

PRINCIPAL EXAMINER'S REPORT



BOTSWANA
EXAMINATIONS
COUNCIL

JCE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 2024

PAPER 1: MULTIPLE CHOICE

General Comments

The candidates performed fairly in the component with the mean mark being 26.10. There were twenty-one (21) questions in which more than 70% of the candidates got the item correct. There were ten (10) items in which less than 50% of the candidates got the item correct. For the remaining nine (9) items, between 50% and 69% of the candidates got the item correct. The candidates should be encouraged to read the question and all the options thoroughly before making their choices.

Generally, Multiple-Choice items have a guessing factor which is the lowest proportion of being able to get the item correct without knowing the answer. For a Multiple-Choice item with four options, the guessing factor is 25% and any item which has the proportion of candidates who got it correct lower than the guessing factor is a cause for concern. Candidates should be encouraged to always read the question for understanding before they select an answer. The report is mainly table format showing the number of candidates at each of the options. The key for reading the table:

N number of candidates that selected the option as their answer

Key the option that was taken as the answer for the item

Comments on Individual Items

Item 1: Buddhist Myth

Option	N	Key	Comment
A	4424	B	Poorly done. The candidates were to recall the creator of humankind with the strongest distractor being Brahma.
B	6506		
C	2799		
D	1888		

Item 2: Religions

Option	N	Key	Comment
A	12121	A	Well done. Almost all the candidates were aware that African Traditional Religion (ATR) in Botswana uses Oral Literature.
B	2214		
C	708		
D	574		

Item 3: Interreligious Marriage

Option	N	Key	Comment
A	779	D	Well done. Most candidates recalled that interreligious marriage is a union between believers of different faiths
B	526		
C	2528		
D	11784		

Item 4: Buddhism

Option	N	Key	Comment
A	5955	A	Poorly done. Though most of the candidates selected the correct answer, the proportion of candidates across the distractors was high. Candidates should read the options carefully.
B	3389		
C	3286		
D	2987		

Item 5: Islam

Option	N	Key	Comment
A	1016	B	Fairly done. Candidates were able to relate the penalty of stoning to death with the offence of rape in Islam.
B	9104		
C	3967		
D	1530		

Item 6: Christianity – Mainline Church

Option	N	Key	Comment
A	2940	B	Fairly done. Most of the candidates were able to identify the Roman Catholic Church as the mainline church.
B	9596		
C	1857		
D	1224		

Item 7: Family

Option	N	Key	Comment
A	568	D	Almost all the candidates were aware that trust promotes unity in the family.
B	1010		
C	174		
D	13865		

Item 8: Sikhism

Option	N	Key	Comment
A	257	D	The candidates were aware that Guru Nanak was the founder of Sikhism. There were a few who selected other options.
B	433		
C	524		
D	14403		

Item 9: Religion

Option	N	Key	Comment
A	2666	C	The candidates were aware that the supernatural power being referred to is religion.
B	664		
C	12026		
D	261		

Item 10: Religions and Substance Abuse

Option	N	Key	Comment
A	3515	C	Fairly done. Though most candidates were aware that substance abuse defiles the body, a significant number of them selected options A and B and the misconception should be addressed.
B	2629		
C	8635		
D	838		

Item 11: Islam

Option	N	Key	Comment
A	1816	B	Fairly done. Candidates were able to deduce from the text that the family is extended as it includes the paternal parents. The strongest distractor was C.
B	9470		
C	3332		
D	999		

Item 12: Moral Values

Option	N	Key	Comment
A	13294	A	Candidates noted that the family showed compassion by giving a needy family.
B	564		
C	732		
D	1027		

Item 13: Islam

Option	N	Key	Comment
A	1356	D	Almost all the candidates noted that Mohammed and Fatima might be teaching to give 2.5% of wealth to the poor. The strongest distractor was option A.
B	515		
C	441		
D	13305		

Item 14: ATR

Option	N	Key	Comment
A	422	D	Fairly done. Candidates were aware that the Fly Whisk is used to apply medicine in ATR.
B	3124		
C	1509		
D	10562		

