

# PRINCIPAL EXAMINER'S REPORT



BOTSWANA  
EXAMINATIONS  
COUNCIL

**JCE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**2025**



## INTRODUCTION

This marking report constitutes feedback on candidates' performance from the 2025 JCE Religious Education examination, which was made up of 2 components: Multiple Choice questions (Paper 1) and Structured questions (Paper 2). The report is meant to help centers to acquaint themselves with what the expectations of the syllabus were and how candidates fared in the different domains of assessment

## PAPER 1: MULTIPLE CHOICE

### General Comments

The 2025 examination series saw an insignificant increase in the candidate population from 15022 candidates to 15341, which was a 2.12% increase. However, candidates' performance was slightly weaker. The mean score decreased from 26.10 in 2024 to 21.88 in 2025, which was evidence of candidates' failure to access the correct answers to the same extent as in the previous year. proportions.

The strongest distractors across the options generally indicate that some misconceptions were evident among the candidates and should therefore be used as indicators to identify the next steps to rectify such misconceptions during teaching and learning.

Generally, multiple-choice items have a guessing factor that is considered to be the lowest proportion of being able to get the item correct without necessarily knowing the answer. For a multiple-choice item with four options, the guessing factor is 25%, and any item that 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 in table format, showing the proportion of candidates at each of the options. The key for reading the table:

Prop.            the percentage of candidates who selected the option as their answer

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

### Comments on Individual Items

#### Question 1

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.51	A	Fairly done. Candidates were required to identify the statement which symbolised by the lighting of lamps during the celebration of Diwali in Hinduism. A good number of candidates were drawn to option D, which was a distractor.
B	0.05		
C	0.09		
D	0.34		

#### Question 2

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.21	D	Poorly done. Candidates to identify the correct answer for this item. They were required to identify which statement represented the founding of the Khalsa community in Sikhism. Most candidates appeared to be confused between options A, C and D although the latter was the correct response.
B	0.08		
C	0.36		
D	0.35		



Question 3

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.17	C	Poorly done. This item required candidates to choose which Buddhist teaching was depicted in the stimulus that was presented. Although more candidates did better than in the previous item, they still struggled to get the correct answer. Less than 50% of the candidates chose option C as the correct answer, while others appeared to guess between the different options.
B	0.14		
C	0.42		
D	0.27		

Question 4

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.75	A	Well done. Candidates' performances showed that they understood which practice in Buddhism assists in attaining enlightenment, among the options presented. A significant proportion of the candidates picked the correct answer which was A.
B	0.12		
C	0.05		
D	0.09		

Question 5

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.08	D	Well done. Candidates were able to identify the correct response which represented a true description of Trinity within Christianity. A few candidates who were confused selected option B, which was wrong.
B	0.17		
C	0.06		
D	0.68		

Question 6

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.40	A	Poorly done. The candidates performed below par for this item since only a fraction of them were able to identify the statement which resulted in the establishment of African Independent Churches in Botswana. The correct answer was A, although a good number of candidates opted for C which was wrong.
B	0.10		
C	0.36		
D	0.14		

Question 7

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.13	B	Fairly well done. This was an item that assessed the cognitive domain of knowledge, for which candidates had to identify the type of religion that Islam belonged to among the options presented. A good number of candidates were able to identify the response as B, although the rest equally hazarded a guess among the remaining options.
B	0.64		
C	0.12		
D	0.11		

Question 8

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.90	A	Well done. This was yet another item testing the cognitive domain of candidates' knowledge that the Sharia contains Laws and not songs, stories or prayers.
B	0.02		
C	0.03		
D	0.05		

Question 9

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.12	B	Well done. Candidates were able to identify the correct answer as B. They were required to identify which option represented acceptable sexual behaviour in a religion. Candidates who got the answer wrong appeared to guess among the remaining options.
B	0.68		
C	0.09		
D	0.11		



