DEAR GRADE 12 RELIGION STUDIES LEARNER

Religion Studies is the study of religion as a universal human phenomenon and of religions found in a variety of cultures. Religion Studies leads to the recognition, understanding and appreciation of a variety of religions within a common humanity, in the context of a civic understanding of religion and with a view to developing religious literacy.

**Subject Requirements**
- Textbook, workbooks

**Content Checklist**
Below is a summary of the content that you will study in Religion Studies. Make sure that you include all the topics below in your revision programme.

1. Variety of Religions
   - Concepts: identity, uniqueness, unity, similarity, difference and comparability as far as religion is concerned
   - Internal differences in a number of religions
   - Unique features of various religions
   - Inter-religious relationships in South Africa, Africa and international communities

2. Common features of religion as a generic and unique phenomenon
   - The roles of teaching in a variety of religions
   - The central teachings of one religion
   - Oral, written and contemporary sources in several religions
   - Normative sources or traditions in one religion
   - Secular world views

3. Topical issues in society
   - Religious freedom, human rights and responsibilities in different religions
   - Strategies to seek solutions to major social problems
   - The role of the media with reference to Religion

4. Research into and across religions
   - Religions in areas of recent conflict in South Africa, Africa and across the world: identify and analyse two or three areas of recent conflict. Determine whether religion is part of the problem or of the solution (The role of religion in Africa and globally)
   - Religion and the natural sciences: examine the relationship between religion and the natural sciences with reference to views of creation and evolution
   - Specialisation in one religion

**Assessment**
Assessment of Religion Studies consists of two parts:

**School-based assessment makes up 25% of the total. This includes:**
- 2 tests
- 2 examinations
- 3 written tasks
  - Source-based
  - Open-book extended writing
  - Project

**The final external examination makes up 75% of the total**
- This examination comprises of 2 X 2 hours examination papers i.e. 2 X 150 = 300 marks

**Paper 1:**
150 marks
The learner will be required to answer three questions: one compulsory question (short question of 50 marks) and a choice of two out of three to four questions of 50 marks each. Integrate religious concepts in the subject matter. Questions will focus on interrogating a range of sources such as texts, maps, graphs, etc. and include comparative questions, e.g.
- Briefly explain TWO concerns expressed by the author in the extract above
- Compare the view of democratic South Africa on religious freedom with the approach followed during the apartheid era ...
- Evaluate media coverage of religious issues
- The graph above indicates an increase in teenage pregnancies between the ages 13-15year-olds. Discuss...

**Paper 2:**
150 marks
Three focused extended writing questions (choice of three out of four to five questions): 50 marks each. Questions will focus on analysing and interpreting generic issues pertaining to religions.
- Present, argue and critique a position
- Developing a strategy towards solving a major social problem (Issues like crime/violence/suicide/HIV/Aids)
- Teaching of one religion on the issue
- Area of religious conflict in the world.
- Practical steps taken by the religious community to address the problem.

The mid-year and trial examinations in Grade 12 will be similar to the external November examinations.

**Tips for Success**
- Religion Studies comprises of a lot of self-study. Read as many sources as possible and keep abreast of current news in the subject.
- For the examinations you should focus on interrogating a range of sources to be able to compare different religions, and analyse and interpret generic issues pertaining to religions.
- Make sure that you can apply your knowledge of Religion Studies to case studies or exemplars used in the question papers.