

C WORLD RELIGIONS

THE PHENOMENON OF RELIGION

1.1 Religion as a world-wide phenomenon

- list different types of religion
- give an account of the global distribution of religion
- give examples of religious traditions in Ireland
- describe, with relevant evidence, three major
- trends in religion in contemporary Ireland.

1.2 Primal religion

- present a portrait of primal religion, and give an account of its important influence on all religion
- write a brief paragraph on each of the following:
 - mana
 - tabu
 - totem
 - shaman.

1.3 The holy

- *explain what is meant by 'the holy'*
- *outline what is meant by 'sacred' and 'profane' and discuss briefly their relationship*
- *using examples of objects, discuss the relationship of the 'sacred' and 'profane' in religion*
- *using examples of people, discuss the relationship of the 'sacred' and 'profane' in religion.*

A CLOSER LOOK AT THE MAJOR LIVING TRADITIONS

2.1 A vision of salvation

- compare and contrast the vision of salvation/liberation proposed
- compile a profile of 'the human person' as presented in each tradition.
- describe how the transcendent and the human relate to one

2.2 The community of believers

- give an account of the place of community in each of the traditions
- describe the organisation of people in the tradition
- give an account of the structure and organisation at local and global levels
- *define 'authority', stating what it means and where it comes from in the traditions*
- *describe how members of the tradition relate to and understand the world, and vice versa.*

2.3 A celebrating tradition

- describe any rites of initiation associated with the traditions (or where none exist, another rite of significance)
- describe how the tradition marks and celebrates time and or seasons, using examples
- present key elements of the human life cycle and show how the tradition celebrates each.

2.4 Challenges to the tradition

- report on the contemporary experience of the traditions, particularly in the Irish context
- *discuss possible future developments for the traditions.*

2.5 Inter-faith dialogue

- outline clearly what is meant by 'inter-faith' dialogue and give examples of its origins
- discuss the importance of inter-faith dialogue
- name two contemporary conflicts where religious beliefs play a role and explain the nature of the relationship between religion and the conflict.

NEW RELIGIOUS MOVEMENTS

3.1 Cults and sects

- define 'cult' and give examples
- define 'sect' and give examples
- discuss why these definitions are contested
- list common characteristics/features of cults
- describe what elements cults and religions share, and how they differ.

3.2 Some new religious movements

- *provide a profile of two new religious movements focused on*
 - *foundations*
 - *major beliefs*
 - *lifestyle and customs/practices of members.*

OTHER LIVING RELIGIONS

4.1 A living tradition

- research and present an introduction to and overview of one living tradition from list, including
 - distribution graph/map
 - description of lifestyle
 - origins
 - persecution/conflict.

4.2 Traditions in Dialogue

- *compare and contrast the living religion chosen and one major world religion under the following headings*
 - *origin*
 - *development*
 - *contemporary context.*