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Level 1 Religious Studies RAS 2023

91918 Demonstrate understanding of a characteristic of religious or spiritual traditions

EXEMPLAR

Excellence

TOTAL 07

Page 1 – Pilot Assessment

INSTRUCTIONS

Answer ONE of the questions below. Space for planning your answer is provided below.

QUESTIONS (Choose ONE)

1. Learning about religious and spiritual beliefs helps us to develop understanding. How do the key beliefs of two different religious or spiritual traditions influence behaviour in daily life?
2. Some religious and spiritual traditions use material expression, such as art and icons. Compare views about material expression in two different religious or spiritual practices.
3. Narratives of religious and spiritual traditions often contain a message of hope. How do narratives from two different religious or spiritual traditions offer ways of helping people to get through life's challenges?

SELECTED QUESTION

Copy and paste the question you have chosen into the space below.

Narratives of religious and spiritual traditions often contain a message of hope. How do narratives from two different religious or spiritual traditions offer ways of helping people to get through life's challenges?

PLANNING

B I U    

John 3:5 - "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the spirit"
Acts 2:38-39 - "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for you sins. And you will receive the gift of the holy spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all."
1 Peter 3:21 - "and this water is a symbol of... the pledge of a clear conscience towards God."
Psalm 51:5 - "Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me."
Ezekial 36:25 - "I will sprinkle clean water on you and you will be clean. I will cleanse you of all your impurities and all your idols."
John 6:55-56 - "My flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in them."
Pepeha Structure - "Waka, Maunga, Awa, Iwi, Marae, Ancestors/Family, Name"

Similarities:

- Both narratives help people facing life's challenges by providing an standards of expectation behaviour
- Both narratives are made to be shared

Differences:

- Maori looks to the past, while Christianity looks to the future.

EXTENDED RESPONSE

Type your extended response in the space below. You should aim to write a concise answer of up to 800 words. You must answer using paragraphs. The quality of your writing is more important than the length of your answer. (The counter will change colour when you reach the recommended word count.)

B I U    

Often when people are facing life's challenges, they don't know how to react, and what actions they should take to get through these challenges. Two traditions that offer behavioural guidance to help people facing life's challenges are Maori, and Christianity.

Narratives in the Maori tradition allow historical events, standards and expectations of behaviour to be passed down between generations, and they offer ways of helping people to get through life's challenges. They are most commonly shared through stories and waiata (songs). This makes the narratives interesting and engaging for all audiences, especially children. They give people guidance when they are facing life's challenges, as they can think

about the songs they're singing or the stories they have been told, and apply the teachings to their own lives.

The Maori use of oral narratives makes the messages able to be heard by anyone. The people in this tradition don't need to go and look through a book, or even be able to read, to have guidance when facing challenges and know the way in which they are expected to behave in certain situations.

Because these narratives are primarily oral, they are often repeated among tribes throughout Aoteroa. This repetition helps to solidify the narratives and allows correction to be made where needed. It makes the narratives open for discussion. This helps people to understand not just the tradition's rules, but motivates people to follow them by showing why it's important they face challenges in a certain way.

Heritage is crucially important for Maori people. A specific narrative used within this tradition is a pepeha. This is a way that people introduce themselves, by talking about themselves and the places or people they associate with. In a standard pepeha, someone will describe the waka they came the NZ on, the maunga (mountain) and awa (river) they associate with, their iwi, marae, ancestors/family, and their name. These pepeha are often told at important ceremonies such as a hui, powhiri, or when performing a speech. When people share the narrative of their pepeha, they are announcing who they are, their values, what they associate with. This narrative offers help to them when they are facing challenges in life, as they can look back at how their ancestors faced challenges for inspiration, and what actions their family or tribe would expect them to take.

The main narrative in the Christian tradition that offers ways of helping people to get through life's challenges is the Bible. This is a written narrative that tells the history of Christianity, as well as Jesus's time on earth, and sets standards and expectations for Christians today. It helps people to get through life's challenges in the way that whenever a situation occurs they don't know how to deal with, they can always go to the scripture to seek answers. In Matthew 28, the apostles were called to spread God's word to the ends of the Earth. Because the Bible is a written narrative, this is possible. It's an accessible, translatable collection of stories and teachings that can have innumerable copies made, and can be shared with people all over the world.

The Bible tells the story of Christians' actions right from the beginning of the world, until after Jesus's death and resurrection. It contains many proverbs and instructions that people can read when they are facing challenges in their life. These things will provide guidance and show the behaviour God expects of people in the Christian tradition. Being a written narrative, it's easy for people to look back at when they need to seek this guidance.

The Bible is sectioned into over 60 books, each of which are divided into chapters and then smaller verses. This makes it a narrative that can be easily negotiated, and allows people to find the instruction and motivation they need to get through life's challenges.

A specific narrative within the Bible is Jesus's death and resurrection. Numerous books recount how he descended to Earth to be crucified for humans' sins, before conquering death and rising once again. Because of the way the Bible is written and separated into books with multiple different authors, this narrative is something that people can read about from many different perspectives. It even includes the perspective of the judge who sentences Jesus to death, saying that he could find nothing that Jesus had done wrong, and had him crucified merely to please the mob. This narrative within the Bible offers people help by reminding those who are facing life's challenges that they just need to trust in God. Acts 2:38-39, says "*Repent... every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for you sins. And you will receive the gift of the holy spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all.*" The narrative of the Bible helps people facing life's challenges by reassuring them that Jesus died for their sins all they have to do is ask for God's forgiveness.

There are multiple similarities between narratives within the Maori and Christian traditions. Both the Maori oral narratives and the Bible offer standards of expected behaviour for people who are unsure what to do when faced with life's challenges. Furthermore, the narratives in both traditions are created to be shared, with the stories and songs of the Maori traditions being repeated among tribes, and the Bible being copied and sold or given to people all throughout the world.

However a difference that the two traditions have is that Maori narratives place a great emphasis on heritage and past events, with people looking to the behaviour of their ancestors in order to seek guidance when facing life's challenges. In contrast to this, the Bible is based around Jesus dying for humans' sins so that all people have the opportunity to gain salvation. The Bible instructs Christians to ask for forgiveness and look to the future, to where they will be able to gain eternal life with Christ in Heaven.

993 WORDS / 800 RECOMMENDED



Mana Tahu Mātauranga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Qualifications Authority

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Excellence

Subject: Religious Studies

Standard: 91918

Total score: 07

Q	Grade score	Marker commentary
Three	E7	The candidate has examined the connections between the characteristic and its application found in Christianity and Māori spirituality, to show a comprehensive understanding, using relevant evidence.