The universe was made from nothing.
- God created Adam and Eve, who were the first humans.

- They had been made from clay.
- Some modern Jews accept the theory of Evolution.
- They argue that evolution is part of God's plan.

Christianity as an example:

- 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.
- But in control of God.
- Just as God has created the world, he can destroy it.
- He will destroy the world infested with evil and create a new one

Theory of evolution versus religions

- The theory was propounded by Charles Darwin.
- It comprises four main ideas:
- Species contain a great variety of minor differences.
- Both the world and species change over time.
- In the quest for survival, better –adapted variations will be favoured, while those that are not will eventually be extinct.
- In this way, a species may gradually change its form and become more complex.
- The theory proposes that all life evolved from primitive forms and continues to evolve.
- The theory of evolution does not replace religious beliefs.
- It is a scientific attempt to explain the origin and development of life as we perceive it.
- It provides learners with broader view of existence.
- It encourages critical thinking and research.
- There is therefore nothing to worry about the teaching of these theories in the school.

Christianity as an example:

- Christians believe that humans were created in the image of God.
- After creating of 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.
- Humans are accountable to God.

The views of Hinduism on the theory of evolution

- Hinduism does not have a problem with evolution since the universe is based on evolution.
- They have a more advanced theory of evolution than the scientific, because the scientific theory is based on the physical.
- Hinduism provides a more comprehensive view because it includes the spiritual aspect.
- Scientists see evolution as a person that happens by chance.
- Hindus believe that you have control over both your spiritual and physical evolution.
- Good life leads to gradual evolution to advanced forms.
- Ultimately you will achieve liberation from the physical and become one with god.

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.

World views (example of world views)

What is meant by secular world views? (5x2) (10)

☒ secular world view means non-religious, not belonging to a particular religious community.

☒ Morality and government should not be based on religion. /There is a separation of religion and State.

☒ A world view is the way we make sense of the world around us.

☒ There are two types of world views: the religious world view and the secular world view.

☒ A religious world view is the belief that the government and morality should be based on religion.

☒ A secular world view is the belief that government and morality should be based on human rights, and not necessarily on religion.

- 'Secular' refers to "non-religious."

THE IMPORTANCE OF SECULARISM/BENEFIS

☒ Secular states have human rights and religious freedom at the heart of society.

☒ There are no religious wars in, or between, most secular states.

☒ People in secular states are free to follow any religion of their choice.

☒ Religious leaders from different faith communities are forced by the constitution to work as equal partners on religious issues.

☒ Different religions have developed their understanding of one another's beliefs and practices.

- Secularism has paved the way for the development of human rights.
- All religions are given equal status before the law, because of the ideas of secularism.
- It allows different religions to co-exist in harmony.
- Different religions, including minorities, do participate in the formal activities of the state.
- All religions are now free to conduct their religious practices without fear of discrimination.
- All religions are given equal status and are free to observe their holy days.

- Secularism has minimised religious wars and general religious conflict in the world.
- ☒ A secular world view leads to the development of democratic government.
- ☒ Secular laws become the highest laws of the world.
- ☒ Most religious people adapted to the secular view by accepting the separation of religion and the state.
- ☒ It promotes freedom of conscience and belief.
- ☒ It provides a framework of principles and ethical guidelines for life.
- ☒ Society has freedom to question the authority of religious teachings.
- ☒ Secular views led to the development of science and technology in society.
- ☒ It promotes freedom of speech where society can debate and question some of the traditional beliefs.
- ☒ Secular views led to the development of the Universal Declaration of Humans Rights.
- ☒ It prevents the domination of one religion.

The origin or reasons for the rise of Western secular humanism

- In the 16th century, Martin Luther set in motion certain changes that led to the splintering of Christianity.
- This led to decades of religious wars in Europe.
- Various Christian groups fought for dominance.
- At the time, the Church was very influential, both politically and socially.
- Most countries were not democratic, as they were ruled by emperors, kings, queens or nobility.
- These rulers used the Church to establish their power.
- In return, religious leaders also influenced rulers to promote their interpretation of beliefs.
- All the warring parties thought that a society would be peaceful if everyone shared the same beliefs.
- Protestant reformers were not tolerant of religious diversity.
- Catholics and Protestants imposed on each other, one or other form of their Christianity.
- People started to seek for a state where there would be religious tolerance.
- The intellectuals came to a conclusion that religion was divisive rather than uniting.

- A government which was based purely on reasoning and on an understanding of human nature was then the solution.
- The Prince of Orange was one of the first persons to advocate a split between church and state.
- Thus government and morality were divorced from religion, and secular humanism came into being.