### Question 10

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.34	C	Poorly done. Candidate performance for this item was poor, as evidenced by the low proportion of attainment of the correct answer. Candidates were lured towards option A, which was the wrong answer to select as the option representing the first samskara of birth in Hinduism.
B	0.18		
C	0.32		
D	0.17		

### Question 11

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.13	D	Well done. Candidates were well acquainted with this item, which required information on identifying the option that did not form part of the set of puberty rituals in a religion. A large proportion of candidates identified the correct answer, D.
B	0.09		
C	0.06		
D	0.73		

### Question 12

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.07	B	Well done. Candidates performed well on this item. They were asked what the statement in the stimulus was teaching about religions. Almost all the candidates identified B as the correct answer.
B	0.82		
C	0.07		
D	0.04		

### Question 13

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.17	B	Poorly done. Performance on this item was not very strong. Not all candidates were able to identify which of the statements were a punishment given to those who are caught drinking alcohol, as prescribed by the Sharia. The correct answer was B.
B	0.43		
C	0.15		
D	0.24		

### Question 14

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.21	D	Satisfactory. Candidates' performance on this item was average. Some candidates were confused about which statement was an indication that Christian denominations in Botswana are agents of change, and tended to opt for either A or B. However, these remained as good distractors, but the correct answer was D.
B	0.13		
C	0.08		
D	0.58		

### Question 15

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.35	C	Poorly done. This item proved to be challenging for most candidates. They failed to identify which statement was not a role played by media in spreading Christianity in Botswana. A good number of candidates thought it was A and got the answer wrong, although 43% of the candidates managed to get the correct answer as C.
B	0.12		
C	0.43		
D	0.09		

### Question 16

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.11	D	Poorly done. Candidates were to read and demonstrate their understanding of the stimulus on Thobo and Mphi. When requested to say which personal virtue Thobo lacked, candidates were torn between Diligence and Patience as the potential responses. However, B was wrong since Thobo did not lack diligence, since she still continued to work hard from one filling station to another. Rather, she lacked the patience to wait for school like Mphi.
B	0.40		
C	0.06		
D	0.44		



Question 17

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.20	D	Average performance. About half of the candidate population were able to see Mphi's response to her failure to be admitted into form 4 as a lack of perseverance. However, other candidates did not do well and guessed between the rest of the options.
B	0.13		
C	0.15		
D	0.52		

Question 18

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.24	A	Poorly done. Candidates found this item a challenge and very few candidates had a clue concerning which of the following religious leaders had a vision of a society where there was no classification of people by their social status. Candidates were equally spread among the different options, almost as if to say they had merely guessed which one was the correct answer.
B	0.26		
C	0.22		
D	0.28		

Question 19

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.19	B	Poorly done. Candidates struggled to find the correct answer. They guessed from the different options that were presented to select the religion they thought was upheld by the belief in the stimulus. The correct answer was B.
B	0.29		
C	0.27		
D	0.24		

Question 20

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.20	B	Fairly done. On average, a proportion of the candidates were able to identify the religion whose belief is that God is present in all things of nature, and the answer was Hinduism. Other candidates were seemingly confused between Bahai Faith and Islam, which were incorrect.
B	0.51		
C	0.08		
D	0.20		

Question 21

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.29	C	Poorly done. Almost all candidates failed to attain the correct answer. They opted for A and B while the correct answer was C.
B	0.33		
C	0.19		
D	0.19		

Question 22

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.40	B	Poorly done. Although this item was better tackled than the previous one, candidates still struggled to get the correct answer. A large number of candidates were lured towards A as a response, which was merely a strong distractor but the wrong answer. They could not recall how man was created according to the Islamic creation story of human beings.
B	0.46		
C	0.09		
D	0.06		

Question 23

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.57	C	Fairly done. Candidates were required to determine which option was an example of a poverty alleviation strategy promoted by religious groups. A good number of candidates got the correct answer, A, although other candidates were confused by option C, which they ended up selecting.
B	0.05		
C	0.34		
D	0.04		