Item 15: Christianity

Option	N	Key	Comment
A	10900	A	Well done. Most candidates were aware that the most important place is the place where Jesus Christ was born.
B	321		
C	1343		
D	3053		

Item 16: Selflessness

Option	N	Key	Comment
A	1293	B	Fairly done. The strongest distractors were C and D.
B	7764		
C	3100		
D	3460		

Item 17: Jesus Christ

Option	N	Key	Comment
A	799	D	Almost all the candidates remembered Mary as the mother of Jesus.
B	333		
C	168		
D	14317		

Item 18: Hinduism

Option	N	Key	Comment
A	891	C	Poorly done. Most of the candidates were of the view that the cow signifies power. The cows are treated as mothers in Hinduism.
B	7891		
C	4195		
D	2640		

Item 19: Judaism

Option	N	Key	Comment
A	2413	C	Poorly done. Even though most candidates got the correct answer their proportion was small. Candidates should be given practice on methods of disposing of the books by different religions.
B	2057		
C	7117		
D	4030		

Item 20: Judaism - Holy Book

Option	N	Key	Comment
A	6962	B	The majority of the candidates went for options A and C. The proportion of candidates who related the placement of the Holy Book on top of the others to show reverence was very small. Doing so is showing sacredness of the book and giving it the respect it deserves.
B	2147		
C	4391		
D	2117		

Item 21: Sacred Books

Option	N	Key	Comment
A	4909	C	Fairly done. The candidates had to relate the Torah to the statement or to Judaism. The strongest distractor was A.
B	1651		
C	7975		
D	1082		



Item 22: Islam

Option	N	Key	Comment
A	451	B	The majority of the candidates noted that the mosque is a place of worship in Islam
B	13514		
C	514		
D	1137		

Item 23: Teachings

Option	N	Key	Comment
A	3181	D	Poorly done. This is a common statement which could even be answered using general knowledge. The candidates were not aware that an eye for eye meant revenge.
B	2548		
C	3128		
D	6759		

Item 24: Teachings

Option	N	Key	Comment
A	5492	D	Poorly done. The candidates were not aware that the statement was on revenge hence they failed to relate it to society developing self-defence mechanisms to ensure they are able to defend themselves when under attack.
B	2070		
C	2236		
D	5818		

Item 25: Christianity

Option	N	Key	Comment
A	681	B	Well done. Almost all the candidates were aware that forgiveness is a way of dealing with conflict in Christianity.
B	12897		
C	737		
D	1301		

Item 26: Pluralism

Option	N	Key	Comment
A	8850	A	Fairly done. Candidates should be encouraged to read for understanding. The strongest distractor was C.
B	1096		
C	4102		
D	1568		

Item 27: Business Ethics

Option	N	Key	Comment
A	874	D	Well done. Almost all the candidates noted that deceitful advertising was not acceptable when doing business.
B	639		
C	1527		
D	12575		

Item 28: Rituals

Option	N	Key	Comment
A	3225	D	Fairly done. The candidates recalled that prayer was an example of a ritual dimension. The strongest distractor was A.
B	1568		
C	896		
D	9926		

Item 29: Sikhism

Option	N	Key	Comment
A	516	B	Well done. Almost all the candidates noted that the turban can be used to identify a Sikh man.
B	13942		
C	730		
D	427		

Item 30: Religion in Botswana

Option	N	Key	Comment
A	1366	D	Well done. The candidates noted that engaging in corrupt practices was not a reason for converting to other religions.
B	1434		
C	1504		
D	11311		

Item 31: Symbol for One God

Option	N	Key	Comment
A	7180	B	Poorly done. Most candidates selected the crucifix as a symbol for believing in One God. The distribution of the candidates across the options shows that they did not have a good foundation on the concept.
B	4568		
C	1548		
D	2319		

Item 32: *Dikgafela*

Option	N	Key	Comment
A	601	C	Almost all the candidates noted that <i>Dikgafela</i> is to thank Badimo for a good harvest.
B	487		
C	14189		
D	338		

