

# REFLECTIONS

Junior Cycle Religious Education

## Revision Booklet



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# Introduction



## Welcome

Welcome to the Reflections Revision Booklet designed to be helpful to teachers and students.

In it you will find Questions and suggested Answers that commonly appear in Junior Cycle Religious Education SEC exam papers. These are compiled to help students revise the main points of the course.

Each chapter of the textbook is represented by a Question relating to the main learnings of the topic covered, and the kind of Answer examiners are looking for. In some cases students may need to expand on suggested answers.



## Q&As

Q: Name the founder, sacred text, place of worship, title of leader and moral code of at least three world religions found in Ireland today:

A: Monotheism – One God

Christianity – Jesus, Bible/New Testament, Church, Pope/Bishop, Beatitudes.



CHRISTIANITY

Islam – Muhammad, Qur'an, Mosque, Imam, The Five Pillars of Faith.



ISLAM

Judaism – Abraham/Moses, The Torah, Synagogue, Rabbi, The Ten Commandments.



JUDAISM

Polytheism – More than one God

Buddhism – Siddhartha Gautama, Bhagavad Gita, Vihara Temple, Dalai Lama/Buddhist Priest, the Five Precepts/Eightfold Path.



BUDDHISM

Hinduism – Rishis, The Vedas, Mandir Temple, Sannyasa/Monk, Dharma.



HINDUISM

Q: What is sectarianism, what causes it and how can it be prevented?

A: Conflict between people because of religious belief. Can come about because of lack of understanding. Can result in violence, fear, lack of respect. Can be helped and avoided by interfaith dialogue and ecumenism.

Q: How can the major world religions promote peace and reconciliation in today's world?

A: Interfaith dialogue is communication and discussion between people from different world religions. Example of interfaith dialogue: Pope Francis visiting Muslim countries and meeting with their leaders.



## Q&As

Q: What is ecumenism?

A: Communication and discussion between people from different Christian denominations  
Example of ecumenism – Glencree Centre.

Q: Why would people/religions promote these?

A: We live in a multicultural world so helps us live in peace and harmony with others who have different beliefs to us. All religious moral codes teach that we should respect others.

Q: How has Christianity contributed to Irish culture and heritage?

A: Cultural heritage is the values, beliefs, customs and traditions of a society that have been passed down through generations. Ireland was influenced heavily by St. Patrick bringing Christianity to the island and this can be seen in things like Holy wells, the Book of Kells, Glendalough, shamrock and place names.

Q: How can religious themes be seen in contemporary culture?

A: Contemporary culture is something that is modern and of the present time. Religious themes can be seen in examples of contemporary culture in music, film, art, architecture, literature etc. The religious themes can be obvious or subtle. Examples include the music of Justin Bieber and films such as A Hidden Life.

Q: What are the influences on and sources of morality?

A: Morality is being able to identify between right and wrong and making decisions based on this. Our morality comes from many different sources such as home/family, peers/friends, school, religion, the state.

Q: Give an example of a non-religious belief and how it can affect a person's morality.

A: Humanism is a non-religious worldview. It believes that moral values are founded on human nature and experience.

Q: Why should we care for the earth and how does it help our wellbeing?

A: Caring for the earth is important as it is only on loan to us and we must protect it for future generations. It can help our wellbeing by keeping us active, improving our mood, giving us a purpose and make us feel like we are making a positive difference.





## Q&As

Q: Why would people with a religious worldview care for the earth and give an example of it?

A: Many world religions believe that the earth is a gift from their God/Gods. Stewardship means looking after all God's creation. People with religious beliefs often show care for creation because they believe it's what their God would want them to do, and it is encouraged in their sacred text. Pope Francis wrote a letter about it and says we cannot care for people without caring for the earth.

Q: Give an example of somebody living out their beliefs and how this has had a positive influence on others.

A: Mahatma Gandhi lived by his Hindu religious beliefs of justice and peace. He promoted a non-violent response to the issue of Indian independence. It brought independence and peace to his people. Other options include Fr. Peter McVerry /Muslim Sisters of Éire.

Q: How can the faith of a believer change at different stages of life?

A: Faith can start at childhood stage where the person usually follows the faith of their family, and they may have a very simple image of God and not fully understand why or how they worship him. It can then move on to the adolescent stage where a person may question their faith and can sometimes turn away from it as they are influenced by things outside their family. Mature faith is when a person is more comfortable with their faith and understands that they may not always get answers to their questions.

