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91918



Draw a cross through the box (☒) if you have NOT written in this booklet

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Mana Tohu Mātauranga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Qualifications Authority

Level 1 Religious Studies 2025

91918 Demonstrate understanding of a characteristic of religious or spiritual traditions

Credits: Five

Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
Demonstrate understanding of a characteristic of religious or spiritual traditions.	Explain a characteristic of religious or spiritual traditions.	Examine a characteristic of religious or spiritual traditions.

Check that the National Student Number (NSN) on your admission slip is the same as the number at the top of this page.

You should answer ONE of the questions in this booklet.

If you need more room for any answer, use the extra space provided at the back of this booklet.

Check that this booklet has pages 2–8 in the correct order and that none of these pages is blank.

Do not write in the margins (//////). This area will be cut off when the booklet is marked.

YOU MUST HAND THIS BOOKLET TO THE SUPERVISOR AT THE END OF THE EXAMINATION.

Merit

TOTAL 06

Page 1

INSTRUCTIONS

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

QUESTIONS (Choose ONE)

1. Beliefs

Practising religious beliefs requires dedication and time. Explain the religious beliefs that shape the way people organise their lives in two religious or spiritual traditions you have studied.

2. Material expression

Objects are often used in religious and spiritual traditions for prayer and worship. Explain why specific objects are used, for and during, religious practices in two religious or spiritual traditions you have studied.

3. Social organisation

Religions are often involved in social action. Explain how social action is used by two religious or spiritual traditions you have studied to bring about change to society.

Note: 'Social action' refers to people coming together to bring about change. Social action can include education, political lobbying, protests, or charity.

SELECTED QUESTION

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

Objects are often used in religious and spiritual traditions for prayer and worship. Explain why specific objects are used, for and during, religious practices in two religious or spiritual traditions you have studied.

PLANNING

Catholic
Church, Youth Groups, Schools
rose mary beads, crosses

ten commandments - love God above all else, shall not lie, love your neighbour as yourself
Buddhism

mandala
manta - prayer wheel,
alters
nirvana - heaven
samsara - cycle
samsara - cycle
path of enlightenment
eight fold path - right of speech, right of thought, right of actions
dakha - suffering

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 maximum word count.)

B I U ☰ ∨ ☷ ∨ ↶ ↷ 🗨

In Catholicism the main purpose is to strengthen your connection to God. They do this by using special objects inside the religion that help influence their thoughts, minds and actions. Trying to strengthen your connection to God, can be very difficult, but it's first started when they try to repent all of their sins. Repenting sins can be a difficult task, as sins can be things that are in the Ten commandments. "You shall not lie." or "Love God above all else." These commandments are the rules that Catholic believers follow day to day, to ensure a stronger connection to God. The special objects that they use are things like, Rose-mary beads, and crosses. The use of Rose-Mary beads, help to strengthen your connection to God as it helps them to pray towards God for every bead that is on the neclace. There are different beads every so often on the neclace, and this means that there is a different prayer to say. The neclace has prayers on the like, Mother Mary, The Our Father, and The Glory Be. These prayers help to strengthen your connection to God as prayers are a big part of the religion. The Our Father says, "and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil" This quote from the Our Father helps to show that, forgiving their sins is the main purpose and helps most belivers be able to reach heaven. The belivers also use crosses in their everyday life to feel closer to God. They put crosses on jewlery like, neclaces or bracelets, or they put crosses in certain places inside their house to remind themselves of their goal. The use of crosses in their everyday life is to be able to feel closer to God while holding the cross, it allows them to pray and send a direct message to God. These special items allow for the believers to feel closer to God, and strengthen their relationship to God. By strengthening your relationship with God, repenting all sins, this makes the believers seem more closer to going into Heaven in the after-life. The believers like to think that getting into heaven in the after life allows them to be accepted by God. The main ways of doing this is prayer, so they use these special objects to help them repent for their sins through prayer. They are used inside of religious practices like, during church, or at the dinner table, to show that they always put God first. They say prayers while holding these special items like crosses and Rose-Mary beads during practices to show their commitment to God and their commitment into getting into Heaven in the after-life. This is how Catholic believers like to use special objects that are used, for and during religious practices inside Catholicism.

In Buddhism the main purpose is to be free of all dahka, suffering, and to reach the goal of Nirvana. Nirvana is the goal for all Buddhist believers, as if they are able to reach Nirvana, they are able to be free of all dahka, suffering. The Buddhist belivers do this by using special objects they are able to be able to get closer to their goal of Nirvana. They have rules of the eight fold path which includes, have the right of speech, right of mind and right of actions. This helps the Buddhist believers to follow to reach Nirvana with the help of these special objects. The Buddhists use mandalha drawings/art, prayer wheels and alters to be able to become closer to their goal. The use of alters helps them to feel closer, by sacrificing their most cherished items, and losing all sense of greed. As in Buddhism they think that greed means falling into a trap of suffering. So most believers like to spend time away from their prized possessions and spend more time with minimum resources to live. They escape the luxourious life and they like to live with nothing. They use the alters to emphasize their idea of giving away everthing that they have in their life. Giving up things like, new phones, nice foods, comfy beds, and clean clothes. As being dedicated to the goal of reaching Nirvana means you have to give up everything. This is how they use the alters, to give up everything they feel close to, to be able to reach their goal of Nirvana. The Buddhist believers like to use religious traditions with the alters to show their commitment in groups of people that have the same beliefs. The beleviers also like to use mandalha drawings to feel closer to reaching their goal of no suffering/Nirvana. They use these drawings and pieces of art to symbolise their emotions and feelings, by losing all suffering, they have to be at peace, getting to peace they need to meditate and relax their mind. They relax their mind by drawing shapes in a symmetrical pattern. These pieces of art uses different shapes like triangles, circles and sqaures to help show their different feelings. These drawings are full of colour and they like to allow for the believer to be at peace of mind, losing all other outsider distractions. The use of this special object inside the religion is used at times when life can be very stressful and just taking time to colour in and draw shapes to lose that stress. This allows you to be closer to Nirvana as its letting your mind be at rest. The final special object that buddhists like to use is the prayer wheel. The Buddhist believers like to use the prayer wheel to show the different stages of life and how everything all leads to death. The prayer wheel uses drawings like the snake, chicken and cat in the center of the drawing to symbolise the circle of life, and how every animal, or creature has a predator. They also use the devil holding the prayer wheel to show that the devil is always present, watching over you. They use the prayer wheel inside the religious practices like remembering that everything leads to death, so being able to reach nirvana, and being able to lose all dahka it helps them be at peace of mind. They do this inside of places like at home or with a small group, in silence or with soft music on. This helps them be free of all the dakha inside of their life. This is how these three special objects are often used, for and during religious practices inside Buddhism.

1101 WORDS / 800 RECOMMENDED

Merit

Subject: Religious Studies

Standard: 91918

Total score: 06

Q	Grade score	Marker commentary
Two	M6	<p>The candidate has gained Merit by explaining how the characteristic of material expression is applied within both Islam and Catholicism, clearly showing how specific objects are used in religious practice. They gave relevant examples such as hijabs, prayer mats, and the Qur'an in Islam, and rosary beads, crosses, and statues in Catholicism, and explained how these objects support worship by helping believers to focus on prayer, show respect to the divine, or strengthen their relationship with God or Allah.</p> <p>The response consistently linked each object to its practical use within the tradition, demonstrating a clear understanding of how the characteristic operates in real religious life. To reach Excellence, the candidate would have needed to go further by examining deeper connections and by drawing more integrated insights across both traditions.</p>