QUESTION 1

Read the extract below and answer questions that follow.

No religion is a solid, monolithic unity. They all have many internal differentiations and have had such differences since their inception.

[Adapted from Religion Studies Grade 12, HC Steyn]

1.1 Discuss the internal differences of ONE religion under the following headings:

1.1.1 Teachings (10)

1.1.2 Practices (10)

1.2 Evaluate the possible consequences of internal differences for religions. (14)

1.3 List any FOUR hermeneutical principles and explain the significance of each principle in the interpretation of sacred texts. (4 x 4) (16)

QUESTION 2

Read the extract below and answer the questions that follow.

All religions have a set of beliefs about the nature of divinity, humanity, the world, creation and other parts of life. Such broad beliefs are referred to as religious teachings.

[Adapted from Shuters Top Class Religion Studies, Grade 12]

Answer the following questions with reference to any ONE religion.

2.1 Analyse the nature of divinity as it is explained in the religion's central teachings. (18)

2.2 Discuss the central teachings of the religion that refer to the relationship between the community and the individual. (12)

2.3 Explain the religion's view on the origin of evil. (10)

2.4 Explain the religion's teachings about life after death. (10)

[50]
1.3 **Historical context**
- This means that the writings must be understood within the context of the time and circumstances in which the text was written.

**Clearest meaning/meaning of words**
- The meaning that is clearest (or most obvious) to the reader should be considered.

**Plan, purpose and context**
- The writing plan or structure of the whole document must be taken into account.
- An extract must be seen as part of the whole.
- For example, is the writing in the form of poetry or prose?

**Meanings of words**
- The meanings of words often change over time and context.
- For correct interpretation, the original meaning must be used.

**Figurative language**
- Figurative language is used widely in some sacred texts. This must be identified as such, so that it is not interpreted literally.
- Figurative language requires the application of all other hermeneutical principles, in order for it to be correctly interpreted.

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

**QUESTION 2**

2.1 **EXAMPLE 1: Hinduism**
- The highest concept of God in Hinduism is Brahma, the Supreme Being.
- Brahma is everywhere and the source of our existence.
- Hinduism believes that God can be experienced in graded stages according to the spiritual development of the devotee.
- The first level or experience of God under Brahma is Ishwara, the formless God, who is everywhere and formless.
- Hinduism’s nature of divinity is illustrated in the belief in reincarnation, which is a spiritual evolution, since one can experience Brahma in gradual stages.
- The Creator can be either in an active or passive state.
- The passive state of the Creator is a state of rest when nothing happens. The active state was when the Big Bang happened.
- Since God is seen in many forms, Hindus believe that all religions lead to...
QUESTION 3

Read the statement below and answer the questions that follow.

Every religion is concerned with the protection of the natural environment. This is because nature is seen as part of divine creation in most religions.

3.1 State FIVE possible causes of environmental destruction. (10)

3.2 Analyse the impact of environmental destruction on society. (10)

3.3 State FIVE practical strategies that religious organisations can implement to protect the environment. (10)

3.4 With reference to the teachings of any ONE religion, discuss the solution(s) that it offers for protecting the environment. (20)

QUESTION 4

Answer the following questions with reference to any ONE religion.

4.1 Explain the origin and development of the normative source(s). (20)

4.2 Discuss the specific hermeneutical principles relevant to the interpretation of sacred text. (14)

4.3 Explain the relationship between divine inspiration and normative sources. (16)

QUESTION 5

Read the statement below and answer the questions that follow.

Secularism is a world view that does not subscribe to any religious dogma. In the West, in particular, there are an increasing number of people who live secular lives.

5.1 Give possible reasons for the increasing popularity of secular world views. (10)

5.2 Name any TWO secular world views and explain the similarities and differences that exist between them. (20)

5.3 The Big Bang Theory is a scientific explanation for how the universe came into being. Religions, of course, also have their own explanations.
   In light of the above statement, discuss the different responses of any TWO religions to the Big Bang Theory. (20)

TOTAL: 150
3.4 EXAMPLE 1: CHRISTIANITY
- Christianity teaches that men were created after the image of God to rule the earth on behalf of God.
- Man is responsible for every creation and accountable to God.
- In the book of Genesis God commanded Adam to tend (to work, to serve) the garden.
- God commanded that the land should also keep the Sabbath unto the Lord as a way of conserving the earth (Lev.:25:2–4).
- God condemns the destruction of fruit-bearing trees even when waging war (Deut.: 20:19).
- In the book of Jeremiah God warns against destroying wildlife and nature (Jer.:9:9–11)
- The Bible condemns the destruction of beasts (Habakkuk 2:17).
- The world is for the Lord, the earth and their inhabitants, so let us take care of our environment.
- In the book of 2 Kings the Prophet Elisha appears to remedy a water crisis caused by pollution.
- The Lord Jesus Christ used examples from nature in His teachings about the kingdom of God

