

RELIGIOUS AND MORAL EDUCATION 2

1. GENERAL COMMENTS

The standard of the paper compared favourably with that of the previous years. The general performance of the candidates was a little higher than that of the previous year.

2. SUMMARY OF CANDIDATES' STRENGTHS

- (1) Most candidates adhered to the rubrics of the paper.
- (2) Most candidates were able to:
 - (i) give factors to be considered when choosing a name for a child and reasons for which naming ceremony is important.
 - (ii) state forms of greetings in the community and factors to consider when greeting someone.
 - (iii) state causes of substance abuse by students and ways in which substance abuse can be prevented.
 - (iv) Identify rules that are expected to be obeyed in school and reasons for which hard work must be encouraged in the society.

3. A SUMMARY OF CANDIDATES' WEAKNESSES

Some candidates could not answer questions on the following topics well:

- (1) The creation of light according to the Bible
- (2) The moral teachings of Prophet Muhammed (SAW)
- (3) Benefits Muslims can derive from their commitment to Allah
- (4) Reasons for which cheating should not be encouraged

4. SUGGESTED REMEDIES TO THE WEAKNESSES

Some candidates could not answer questions on the following topics well:

- (1) Teachers need to help candidates to understand the scope of the creation story of light according to the Bible
- (2) Teachers must help candidates to master the moral teachings of Prophet Muhammed (SAW)

- (3) Students should study the benefits Muslims can derive from their commitment to Allah well.
- (4) Teachers must discuss the reasons for which cheating should not be encouraged with students so as to make them master the facts.

5. **DETAILED COMMENTS**

Q1. (a) Narrate how God created lights according to the Bible

(b) State four responsibilities of man towards God's creation.

This question was in two parts; (a) and (b) and candidates were expected to answer all. A good number of the candidates answered this question. In the (a) part, candidates were supposed to respond to only how God created light according to the Bible.

Some candidates wrote only 'God said, let there be light and there was light'. They did not know that the creation of light included the sun, moon and the stars.

Others also wrote on how God created the world instead of limiting the creation story to light as demanded by the question. Some of the correct points candidates should have provided were:

- (i) God created light on the first day.
- (ii) Before creation, the world was formless, void or empty and darkness was upon the face of the earth.
- (iii) God's spirit was moving over the face of the waters.
- (iv) God said let there be light and there was light.
- (v) God separated the light from the darkness.
- (vi) This created day and night.
- (vii) The light he called day and darkness night.
- (viii) On the fourth day God created the sun, moon and the stars.
- (ix) The sun was to rule the day while the moon and stars the night.

The (b) part of the question was not well managed by the candidates. They misunderstood the question and wrote on the responsibilities of man to God instead of to God's creation. They therefore missed the points.

The correct points included:

- (i) Reproduction/procreation to ensure human existence
- (ii) Engaging in farming activities to produce the needs of humankind
- (iii) Rearing of animals to supply the other needs of human survival
- (iv) Conservation of plants and animal species/wildlife and afforestation
- (v) Preservation of water bodies by ensuring they are not polluted/Environmental cleanliness.

Candidates' performance was not good enough.

- Q2. (a) Outline four moral teachings of Prophet Mohammad (SAW)**
- (b) State four ways by which you can apply the moral teachings in (a) above in your daily life.**

This was not a popular question among the candidates. The candidates who answered it performed abysmally. They did not see any difference between parts (a) and (b). Some candidates answered the (a) part by using the five pillars of Islam. Some of the moral teachings of the Prophet were:

- (i) Patience
- (ii) Courage
- (iii) Humility
- (iv) Steadfastness
- (v) Cleanliness
- (vi) Forbidding evil and enjoying good life
- (vii) Justice
- (viii) Mercy
- (ix) Avoidance of adultery and fornication
- (x) Control of anger
- (xi) Benevolent toward parents

The (b) part of the question was not well answered by the candidates. Since they deviated the subject in (a) part, the answers they provided for this did not support the demands of the question.

The application of the moral lessons of the Prophet in one's life may cover the following ways:

- (i) We should always have patience and tolerate each other.
- (ii) In difficulties such as poverty, war, affliction etc. we must have courage to withstand and trust Allah for help.
- (iii) Muslims must develop the habit of keeping their bodies and surrounding clean all the time.
- (iv) Muslims must be humble always and not be proud, arrogant or boastful.

3. (a) **State four factors that can be considered when choosing a name for a child**
- (b) **Explain four reasons for which naming ceremony is important in your community.**

A very popular question and most candidates answered it. The (a) part tasked candidates to write factors that can be considered when choosing a name for a child. Candidates provided correct answers for the question but some of them merely stated the answers without explaining them.

The (b) part of the question was well answered. Candidates convincingly gave reasons for which a naming ceremony is important in their communities.

The performance of candidates in this question was good.

- Q4. (a) **State four form of greetings in your community.**
- (b) **Identify four factors that shall be considered when greeting someone.**
- (c) **Highlight four moral benefits that can be derived from correct greetings.**

This question was popular among the candidates and most candidates answered it. The (a) part was well answered by the candidates however, some added kissing which is not a form of greeting in Ghana. This point was wrong and did not attract any mark.