Examples of the secular world views and facts on each

EXAMPLE 1: Agnosticism

- This term was first used by philosopher T.H.Huxley in 1869.
- Darwin's theory of human evolution challenged the idea of a supreme creator.
- Agnostics believe that it is not possible to either prove or disprove the existence of a God/supernatural being.
- Agnosticism comes from Greek – 'a' meaning without and 'gnosis' meaning 'knowledge'.
- This refers to uncertainty about God-knowledge.
- Agnostics are sceptical of religious teachings.
- They reject religious doctrine-especially religions that claim they have spiritual knowledge.

EXAMPLE 2: Atheism

- Atheists reject the belief that divine or supernatural powers exist.
- There are different degrees of atheism.
- Soft (or neutral) atheists do not actively reject the existence of a supernatural being.
- Strong (or Positive) Atheists believe there is evidence to support their atheistic views
- In some cases, soft atheists reject both theism and strong atheism.
- This is because they feel both world views depend on proof to support their claims.
- Atheists often turn to science to explain the nature of the universe, rather than relying on faith.

EXAMPLE 3: Materialism

- This is a worldview that believes that physical matter is the only reality.
- It denies the existence of a spiritual or supernatural realm.

- As such, materialism is a purely secular world view, and is incompatible with religion.
- Materialism developed in Asia and Europe (800–200 BCE).
- In the 19th century, Karl Marx, a German philosopher, elaborated on the concept of materialism to describe human history and economic activity.

EXAMPLE 4: SECULAR HUMANISM

- Humanism is a group of philosophies that believe human beings can develop ethics and morality independently of a supernatural being.
- Secular humanism is a branch of humanism that rejects religious belief.
- It also rejects the existence of a supernatural being.
- It is often associated with scientists and academics.
- Secular humanism generally leads to atheism.
- Secular humanism originated as a liberal view of human rights.
- It was not anti-religion, but emphasised that people's emotional and spiritual needs can be fulfilled without religion.
- Examples of secular humanism are atheism, communism, agnosticism and materialism.

The major challenges facing South Africa (social or topical issues). Example of a social issue: teenage pregnancy

A. *the negative impact that teenage pregnancy has on the South African economy*

Negative impact

- The government uses the tax payer's money to support the pregnant teenagers.
- The government allocates specific amounts for each pregnant learner in the schools, which leads to fruitless expenditure due to school drop outs.
- It also costs huge amounts of money since public health care is expensive in South Africa.
- Less than 2% of teenage mothers earn a degree by the time they reach the age of 30.
- This leads to a significant amount of lost earning, which impacts negatively towards the economy of the country.
- Teenage pregnancy also leads to the high rate of sexually transmitted infections.
- The government spends more money on campaigns against sexually transmitted diseases.
- Teenage pregnancy further leads to the high crime rate.
- Most of the children born out of stable families become street kids, which compels the government to care and support them.

- Teenage pregnancy also leads to the increase in the child-headed families and substance abuse.
- The economy of the country is negatively affected as the government has to budget for all these unplanned circumstances.

With reference to the teachings of any ONE religion, discuss the solutions offered to address the problem of teenage pregnancy

EXAMPLE: CHRISTIANITY

- Thou shall not commit adultery: In Christianity, sex before marriage is forbidden.
- Teenagers must abstain from any sexual activities.
- Your bodies are the Temples of the Holy Spirit: This means they must be responsible for any sexual act as their bodies belong to God.
- The youth are expected to preserve themselves and remain untouched until they get married.
- It is a sin to engage in sexual activities and have babies before marriage.

EXAMPLE: AFRICAN TRADITIONAL RELIGION

- The communal way of life is central to the African Traditional Religion.
- The youth are expected to behave in accordance with the customs and values of the community.
- It is a taboo in the African culture for a teenager to become pregnant outside marriage.
- In order to cleanse the family and the community, the boy has to pay for the damages of the pregnancy caused.
- As a way of punishment, the boy's family is expected to pay a cow to the chief (Inkosi).

Practical strategy to deal with teenage pregnancy

- Religious organisations must start sex education among the youth.
- Debate the ABC approach to sexuality and compare it with their religious teachings on sexuality.
- Teach rights and responsibilities as well as respect for males and females.
- Sex before marriage must be discouraged and regarded as a major sin in their religions.
- Religious initiation (rites of passage) should be encouraged among the youth.
- Religious organisations must encourage their youth to participate in health and sports youth programmes.

THE END