Province of the
EASTERN CAPE
EDUCATION

Iphondo leMpuma Kapa: Isebe leMfundo
Provinsie van die Oos Kaap: Department van Onderwys
Porafensie Ya Kapa Botjahabela: Lefapha la Thuto

NATIONAL SENIOR CERTIFICATE

GRADE 12

SEPTEMBER 2026

RELIGION STUDIES P1

MARKS: **150**

TIME: **2 hours**

This question paper consists of 12 pages.

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INSTRUCTIONS AND INFORMATION

1. The question paper consists of SECTION A and SECTION B.

2. SECTION A: COMPULSORY
   SECTION B: Answer ANY TWO questions in this section.

3. Read ALL the questions carefully.

4. Start EACH question on a NEW page.

5. The length of your answers must be in accordance with the marks allocated to each question.

6. Number the answers correctly according to the numbering system used in this question paper.

7. Write neatly and legibly.

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SECTION A (COMPULSORY)

QUESTION 1

1.1 Various options are provided as possible answers to the following questions. Choose the answer and write only the letter (A–D) next to the question numbers (1.1.1 to 1.1.10) in the ANSWER BOOK, for example 1.1.11 D.

1.1.1 The Middle Eastern family of religions consists of ...

A Buddhism, Hinduism, Jainism and Sikhism.
B Taoism, Confucianism, Shintoism and the Baha'i faith.
C Judaism, Christianity, Islam and the Baha'i faith.
D San Religion, Yoruba, ama Zulu and Aka. (1)

1.1.2 Which ONE of the following is an explanation of monotheism?

A Doctrine that recognises two independent principles.
B The belief that God is everything and everything is God.
C Belief in the existence of gods or a God.
D Belief or worship of more than one God. (1)

1.1.3 Shaman is ...

A the highest cast in traditional Hinduism.
B someone who acts as a medium between the visible and the spirit world.
C a ruler, such as a king or queen.
D the title of Roman emperors. (1)

1.1.4 The Tripitaka refers to the foundational sacred text of ...

A Judaism.
B the Baha'i faith.
C Buddhism.
D The Latter-Day Saints. (1)

1.1.5 The primary source of the Shariah is the ...

A Talmud.
B Samhita.
C Qur'an.
D minds and actions of people. (1)

1.1.6 Ubuntu is …

A the day used for communal worship in the African Traditional Religion.
B showing respect and empathy towards fellow human beings.
C a religious teaching with absolute authority.
D a word meaning ‘people of African origin’ (1)

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1.1.7 A ceremony during which a believer is made a member of the Christian community through water.

A Cataclysm
B Appeasement
C Baptism
D Holy Communion (1)

1.1.8 The first Parliament of the World's Religions was held in …

A The Hague.
B Rome.
C Chicago.
D Kyoto. (1)

1.1.9 A Muslim religious leader and teacher:

A Imam
B Cardinal
C Raja
D Apostle (1)

1.1.10 One of the major sacraments of the Catholic faith is the …

A Judaism.
B Eucharist.
C Reincarnation.
D Nirvana. (1)

[10]

1.2 Choose an item from COLUMN B that matches an item in COLUMN A. Write only the letter (A–G) next to the question numbers (1.2.1 to 1.2.6) in the ANSWER BOOK, for example 1.2.7 H. Do NOT use any letter more than ONCE.

COLUMN A		COLUMN B	
1.2.1	Shariah	A	African Traditional Religion
1.2.2	Baha'i-faith	B	New Testament
1.2.3	Veneration of Ancestors	C	Constitution
1.2.4	Taoism	D	Divine Law of Islam
1.2.5	Freedom of belief	E	Kitab-i-Aqdas
1.2.6	Judaism	F	China
		G	Abrahamic religion

(6 x 1) (6)

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1.3 Choose the word in EACH list below that does NOT match the rest. Write down only the word next to the question numbers (1.3.1 to 1.3.5) in the ANSWER BOOK and give a reason why it does NOT fit.

EXAMPLE: Red; Yellow; Circle; Blue

ANSWER: Circle

REASON: The other three are colours.

1.3.1 Nirvana, Karma, Baptism, Reincarnation (2)

1.3.2 Quran, Bible, Dictionary, Tripitaka (2)

1.3.3 Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Baha'i-faith (2)

1.3.4 Moses, Jesus, Lao Tzu, Prophet Muhammad (2)

1.3.5 Modimo, Allah, Umvelinqangi, Unkulunkulu (2)

1.4 Complete the following sentences by filing in the missing word(s). Write ONLY the word next to the question numbers (1.4.1 to 1.4.5) in the ANSWER BOOK.