Item 33: Polygamy

Option	N	Key	Comment
A	14054	A	Almost all the candidates knew the definition of polygamy.
B	400		
C	518		
D	643		

Item 34: Polygamy and Religion

Option	N	Key	Comment
A	1630	D	Well done. The majority of candidates were aware that ATR in Botswana supports polygamy.
B	2036		
C	1000		
D	10949		

Item 35: Disadvantages of Polygamy

Option	N	Key	Comment
A	2663	B	Well done. Candidates were aware of sexually transmitted disease being a disadvantage to polygamy. The strongest distractor was A.
B	11691		
C	660		
D	601		

Item 36: Worshipping

Option	N	Key	Comment
A	736	B	Candidates were able to select being closer to the supreme power as a reason for worshipping.
B	12894		
C	1266		
D	718		

Item 37: Christianity in Botswana

Option	N	Key	Comment
A	13593	A	Well done. The biggest advantage of Christianity in Botswana was the building of schools.
B	625		
C	696		
D	700		

Item 38: Judaism

Option	N	Key	Comment
A	1100	C	Poorly done. The candidates were mainly split between bat mitsvah and circumcision. Centres should focus on the differences between the two concepts to help the candidates to understand better.
B	6152		
C	6256		
D	2102		

Item 39: Religion

Option	N	Key	Comment
A	836	B	The majority of the candidates were aware that of the four options given, charity was promoted in religions.
B	13847		
C	444		
D	468		



Item 40: Bahauallah

Option	N	Key	Comment
A	1851	B	Poorly done. The candidates were evenly spread across options B, C and D a sign of not understanding the concept. Centres need to cover concepts like the Bahauallah in detail for candidates to understand them better.
B	4895		
C	4671		
D	4038		

PAPER 2: WRITTEN THEORY

General Comments

This paper was constructed to assess knowledge, understanding and application of Religious Education concepts, as well as assess the ability of candidates to analyse and evaluate religious issues. There were two sections in the paper, Sections A and B, where the former presented structured items assessing candidates' understanding of challenges arising from certain belief systems as well as different religions in the modern world, along with human relationships and the natural world. Section B, however, targets assessing candidates' skills and competencies through essay items. They assessed the role played by religion and its impact on people's lives.

The performance of most candidates in this paper did not exhibit any significant changes, with candidates attempting knowledge items and struggling with content, especially where the essay questions are concerned. The observations made from the marking of different items across the examination paper are presented in the report.

Comments on Individual Questions

SECTION A

1 (a) **State any two examples of the material dimension in Christianity.** [2]

Well done. Most candidates easily recalled the two dimensions of Christianity mainly Church and prayer. A few candidates gave sacred objects instead of example as per question requirement. Centres are advised to cover all dimensions of Christianity.

(b) **Explain the following terms.**

Sexuality

[2]

Most candidates did fairly here. Most of the candidates defined sexuality but failed to give an example thereby getting a mark only instead of two. Candidates should be advised to consider the mark allocation when answering questions. Definition only is worth a mark, while definition and explanation or definition and example are worth two marks.

Reconciliation

[2]

It was also partially answered by the candidates. Similarly, candidates failed to explain or give examples to get all the two marks. For those who did not do well they only defined forgiveness and failed to link it to reconciliation.

(c) **Discuss two advantages of belonging to a religion.**

[4]

Poorly done. Most candidates were able to give the advantages of belonging to a religion but failed to discuss the benefit of belonging to a religion. The question required candidates to state two advantages and explain each of them for the candidates to get all the marks. Most candidates brought only one advantage, with an explanation thus resulted in losing marks.

2 (a) **Explain any Christian teaching on substance abuse.**

[2]

The question was fairly done since most candidates were able to give an example of a Christian teaching but failed to explain it hence scoring a mark for stating the teaching only. Others gave

general information instead Christian teachings. Centres are advised to expose their candidates to various Christian teachings and how they are explained.

