

**THE WEST AFRICAN EXAMINATIONS
COUNCIL, ACCRA**



**BASIC EDUCATION CERTIFICATE
EXAMINATION FOR SCHOOL CANDIDATES**

JUNE 2025

RELIGIOUS AND MORAL EDUCATION

FINAL MARKING SCHEME

THE WEST AFRICAN EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL
BECE FOR SCHOOL CANDIDATES, 2025
RELIGIOUS AND MORAL EDUCATION 2

FINAL MARKING SCHEME

RUBRICS: Candidates are expected to answer **THREE** questions in all, answering question one which is compulsory and any **TWO** questions from **SECTION B**. Each question carries **20 marks**. Maximum obtainable marks = **60**.

Head note

Mere mention of points = 1 mark

Meaningful statement of points without explanation = 2 marks

Statement of points with explanations with good examples or illustrations = full marks

Definition of concepts without explanation or examples(s) = 2 marks

SECTION A
COMPULSORY

I. (a) Reasons for which bribery and corruption should not be accepted

- i. It destroys personal integrity
- ii. It damages social and economic development
- iii. It leads to diversion of public funds
- iv. It undermines accountability
- v. It leads to execution of shoddy (less quality) work
- vi. It leads to inefficiency and low productivity/it does not encourage hardwork
- vii. It undermines the Rule of law
- viii. It leads to the employment of unqualified persons/favouritism
- ix. It increases the cost of business
- x. It tarnishes the image of a country
- xi. It can lead to punishment e.g., fines, imprisonment, suspensions or dismissals
- xii. It is morally and ethically wrong/it is against God's commandments

Any 4 points \times 3 = 12 marks

(b) Factors that motivate bribery and corruption

- i. Poverty/financial struggles
- ii. Lack of accountability
- iii. Greed/selfishness
- iv. Pressure to succeed/Get-rich-quick attitude
- v. Lack of transparency
- vi. Poor wages and salaries
- vii. Weak legal system
- viii. Unemployment
- ix. High expectations in life
- x. Bureaucracy
- xi. Peer influence
- xii. Ignorance
- xiii. Decline in moral standards
- xiv. Family pressure
- xv. Materialism/Worldliness

Any 4 points \times 2 = 8 marks
Total = 20 marks

SECTION B

Answer any TWO questions from this section

2. (a) Items needed for sacrifices

- i. Livestock (goat, sheep, fowl, cow etc.)
- ii. Cola
- iii. Cowries
- iv. Alcohol – Schnapps, Gin, Akpeteshie(Local gin) etc.
- v. Water
- vi. Fire
- vii. Ash
- viii. White clay
- ix. Palm oil
- x. Cloth eg black, red, white etc
- xi. Food items eg. Eggs, millet, maize, yam etc
- xii. Calabash
- xiii. Earthen pot

Any 4 points × 1 = 4 marks

(b) Special occasions that require sacrifices

- i. Thanksgiving for a successful harvest
- ii. Birth of a child/Naming ceremonies
- iii. Marriage ceremonies
- iv. Funeral rites
- v. Health and healing rituals
- vi. Honour the spirits of the land
- vii. Initiation ceremonies such as puberty rites for adolescents and adults
- viii. Divination or seeking guidance
- ix. Appeasing angry spirits or deities
- x. Installation and removal of traditional leaders
- xi. Protection during war or conflict
- xii. During festivals/New year.
- xiii. During disasters eg. Deaths, famine, diseases, floods etc.
- xiv. Embarking on a journey/Beginning a project

Any 4 points × 1 = 4 marks

(c) Importance of sacrifices to the believer

- i. Sacrifices strengthen the bond between the living and the dead/ancestors.
- ii. Sacrifices draws one closer to his object of worship.
- iii. They teach gratitude.
- iv. They bring people together.
- v. Sacrifices promote a sense of belongingness.
- vi. Sacrifices are used for purification purposes, helping to cleanse individuals or communities from negative spiritual influences or bad luck/Forgiveness of sins.

- vii. Traditional believers believe that offering sacrifices to spiritual beings can bring about physical and mental healing.
- viii. They are considered a means of seeking guidance, protection and blessings from spiritual beings.

Any 4 points \times 3 = 12 marks
Total = 20 marks

3. (a) Differences between Idul Fitr and Idul Ad-ha

- i. Idul Fitr is a celebration at the end of Ramadan while Idul Ad-ha is a festival of sacrifice to commemorate the willingness of Prophet Ibrahim to sacrifice his son.
- ii. Idul Fitr is celebrated on the first day of Shawwal after the completion of Ramadan while Idul Ad-ha is celebrated on the tenth day of Dhul Hijja during the annual Hajj pilgrimage.
- iii. Idul Fitr is a celebration of fasting and spiritual growth and it includes giving of Zakat al Fitr to those in need while Idul Ad-ha involves the slaughtering of an animal.
- iv. Idul Fitr focuses on gratitude for the strength to complete the fast while Idul Ad-ha emphasizes the obedience to Allah and giving of charity.
- v. Idul Fitr is dominated by celebration and merry making while Idul Ad-ha is preoccupied with the preparation and distribution of the meat of sacrificial animal.
- vi. Idul Fitr is celebrated for a day while Idul Ad-ha is officially celebrated between one to three days.
- vii. Idul Fitr is celebrated before Idul Ad-ha