Question 24

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.07	B	Poorly done. Candidates were called to state why it is important for religions to perform puberty rituals. Candidates were torn between options B and D, although the correct response was B.
B	0.44		
C	0.03		
D	0.46		

Question 25

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.06	B	Well done. Candidates generally did well as they identified which statement defined a material dimension in religion. They selected option B which was the correct answer.
B	0.74		
C	0.11		
D	0.09		

Question 26

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.09	B	Well done. Candidates were able to identify the correct answer. They were required to state which of the human rights is violated by the religious groups.
B	0.86		
C	0.04		
D	0.02		

Question 27

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.89	A	Well done. Candidates were able to identify the correct answer, which was A.
B	0.02		
C	0.06		
D	0.03		

Question 28

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.89	A	Well done. Candidates were required to state which religion Lebekwe belongs to. They were mostly able to identify the correct answer, which was option A.
B	0.04		
C	0.02		
D	0.05		

Question 29

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.60	A	Fairly well done. Candidates generally did well by demonstrating their ability to identify the name of the initiation school attended by Lebekwe. The correct answer was A, although some candidates erroneously selected D.
B	0.06		
C	0.04		
D	0.30		

Question 30

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.12	D	Well done. Candidates performed well on this item. They were required to state what the wearing of the white veil of fat by the bride symbolises. The correct answer was D.
B	0.07		
C	0.06		
D	0.75		



Question 31

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.43	A	Poorly done. Candidates were required to state in which religion young girls get called princesses after initiation. The correct answer was A and only a small proportion of the candidates were able to get the answer. Others simply guessed among the different options presented.
B	0.19		
C	0.26		
D	0.11		

Question 32

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.48	B	Poorly done. Less than half the candidates were able to get the correct answer for this item, although the question sought them to describe the type of war which was depicted for the question. The correct answer was B, although most candidates erroneously chose A which was incorrect.
B	0.38		
C	0.07		
D	0.07		

Question 33

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.03	D	Fairly done. Candidates were called to identify who amongst the options presented came up with preventative measures in protecting humanity during war. A significant proportion of the candidates managed to get the correct answer although some went for options B and C which were incorrect.
B	0.14		
C	0.21		
D	0.62		

Question 34

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.18	B	Well done. Candidates were required to select the answer that represented a statement that does not ensure the protection of animal life. Candidates generally managed to identify B as the correct answer. However, a few candidates thought it was A, which was an incorrect answer.
B	0.67		
C	0.06		
D	0.09		

Question 35

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.16	C	Fairly done. Over 50% of the candidates were able to get the correct answer, which was C. Other candidates appeared to guess among the different options.
B	0.12		
C	0.58		
D	0.14		

Question 36

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.24	C	Poorly done. Candidates were required to state which of the Jewish practices listed marked the covenant that Abraham and his people had with Yahweh. The correct answer was C and only few candidates could identify the answer, although possibilities of guess work are noted.
B	0.27		
C	0.30		
D	0.19		

Question 37

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.63	A	Fairly done. Candidates were able to state the name of the symbol of sound that came from the ocean signalling the beginning of creation by Brahma. The correct response was A.
B	0.10		
C	0.12		
D	0.16		



Question 38

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.26	B	Fairly done. Candidates were called to state which statement did not promote a multi-faith society. The correct answer was B, although a few candidates were confused and chose option A.
B	0.55		
C	0.11		
D	0.09		

Question 39

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.51	C	Poor performance. Candidates were required to identify which statement brought respect for the elephant in Hinduism. The correct answer was C, and yet a larger proportion of candidates chose option A, which was wrong.
B	0.13		
C	0.28		
D	0.08		

Question 40

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.05	C	Fairly well done. Candidates were able to identify the correct answer, which was C. They were required to identify the statement which contributed to an ideal family unit in Christianity. A few other candidates chose B, which was the wrong answer.
B	0.20		
C	0.65		
D	0.09		



## **PAPER 2: STRUCTURED PAPER**

### **General Comments**

Generally, candidates did well in this component because most of them managed to access a lot of the questions. However, some candidates demonstrated a lack of knowledge when it came to questions on Hinduism and Judaism. Furthermore, some candidates still lack critical analysis skills as indicated by them failing to score high marks in questions that require analysis.