(b) Discuss two ways in which Christians uphold the virtue of purity. [4]

The question was poorly done. Candidates were able to give one way on how Christians uphold the virtue of purity but failed to explain why it was so. Generally, candidates failed to explain the virtues of no sex before marriage or do not commit adultery even though they recalled them as their answers thus failing to get all the marks allocated to the question.

(c) Assess one way in which media can be used to spread Christian teachings in Botswana. [4]

The question was poorly done. The candidates were expected to provide both the positive and the negative side of using the media. There should be one way in which the media can be of good use and explain it as well as one disadvantage of using the media and explaining it to get all the marks. Most of the candidates gave the positive side and failed to state the negative side thereby partially answering the question as they did not assess (give both sides) the use of media to spread Christian teachings fully. Centres are advised to expose their candidates to various questions and on how questions with different command words like assess, discuss and explain should be answered.

Read the following information and use it to answer question 3.

“Some of his teachings discourage people to treat the needy and the poor badly. People are not allowed to gamble or even use the name of the supreme being in places where alcohol is sold.”

3 (a) In which religion are these two teachings found? [1]

Well done. Majority of candidates scored the maximum mark. They were able to deduce that the religion stated was Islam.

(b) Who founded these teachings? [1]

Well done. Majority of the candidates were aware that the Islam teachings were founded by Prophet Muhammad. There were a few candidates who misspelt the name of Muhammad. Centres are advised to emphasise the importance of correct spellings as they may distort a correct answer when the spelling is not correct.

(c) Explain the benefit of not taking alcohol according to this religion. [2]

Fairly done. Most of candidates scored a mark for stating the benefit and failed to explain it fully or give an example.

(d) Describe how Muslims help followers to refrain from unacceptable sexual activities. [2]

Well done. Most candidates scored all the marks because they managed to state and describe how Muslims help followers to refrain from unacceptable sexual activities which includes promotion of modest dressing not to reveal their bodies and separation of boys and girls to minimise temptations for unacceptable sexual behaviours.

- (e) **“The rich must take care of the poor.” Examine this Islamic teaching.** [4]

The question was poorly done. The candidates were expected to examine the Islamic teaching thereby had to state both the positive and the negative with an explanation for each. Most candidates scored a mark for stating the positive. Centres should advise candidates to pay attention to the mark allocation and the expectations of the command words used.

- 4 (a) **State any two forms of worship in Sikhism.** [2]

Fairly done. Most candidates were able to recall the forms of worship in Sikhism especially meditation, singing and prayer. There were a few candidates who did not score any mark from the question. Centres are advised to expose candidates to all forms of worship in different religions.

- (b) **Explain any two ways in which the principle of *Botho* can be used to assist vulnerable people in the Sikh community** [4]

Fairly done. The candidates were expected to give two uses, which they managed to do on the main. However, most candidates failed to link the moral value with how it is used to assist the vulnerable people or failed to provide examples thus failing to get the two marks of the question. Centres are advised to give candidates enough practice on answering questions of different formats. The candidates should also study the question thoroughly and answer it accordingly.

- (c) **Discuss two factors that led to the origin of the Khanda in Sikhism.** [4]

Poorly done. Most candidates failed to discuss the factors and were only able to state how the symbol came into being. The candidates failed to provide the explanation for the origin. Most candidates gave the factor of self-defence / protection.

SECTION B (ESSAYS)

- 5 **Discuss the principle of “Just War” as advocated by St Thomas Aquinas.** [10]

Generally, most of the candidates were unable to demonstrate a thorough balanced assessment of Just War as advocated by St Thomas Aquinas and bring in their judgements or own opinion. Most candidates got a maximum of 5 because they were one sided. Here, they were supposed to discuss the positive and negative results of Just War. Principles and rules of Just War were not clearly indicated. Most candidates defined war instead of Just War. They managed to show understanding of the effects of war.

- 6 **Assess the views that missionaries had about the Africans way of understanding religion.** [10]

This is a critical analysis question. Candidates showed deficiency in application of skills on essay writing. They failed to critically analyse; they did not provide the positive side of the views of missionaries. They were able to give views that missionaries had about the Africans and their religion.