EXAMPLE 2: AFRICAN TRADITIONAL RELIGION
- AmaZulu have the goddess of nature called uNomkhubulwane.
- uNomkhubulwane is approached during times of natural disaster.
- They believe that she is half forest and half land.
- Protecting the environment is a sign of obedience to uNomkhubulwane.
- There are different myths which are told to the young ones so that they can respect nature.
- If you urinate in the river you will become the opposite sex, which was a way of not polluting water.
- Burning the land unnecessarily is a punishable offence in the African Traditional Religion.
- They believe in traditional medicine made of herbs and some animals, so plants and animals are life to the African Traditional Religion.
- They believe that the ancestors use different animals as their messengers to communicate with the living, e.g. bees.
- African Traditional Religion was the custodian of nature in Africa before colonisation.

NOTE: Any other relevant response must be credited.

QUESTION 4
If a candidate covers more than one religion in Question 4, credit must be given for each of the religions.

4.1 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.

NOTE: Any other relevant response must be credited.

4.2 EXAMPLE: CHRISTIANITY

Hermeneutical principles refer to the interpretation of sacred texts.

It involves looking at a spiritual text in its context. The following factors also have to be considered:

- What type of writing is it? When was it written? Who wrote it? What were the circumstances at the time it was written?

Some principles of hermeneutic interpretation are:

- Grammar and historical context: This means one must use the rules of grammar and the historical facts to interpret a text.
- Clearest meaning: One should consider the literal meaning of the text, and if necessary, other meanings.
- Plan, purpose and context: 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 this text? What is the context of the passage being looked at?
- Meaning of words: The meaning of words change over time and in different places. Find out the original meaning as used in the normative source.
- Figurative meaning: Figurative and non-literal meanings must be taken into account.
- Other sacred texts: Sacred texts themselves may be used to interpret other sacred texts.

NOTE: A maximum of 8 marks may be allocated where a candidate merely lists the hermeneutical principles.
4.3 EXAMPLE: CHRISTIANITY

- Inspiration refers to the 'breath' (power, knowledge) of an extraordinary being or power.
- E.g. God taking over a person and inspiring him/her with divine knowledge.
- Most books in the Bible were written by people who were divinely inspired by the Holy Spirit.
- Examples are Abraham, Moses, David, Prophets and Apostles.
- The inspiration of these figures was accepted by the church as being direct and immediate.
- They are believed to have received the message from God.
- Through divine inspiration the prophets foretold the future of the world.
- Inspiration by the Holy Spirit is still respected in terms of guidance in the church.
- The 'inspired teachings' form the foundation of Christianity, and are incorporated in the Bible.

QUESTION 5

5.1

- In affluent Western societies, there is little need for prayer.
- People lead comfortable lives and do not need a god.
- Religion has been blamed for numerous wars, particularly in Europe, e.g. the Spanish Inquisition and the Crusades. This caused people to lose faith in religion.
- The Protestant movement set in motion numerous religious wars in Europe, with each church and king trying to impose a particular brand of Christianity on others.
- Religious interference in politics also led to conflict. It was the Prince of Orange who first advocated separation of church and state.
- Unacceptable conduct by religious leaders causes disillusionment among their followers, e.g. child abuse by Catholic priests, exploitation of the poor by Hindu priests, etc.
- Scientific discoveries, such as the heliocentric explanation of planetary movement, challenged religious teachings.
- NOTE: Any other relevant response must be credited.

5.2 EXAMPLE 1: AGNOSTICISM AND ATHEISM

- Agnosticism is a view that the existence of a god can neither be proved nor disproved.
- Humans simply do not have the necessary knowledge.
- Therefore agnosticism does not attach any importance to religious ideas.
- Atheism, on the other hand, is a denial of the existence of a god or Supreme Being.
- There are different degrees of atheism.
- Some atheists simply doubt the existence of a god, but are not concerned with proving this.
- This is referred to as 'soft atheism'
- It is very similar to agnosticism.
QUESTION 4

Read the extract below and answer the questions that follow.