### **Comments on Individual Questions**

- 1 (a) Most candidates were able to come up with the results brought about by religious intolerance.
  - (b) (i) Candidates were able to define homo habilis, but some were not able to give the clear explanation by giving the characteristics of the homo habilis, which led to most candidates scoring 1 mark instead of 2 marks.
    - (ii) Most of the candidates got 2 marks on this question. They were able to explain environmental preservation with relevant examples or reasons for preserving the environment.
  - (c) Most candidates showed understanding of how honesty can strengthen human relationships. They were able to give values promoted by honesty and how they strengthen human relationships.
- 2 (a) Candidates managed to state values that could be contributing to Thuto's Botho. Most candidates scored all the 2 marks.
  - (b) Candidates were able to describe the rituals associated with death in African Traditional Religion in Botswana.
  - (c) Most Candidates did not do well in this question; they demonstrated a lack of skill in assessing. They explained what heredity is instead of giving the advantages and disadvantages of hereditary leadership. Some only showed the positive side of this leadership but failed to give the negative side. However, they are a few who managed to give both the positive and negative points and got the maximum marks.
- 3 (a) Most candidates did not get the maximum marks on this question. Some were writing death rituals in African Traditional Religion and Hinduism instead of customs of life after death in Judaism.
  - (b) Most candidates managed to give challenges that Abraham faced during the establishment of Judaism in Mesopotamia, but failed to explain them, which led to them scoring 1 mark instead of 2 marks. Some of the candidates gave the existence of Christianity and Islam as the challenge, but these religions were established after Judaism.
  - (c) This question was well done. Candidates were able to describe ways of identifying Judaism as a world religion. A few who failed to score 4 marks got at least 2 marks due to spelling of jargons or failure to explain their points.



- 4 (a) Most candidates did not do well in this question. It required candidates to give birth samskaras in Hinduism, they failed to give the correct spelling of the samskaras, which led to them losing marks.
- (b) A few candidates managed to score 4 marks. Most candidates scored at least 1 mark. Most candidates showed a lack of knowledge on how Mahatma Gandhi's virtue of Ahimsa has promoted peace in India.
- (c) Most candidates scored 4 marks on this question. They were able to explain ways in which puja is performed in Hinduism. They gave rituals performed during puja, explaining why, how, and even where they are done.

- 5 The question required the candidates to discuss how the extended family structure in African Traditional Religion in Botswana promotes social stability. The high achiever candidates managed to score 8 - 10 marks. They explained what an extended family is, its importance, and made a critical judgment that gives the advantages and disadvantages of the extended family structure in relation to promoting social stability. They were also able to give their own opinion.

Candidates of average performance were able to explain what an extended family is as well as its importance. Some only gave the positive side and their own opinion. Some were able to give both sides, but very shallow in their discussions, which led to them scoring 5 - 7 marks.

For the lower achievers, some were able to give examples of members of extended family and the importance, while others did not understand what the question required. This led to them scoring 0 - 4 marks.

- 6 The question required candidates to assess the significance of sacred places in society. Most candidates were able to access this question as they showed understanding of sacred places by giving examples such as different places of worship and places of origin in different religions.

The high achiever candidates managed to score 8 - 10 marks. They explained what sacred places are, their significance and made a critical judgement; that is, giving the advantages and disadvantages (positive and negative points). They were also able to give their own opinion.

The average achievers were able to explain what sacred places are and their significance in society. Some only gave the positive side and their own opinion. Some were able to give both sides, but were very shallow in their discussions, which led to them scoring 5 - 7 marks.

For the lower achievers, some were able to give examples of sacred places and the importance, while others did not understand what the question required. This led to them scoring 0 - 4 marks.