For the (b) part, candidates were to identify four factors that shall be considered when greeting someone. The responses by the candidates were remarkable and very good marks were earned for this part. Some candidates however, added place of birth, lower your cloth and remove your cap etc as part of their answers. These were not considered as correct answers and so candidates lost marks for them.

The correct responses candidates could have provided were:

- (i) The age of the person - whether an adult or peer
- (ii) Sex of the person - whether male or female
- (iii) Time of the day- morning, afternoon, evening or night
- (iv) Whether the person is an authority figure such as Chief, Reverend Minister, Imam, Priest, Head of state etc.
- (v) Whether one has ever come into contact with the person before
- (vi) Nature of relationship - formal or informal

The (c) part of the question required candidates highlight four moral benefits that can be derived from correct greetings. Many candidates were able to answer the question correctly and earned very good marks.

Few candidates however had challenges in explaining their points adequately. Such candidates lost some marks. The overall performance of candidates in this question was good.

- Q5. (a) Outline four benefits which Muslims can derive from their commitment to Allah**
- (b) Explain four ways of demonstrating commitment in life.**

This question was not a popular choice of the candidates. The (a) part which tasked the candidates to write about the benefits Muslims derive from their commitment to Allah was poorly answered. Some even wrote about ablution, types of Muslim prayers and pilgrimage to Mecca. Some correct answers expected from candidates are

- (i) It brings one closer to Allah.
- (ii) It ensures peace and joy in one's life/fulfilment of desire.
- (iii) It promotes friendship, fellowship and socialization as believers meet.

- (iv) It enhances discipline as believers honour the laws of Allah.
- (v) It brings about time consciousness as believers observe the five compulsory prayers.

The candidates were expected to explain four ways of demonstrating commitment in life for part (b) of the question. Answers given by candidates had nothing to do with the question. Candidates might not have understood the question.

The right responses candidates could have given include:

- (i) Performing duties at school, home, family and workplaces
- (ii) Developing and applying personal ethics and principles of life (honesty, reliability, hard work cooperation etc.)
- (iii) Reporting criminals and social deviants and their activities to the police.
- (iv) Promoting environmental cleanliness and personal hygiene.
- (v) Promoting national unity by living peacefully with others.

The performance of candidates on this question was poor.

- Q6. (a) Highlight four causes of substance abuse by students**
- (b) Describe four ways in which substance abuse can be prevented**

Many candidates chose this question and performed quite well on it. For the (a) part, candidates were able to identify the causes of substance abuse and scored very good marks for it.

The (b) part required candidates to describe ways of preventing substance abuse. This was poorly answered by the candidates. Some candidates repeated the same points which did not earn them additional marks. Some also gave irrelevant answers such as ‘one must get a personal doctor’, ‘we shouldn’t do self-medication’ etc.

The correct answers which could have enabled candidates to earn remarkable marks include:

- (i) Good parenting
- (ii) Provision of basic needs of children.
- (iii) Education on the effects of substance abuse through anti-drug campaigns.
- (iv) Enforcement of anti-drug laws.
- (v) Reporting drug peddlers to the police.
- (vi) Parents, leaders and parents must set good examples by abstaining from use of hard drugs/Saying no to drugs/Being Assertive.

- Q7. (a) Identify four roles that are expected to be played in your school.**
- (b) Explain four reasons for which hard work must be encouraged among people.**

This question was in two parts. The candidates were expected to answer all. The (a) part, was well answered by candidates since it related to life in the school. Almost all the candidates who answered the question scored the maximum marks for this part.

The (b) part of the question was fairly answered by the candidates. Some provided the correct answers focusing on the individual whilst others wrote on the country and the community.

- Q8 (a). State four reasons for which cheating should not be encouraged in the community.**
- (b) Describe four functions which Religious Youth Organization perform in your community.**

This question was not popular among the candidates. Very few candidates answered this question and performed very poorly. In part (a), candidates were not able to bring out the effects of cheating but rather writing about causes of cheating.

- (i) It leads to diversion of public funds and retards government efforts for development.
- (ii) It leads to execution of shoddy or poor standard of work.
- (iii) It leads to inefficiency and low productivity.
- (iv) It also leads to overstaffing.
- (v) It leads to employment of unqualified people leaving qualified people unemployed.
- (vi) It tarnishes the image of the country before the international community.

In the (b) part, the candidates could not differentiate between function and formation of Religious Youth Organization. On the whole, the question was poorly answered by few candidates.

- (i) They bring the youth together to organize their social programs to socialize.
- (ii) They teach moral values such as love, honesty, patriotism etc.
- (iii) They teach the traditions of their religions so that they can defend their faith all times.
- (iv) They incorporate the youth into the church.
- (v) They re-direct the energy of the youth into useful work.
- (vi) They teach the youth to acquire leadership skills.
- (vii) They provide the forum for discussing youth problems.