

RELIGIOUS AND MORAL EDUCATION 2

1. GENERAL COMMENTS

The standard of this year's paper is comparable to that of previous years . The questions were within the syllabus and the performance of most candidates was very good and this is an improvement over last year's performance.

2. SUMMARY OF CANDIDATES' STRENGTHS

- (1) Most candidates adhered to the rubrics of the paper by answering one question from each section.
- (2) The handwriting of candidates was quite legible as compared to previous years.
- (3) Majority of candidates were able to fully expand points they had raised.
- (4) Most candidates begun a new question on a fresh page, which made marking very easy.

3. A SUMMARY OF CANDIDATES' WEAKNESSES

- (1) Many candidates found it difficult to spell some words correctly, e.g. ignorance was spelt "ignolance" 'pubic' was spelt 'public', 'blade-breade', 'hogbetsotso' was spelt 'obgetwotwo', 'Moshims' for "Muslims; 'fastivels' for festivals; etc.
- (2) Although there is an improvement in candidates' grammar there is a lot still to be done to improve the current standard.
- (3) A few candidates raised points but failed to explain them, leading to loss of vital marks.
- (4) Some candidates answered their questions haphazardly. That is they may answer the 'a' and 'b' parts of a question on say page 1, and then answer the 'c' part on page 4. This made marking very difficult.

4. SUGGESTED REMEDIES

- (1) Candidates should take time to read questions and understand them before writing their answers. Candidates must also be taught how to plan their essays.
- (2) Candidates should be advised to use the dictionary for the purpose of improving upon spelling.
- (3) Candidates must be encouraged to read supplementary readers so that they will be familiar with words and how they are expressed in sentences.

- (4) The 'b' part of every question deals with application. Candidates showed weakness in this area and so teachers are encouraged to help candidates cope with that aspect.

4. **DETAILED COMMENTS**

Question 1

- (a) **Narrate the parable of the sower.**
(b) **How is the parable of the sower interpreted?**
(c) **State *two* moral lessons that can be learnt from the parable of the sower.**

The Parable of the Sower. This question was not popular at all. Less than five percent of the candidates attempted it. However, a few candidates wrote brilliant answers. A few others did not understand the question at all. The 'c' part demanding lessons from the parable was not answered by candidates. Some of the lessons are:

- (i) We must have the word of God to overcome difficulties.
(ii) Disobedience to the word of God leads to destruction.
(iii) A lot of attention to worldly pleasures leads to destruction.
(iv) Obedience to God's word leads to spiritual growth.

Question 2

- (a) **List *five* traditional festivals in Ghana.**
(b) **Explain *five* reasons why festivals are celebrated.**

Importance of Festivals. This was a popular question, attracting more than ninety percent of the candidates. Very high marks were scored. Infact, candidates showed they were conversant with festivals and their significance.

Question 3

- (a) **Describe how Muslim prayer (Salat) is performed.**
(b) **State *three* benefits of ablution.**

How Salat is performed. This was not popular at all. Just a handful of candidates attempted this question and it was poorly answered. Most of them rather wrote about how ablution is performed. Either candidates did not understand the question or they had not prepared for it. Ablution, however prepared one for prayer. The prayer is led by an Imam, with the people in standing posture behind him. Prayer is offered by standing on a prayer mat or an animal skin, while facing the kabah in the eastern direction of Mecca. At each stage the right posture must be put to practice while the required prayer, eg. Allahu Akbar, Sura Fatihah etc. must be recited. The final stage is wiping their faces with their hands to show that they have received Allah's blessing.

Question 4

- (a) In what *five* ways can one lead a chaste life?**
- (b) State *five* benefits of leading a chaste life.**

Ways one can lead a chaste life and its advantages. This was another popular question and the 'a' part was well-answered. The 'b' part was very badly answered. Some of the advantages include:

- (i) You remain pure and holy.
- (ii) You become socially respected and accepted.
- (iii) The girls are safe from unwanted pregnancies.
- (iv) You are safe from sexually-transmitted diseases.
- (v) Boys become free from premature fatherhood.

Question 5

- (a) List *four* symptoms of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS).**
- (b) State *four* effects of AIDS on the community.**
- (c) Explain *four* ways by which AIDS can be prevented.**

Symptoms of AIDS and its effect on the community and how to prevent it. This was quite a popular question and some candidates really excelled. The 'b' part was, however, not well treated. Candidates ailed to failed that the question was on the EFFECT OF AIDS ON THE COMMUNITY and not on the INDIVIDUAL.

Question 6

- (a) State *four* effects of teenage pregnancy.**
- (b) Outline *four* roles that the youth can play to prevent teenage pregnancies.**

Effects of teenage Pregnancy and the Role of the Youth to prevent it. A good number of candidates attempted this question but the 'b' part was poorly answered. Stress must be laid on the role of the Youth to prevent Teenage Pregnancy. Candidates understood it to mean 'role of parents and society.

Question 7

(a) State *four* physical changes that occur during puberty.

(b) What *four* moral problems confront the adolescent?

Physical changes that occur at puberty and their moral problems. This question was very popular, attracting over ninety-six percent of the candidates. However, the 'b' part was a problem. The moral problem could not be articulated well. Candidates dwelt on emotional problems of puberty rather than on the moral problems. Candidates could have raised the following points:-

- Eg.
- (i) There is the feeling of maturity and a desire for independence from parents which sometimes leads to disrespectful behaviour towards the elderly.
 - (ii) Sexual desire for the opposite sex.
 - (iii) Easily influenced by their peers to either engage in good or bad things.
 - (iv) They develop interest and have admiration for almost everything around them and that ushers them into immoral acts such as premarital sex etc.

Question 8

(a) Describe *four* activities of any religious youth organization.

(b) Identify *four* benefits of joining a religious youth organization.

Youth Organisations and their functions. This question was not popular. Less than three percent of the candidates attempted it. Among the candidates who attempted it, some performed creditably well, whilst others performed poorly.