Q: How does a person's values relate to their everyday choices?

A: Values are what are important to us, such as respect and compassion, and we try and live our lives by them.

Q: What are rituals and how do people use them to express their religious beliefs?

A: A religious ritual is a ceremony that has a series of words and actions which have a symbolic meaning and are repeated to communicate with God. An example of a religious ritual is the Catholic Mass.

Q: How can people celebrate times of religious significance?

A: People can celebrate important times in their religions by participating in festivals. An example of a religious festival is Yom Kippur in Judaism which is about seeking forgiveness. Religious festivals can often include times of fasting followed by meals of celebration.



## Q&As

Q: How can people express their religious beliefs in sacred spaces?

A: There are different types of sacred spaces such as burial sites and shrines. People can go on a pilgrimage, a journey taken for religious reasons, to sacred places. An example of this is the pilgrimage to Mecca in the religion of Islam where believers carry out certain rituals to remember important times and people in their religion. This can help them find meaning in life and strengthen their relationship with their God.

Q: What are big questions about the meaning of life, why do people ask them and where can people find answers to them?

A: Questions of meaning that people ask are why are we here and what happens when we die? People ask big questions of meaning to try and make sense of life or when they face challenges or difficult life experiences such as the death of a loved one. They may find answers in their religious beliefs such as Christianity or non-religious beliefs such as humanism.

Q: What does having purpose in life mean and where can people find purpose?

A: Purpose gives meaning to our life and helps give us a sense of identity. People can find purpose in religious ways such as praying or helping in religious organisations. They can also find purpose in non-religious ways such as caring for animals or playing music.

Q: Why is it important to have non-religious rituals and celebrations and give an example of one?

A: People with non-religious worldviews may want to mark milestones in life such as birth and death. They may have a spirituality which means they want to connect to something bigger than themselves and to other people. Non-religious rituals allow them to do this. An example of a non-religious ritual is the Sunday Assembly.

Q: Name an issue of concern for the world today and how a world religion addresses it.

A: Conflict is an issue of concern in today's world as there are conflicts happening all over the world resulting in death and poverty for many. World religions address this issue by working for peace and reconciliation. The leader of Christianity, the Pope, often speaks out on these matters and tries to work with world leaders to help the situations.

Q: Name a religious and non-religious creation narrative.

A: The Genesis biblical account of creation is found in Christianity, and the Big Bang theory is a non-religious view of creation. Religion can answer the why question of creation and science can answer the how question.



## Q&As

Q: How can prayer play a part in a believer's life?

A: Muslims pray five times a day. They do this to communicate with their God and because it is part of their moral code, the Five Pillars of Faith. They perform the ritual of wudu, cleaning themselves before they pray, as a sign of respect and pray in a clean area on a prayer mat. They face Mecca and perform ra'ka which are movements such as bowing and kneeling.

Q: What is compassion and give an example of it in action.

A: Compassion is being caring and kind towards others and showing empathy. An example of compassion in action in the Buddhist charity Tzu Chi Foundation who volunteer to help victims of natural disasters. They do this because of their belief in the Four Noble Truths.

Q: How do we see evidence of people searching for meaning in life?

A: We can see evidence of people searching for meaning in archaeology such as megalithic tombs, in architecture such as the pyramids and in art such as the book/film Life of Pi.

Q: What steps can someone take when making a moral decision?

A: They can ask advice from family/friends, think about the consequences their decision might have for others, see what their sacred text/religious leader says, find out what the state law says about it.

Q: What is the understanding of the Divine/God in two world religions?

A: The Christian understanding of God can be found in their sacred text, the Bible. It believes in one God, the Trinity, God as creator, God as loving and forgiving and God as all-knowing and powerful. The Islamic understanding of God can be found in their sacred text, the Qur'an. It believes in one God, Allah, Allah as merciful and compassionate, Allah as the all-powerful creator. Master of the Day of Judgement and that he has 99 names but cannot be drawn in an image.

Q: Why do people go to a place of worship to express their religious belief?

A: It can offer them a place to gather with others in their religious community, they can listen to their sacred text being read, they can be guided by their religious leader there, it contains symbols and religious objects that helps them to pray and it is a place of quiet where they can focus on God.