It’s rather clear from the way that the stories develop in the gospels that the Christians who are writing the gospels a generation after the death of Jesus are doing so from a stock of oral memory, that is, stories that had been passed down to them probably by followers. But if we think about the death of Jesus and remember a group of people who would have still been attached to him and to his memory after his death, it must have been a rather ... traumatic period of time. Many of their initial hopes and expectations had been dashed. All of this talk of the kingdom of God arriving soon seemed to be disconfirmed with his death.

And yet, there's that story of his resurrection, of his coming back to life. And it's around that memory, around that set of concerns that a lot of the earliest oral stories about Jesus must have been circulated and must have been built.

[Source: L Michael White, professor of Classics and Director of the Religious Studies Programme at the University of Texas]

4.1 Do you think written text is more accurate than oral tradition? Give reasons for your answer. (10)

4.2 What is the importance of hermeneutical principles in our life? (10)

4.3 Discuss the hermeneutical principles of interpreting normative sources of any ONE religion. (20)

4.4 What is the role of inspiration in African Traditional Religion? (10)

TOTAL: 150
Advertisements found offensive to certain religious communities are withdrawn.
- E.g. Nando's commercial – objection by Hindu community
- E.g. Red Bull commercial on social media – objection by Christians
- Representatives of various faiths are themselves interviewed (insider perspective).
- This allows for different viewpoints to be represented. (10)

4.1.2
- The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have thrust Islam into the limelight.
- In the West little was known about it in the past.
- Today, almost every bulletin mentions Muslims or Islam.
- There is increased competition among media houses.
- Print media also has to compete with electronic media.
- Religion is guaranteed to draw attention from loyal adherents.
- It also develops interest from non-religious (secular) people, who argue that religion is the cause of conflict. (10)

4.1.3
- The civil conflict in Nigeria is often shown as conflict between the Muslim north and Christian south.
- There is an effort by Muslims to enforce Sharia law, even on non-Muslims.
- Muslims fear that they will be ruled by a Christian government, and that they will be marginalised
- Christians fear that Nigeria would become an Islamic state.
- There is concern as to who will exert political control over the oil resources.
- The oil interests also encourage foreign powers to take sides in the conflict.
- Some Muslim sects have lost faith in the government and have taken the law into their own hands, e.g. Boko Haram.
- Boko Haram provides basic services to its supporters in the absence of government services.
- \textit{(Mail & Guardian, 5 April 2012, p. 24)}
- The Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) in Uganda is led by Joseph Kony.
- He is a Christian visionary who wants to establish a state according to his Christian beliefs.
- The LRA is engaged in a bloody civil war with the government. (10)

4.2 \textit{For the purpose of the memorandum, only TWO religions are discussed.}

Buddhism
- Buddhism promotes shared humanness.
- There is a shared aspiration of gaining happiness and avoiding suffering for all beings.
- A credo of Buddhism is: 'There must be no harm to living creatures, including humans.'
- It has therefore never used war to spread its teachings, as this would be a violation of basic human rights.
- It propagates by means of service to humanity.
- Buddhism allows freedom of choice in social relationships: one may practise rituals of other religions, while one's personal beliefs remain Buddhist.
- The Eightfold Path is a means to rid oneself of desire, so that one becomes selfless.
- The rights of others are more important than one's own rights.

**Christianity**
- 'Love thy neighbour as you love yourself.' This teaching encourages selflessness/treating everyone equally.
- 'Blessed is the hand that giveth.' This teaching encourages charity.
- 'Thou shalt not kill.' This refers to the sanctity of human life.
- 'Honour thy mother and thy father.' This emphasises respect for one's parents, and service to them.
- 'Love your wife as you love your own body.' This emphasises that women must be honoured by the husband.

(Any other relevant facts must be credited. Teachings may be expressed in the learner's own words. A maximum of EIGHT marks may be allocated for one religion.)

4.3 **Religious freedom**
- Religious freedom means that every person should be free to follow and practise his/her beliefs.
- There should be no fear of persecution.
- Religious freedom is spelt out in a country's constitution/legislation.
- This is determined by the government of the day.
- Freedom of religion allows for free expression and practice of any religion.

**Religious tolerance**
- Religious tolerance means to understand and respect religious beliefs and practices different from one's own.
- This applies even if one does not agree with the other.
- Religious tolerance mainly depends on interaction between religious groups and individuals in a community.
- Religious and political leaders play a significant role in fostering a culture of religious tolerance.
- It is based on respect, tolerance and understanding of religions other than one's own.
- Religious freedom is a precondition for religious tolerance.

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**TOTAL SECTION B:** 100
**GRAND TOTAL:** 150