1.4.1 An African Traditional Religion healer that consults the ancestors is called a … (2)

1.4.2 The sacred scripture of Judaism is called … (2)

1.4.3 Sunni is one branch of … (2)

1.4.4 The Tripitaka is the sacred book of … (2)

1.4.5 A state of supreme spiritual liberation in Hinduism is called ... (2)

1.5 Indicate whether the statements are TRUE or FALSE. Write only 'true' or 'false' next to the question numbers (1.5.1 to 1.5.5) in the ANSWER BOOK. Give a reason if the answer is FALSE.

1.5.1 The head of the Catholic church is called Baha'u'llah. (2)

1.5.2 The Vedas are regarded as the sacred text of Buddhism. (2)

1.5.3 One of the Five Pillars of Islam is to go on pilgrimage to Mecca called a Zakat. (2)

1.5.4 Baha'u'llah is the prophet/founder of the Baha'i faith. (2)

1.5.5 Ramadan is celebrated yearly by Hinduism. (2)

1.6 Write TWO facts about each of the following:

1.6.1 Tenzyn Gaitso (2)

1.6.2 Archbishop Desmond Tutu (2)

TOTAL SECTION A: 50

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SECTION B

Answer any TWO questions in this section.

QUESTION 2

2.1 Explain the following concepts in the context of religion.

2.1.1 Parable (4)

2.1.2 Doctrine (4)

2.1.3 Comparability (4)

2.2 State any TWO unique features of the following religions.

2.2.1 Islam (4)

2.2.2 Christianity (4)

2.2.3 Taoism (4)

2.3 How do you think religions create a shared identity? (4)

2.4 Explain the relationship between religious *teaching* and religious *belie*f. (4)

2.5 In Hinduism, life is guided by primary goals. These aims provide a balanced blueprint for human life.

Name THREE aims of life according to Hinduism. (6)

2..6 Differentiate between EACH of the following:

2.6.1 The *Quran* and the *Hadith* (4)

2.6.2 *Olodumare* in Yoruba and *Dzengi* in the Aka religion (4)

2.7 Discuss the functions of the uniqueness of a religion. (4)
[50]

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QUESTION 3

3.1 Read the extract below and answer the questions that follow.

CHRISTIANITY IN THE MEDIA: CHALLENGES AND ATTACKS ON CHRISTIANS TODAY

Christianity is one of the largest religions in the world, with billions of followers. The media plays an important role in informing society about religious issues, including Christianity.

While the media can promote understanding and religious freedom, it can also highlight situations where Christians face discrimination, persecution or criticism. A current issue receiving international media attention is the persecution of Christians in several countries, especially Nigeria.

Current case study: Persecution of Christians in Nigeria
Nigeria has experienced ongoing violence against Christian communities. Armed extremist groups have attacked churches, Christian villages, and worshipers. Many Christians have been killed, injured, or forced to leave their homes. Religious organisations and human rights groups have raised concerns about the safety of Christians in the region.

International news agencies, television networks, newspapers, and social media platforms have reported these incidents. Through media coverage, people around the world have become aware of the challenges faced by Christians in Nigeria and other countries where religious freedom is threatened.

[Author unknown]

3.1.1 What is the current case study discussed in the article? (2)

3.1.2 Quote ONE phrase from paragraph 2 that shows that the situation has received global attention. (2)

3.1.3 Refer to paragraph 4.

How has the media helped raise awareness of the problem? (4)

3.1.4 In what ways has the South African media changed its coverage of religion after the 1994 democratic elections? (8)

3.1.5 Identify THREE types of media from the extract. (6)

3.1.6 Name TWO aspects of religion you think get the most media coverage. Give TWO reasons why you think this happens. (8)

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3.2 Read the extract below and answer the questions that follow.

GROUP PROJECT TENSION

The lecturer split the class into groups for a presentation. Josh, who is Jewish, immediately took charge of the budget and told everyone "Don't worry. I'll handle the money, so we don't get ripped off." He was also on his phone during the meeting because he "had to close a deal." Aisha, a Christian student, promised to submit her section by Friday but showed up on Monday with excuses. When someone asked her about it she just smiled and said, "Oh, I forgot – God will provide." Gert who is Muslim, volunteered to help with security for the event. Another student joked, 'Of course he did – Muslims are always fighters."

[Author unknown]

3.2.1 Define the concept *stereotyping*. (2)

3.2.2 Identify TWO of the stereotypes highlighted in the extract. (4)

3.2.3 What, do you think, can the media do to end the stereotyping of religions? (8)

3.3 Why do you think, has media coverage of religious issues increased sharply in recent years? (6)

[50]

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QUESTION 4

4.1 Read the extract below and answer the questions that follow.

A 43-year-old Cameroonian shop owner in Durban, who has lived in South Africa for nearly 20 years, said that people he believed to be affiliated with March and March attacked him on April 17, 2026, during protests in Durban targeting foreign-owned shops.