Any 4 points \times 3 = 12 marks

(b) Importance of Idul Fitr and Idul Ad-ha to Muslims

- i. They help Muslims renew their faith, strengthen their relationship with Allah, and reflect on their spiritual journey.
- ii. Muslims use festivals to thank Allah for His blessings, such as the strength to complete fasting during Ramadan or the opportunity to participate in Hajj.
- iii. Festivals bring families, friends, and communities together, strengthening the bond among Muslims through prayer, meals, and celebration.
- iv. During festivals, Muslims give Zakat al-Fitr or distribute meat from Qurbani, promoting generosity and care for the poor and needy.
- v. Festivals help Muslims pass down religious traditions, customs, and values to younger generations, keeping their identity alive.
- vi. Festivals provide an opportunity for happiness, rest, and celebration after a period of worship or sacrifice.
- vii. Idul-Fitr teaches self-discipline and compassion, while Idul-Ad-ha emphasizes obedience and sacrifice.
- viii. By gathering for prayers and feasts, Muslims around the world feel a sense of global unity and belonging.

Any 4 points \times 2 = 8 marks
Total = 20 marks

4. (a) Differences between Religious and Non-religious songs

- Handwritten: Faith, hope, love
- i. Religious songs have spiritual themes and sacred purposes while non-religious songs focus on a wide range of themes such as love, nature or personal experiences/Religious songs are sacred whilst non-religious are secular in nature.
 - ii. Religious songs aim to inspire devotion and strengthen one's connection to God or higher power while non-religious songs aim to entertain, express personal feelings or promote social messages.
 - iii. Religious songs often include references to sacred text, religious figures and divine concepts while non-religious songs have lyrics that are secular focusing on human emotions or experiences in the world.
 - iv. Audience of religious songs are people who share the same religious beliefs and values while non-religious songs are meant for a broader audience regardless of their religious backgrounds.
 - v. Religious songs tend to have a solemn or uplifting tones that reflects the sacred nature of the message while non-religious songs can have a variety of tones ranging from joyful and energetic to sad and reflective depending on the subject matter.
 - vi. Religious songs express the singer's belief while non-religious songs reflect the mood of the singer.

Any 4 points $\times 3 = 12$ marks

(b) Lessons from Religious and Non-religious songs

- i. Both types of songs can lift the spirit, encourage people during hard times, and give them a sense of hope.
- ii. Songs bring people together, whether in worship or in social setting, promoting peace, cooperation, and friendship.
- iii. They teach values like honesty, love, kindness, forgiveness, and obedience.
- iv. The songs teach about important events or address issues like injustice, poverty, or peace, helping listeners learn about the world.
- v. Religious songs especially encourage self-examination, repentance, and living a disciplined, purposeful life.
- vi. Both religious and non-religious songs can inspire people to pursue their dreams, overcome challenges, or do good in the world.
- vii. Listening to songs from different backgrounds encourages respect for different beliefs, lifestyles, and perspectives.

Any 4 points $\times 2 = 8$ marks

Total = 20 marks

5. (a) Creation story according to the Holy Bible

- i. Before God created the world the earth was without form, void and full of darkness
- ii. The Spirit of God was moving on the surface of the water that covered the earth
- iii. On the first day, God created light to separate the light from darkness. Light became day and darkness became night.
- iv. On the second day, God created the sky and divided the waters above it and the waters below it
- v. On the third day, God created the dry land and the sea and the various kinds of trees, fruits and their seeds as well as grass and plants
- vi. On the fourth day, God created different lights in the sky; the sun to shine and rule the day and the moon to rule the night
- vii. On the fifth day, God created fishes to swim in the waters and birds to fly in the sky
- viii. On the sixth day, God created all kinds of animals. He also made human in His own image, both male and female
animal 1 man => 2 people
- ix. On the seventh day, God rested from creation

Any 6 points $\times 2 = 12$ marks

(b) Various ways humans can protect God's creation

- i. Avoid littering and keeping the environment clean/constant clean-up exercises
- ii. Plant trees and protect forests/afforestation
- iii. Avoid pollution eg. air, water etc.
- iv. Use resources wisely and avoid wastage
- v. Good farming and fishing methods
- vi. Good mining methods eg. sand mining winning/mining; do responsible mining
- vii. Avoid dumping of waste in drains
- viii. Respect for human and animal life eg. avoid murder and abortion
- ix. Public education and the need to protect the environment
- x. Recycling
- xi. Enforcement of laws which protect the environment
- xii. Proper planning of settlements
- xiii. Upholding cultural believes and values on the environment

Any 4 points $\times 2 = 8$ marks

Total = 20 marks