He closed his shop, locked the doors, and turned off the lights, but a group of approximately ten men broke down his door and, using a derogatory term, asked two South African women who run a hair salon in the shop about him. "They whipped me and my three colleagues who are not South African with golf sticks and sjamboks [heavy whips], and sprayed pepper spray on us", he said. "They also used stun guns on us. We ran outside the shop, while unable to see clearly. They followed us outside and whipped us – no one came to assist us."

The shop owner is married to a South African woman and lawfully living in South Africa, but he said his attackers did not seek to clarify his migration status. No law enforcement officers came to protect him, he said, like reports in previous years that South African police officers failed to protect foreign nationals, or worse, aided the attackers. The shop owner has not opened an assault case, as he does not have faith in the country's criminal justice system.

[Author unknown]

4.1.1 Quote from the extract ONE word, that indicates the shop owner's country of origin. (2)

4.1.2 Name the significant traumatic events that took place on April 17, 2026, according to the shop owner. (4)

4.1.3 Which rights of the shop owner and his colleagues were violated according to the extract? Name any THREE. (6)

4.1.4 Discuss relevant teachings from any ONE religion you have studied that promote human rights. (6)

4.1.5 As a youth leader, what practical suggestions would you make to the South African youth to build religious tolerance? (8)

4.1.6 Which word in paragraph 3 indicates that the shop owner is not in the country illegaly? (2)

4.1.7 Religious freedom is a human right. Name any TWO other human rights and discuss the responsibilities associated with EACH of them. (8)

4.1.8 Do you think a secular state has greater respect for human rights than a theocratic or religious state?
Motivate your answer. (6)

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4.2 Read the extract below and answer the questions that follow.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

It is a fundamental human right protected by the Constitution of South Africa and many international human rights agreements.

In a diverse country like South Africa, people follow different religions, including Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Judaism, African Traditional religion, and others.

[Author unknown]

4.2.1 What is meant by *religious freedom*? (2)

4.2.2 Religious communities in South Africa have been able to maintain good relations.

Discuss the reason for this peaceful co-existence. (6)

[50]

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QUESTION 5

Read the extract below and answer the questions that follow.

ISRAEL AND PALESTINE

Background

The current conflict is an extension of the long-standing dispute between Israel and Palestine over land, political control, security, and self-determination. The latest war began on 7 October 2023 when the terror organization Hamas launched attacks into Israel. Roughly 1200 people, including unarmed civilians, women and children, were killed and over 250 hostages were taken during this attack. Israel formally declared war and launched "Operation Iron Swords", which included an intense bombing campaign and a full-scale ground invasion of the Gaza Strip.

Current situation

Although ceasefire efforts have been made, fighting and airstrikes continue in Gaza. Reports from June 2026 indicate ongoing Israeli strikes, civilian casualties, humanitarian challenges and stalled peace negotiations. The conflict has also affected neighbouring areas such as Lebanon, Yemen, Iran and Syria while increasing tensions across the Middle East.

Conclusion

The Israel-Palestine conflict remains one of the world's most complex and controversial conflicts. The ongoing war in Gaza continues to affect millions of people and remain a major international concern. Many governments, humanitarian organisations, and the United Nations continue to call for peace, protection of civilians, and a lasting political solution.

[Adapted from *UNRIC, Encyclopedia Britannica, Reuters*, 2026]

5.1 5.1.1 Name the religions involved in the conflict. (4)

5.1.2 What are the root issues of the Israel-Palestine dispute according to the text? (4)

5.1.3 Besides Gaza, which other neighbouring areas are being affected by this war? (4)

5.1.4 Despite the ceasefire efforts, the fighting continues.
Study the extract carefully and mention THREE things that are still happening in Gaza as of June 2026. (6)

5.2 With reference to any ONE religion you have studied, discuss its teachings regarding how to avoid conflict. (6)

5.3 What practical steps can religious organisations take to resolve the conflict? (6)

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5.4 Religious conflict can be divided into two distinct categories, namely inter and intra religious.

Differentiate between these two types of religious conflict. (4)

5.5 Why do you think religious organisations generally find it difficult to resolve conflict in many parts of the world? (6)

5.6 Do you think religion plays a major role in the Israel-Palestinian conflict?
Give reasons for your answer. (6)

5.7 The *"Just wars"* doctrine says that under certain circumstances, a war can be seen as sanctioned by God.
Briefly explain TWO circumstances, where a just war may be permissible. (4)
[50]

TOTAL SECTION B: 100
GRAND TOTAL: 150

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