



ATAR course examination, 2022

RELIGION AND LIFE

SOURCE BOOKLET

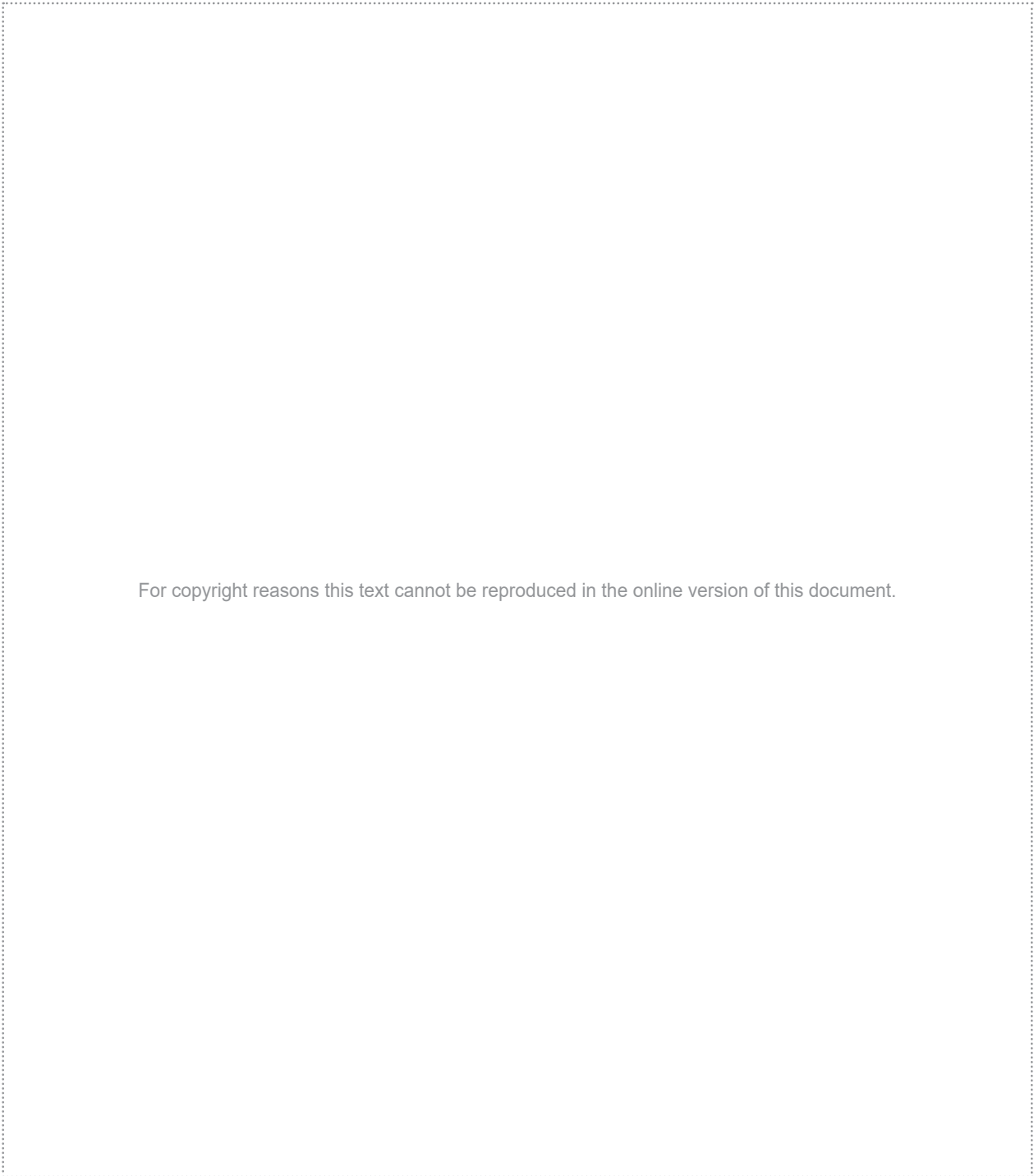
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Question 1 Source

Read Source 1 and then answer Question 1 in the Question/Answer booklet.

Source 1



Question 2 Sources

Read Sources 2A to 2D and then answer Question 2 in the Question/Answer booklet.

Source 2A

Poverty is defined as having a lack of money for immediate basic needs – such as food, housing or clothing.

There are over three million Australians living in poverty. Research into Salvation Army clients accessing emergency assistance between November 2020 and January 2021 revealed a single person was left with \$7.50 per day to live on, after paying housing costs.

The poverty line in Australia is generally defined as 50 per cent of median household income. In 2017–2018, this was \$457 a week for a single adult, \$731 for a sole parent with two children or \$960 for a couple with two children.

The largest age group below the poverty line in 2017–18 was of working age – 25 to 64 years at 45 per cent. However, one in six children and young people are living in poverty. Almost 1.2 million Australians under the age of 24 are affected.

According to a report by ACOSS¹ and UNSW² Sydney, women are more likely to live in households below the poverty line than men. The poverty rate for households with a female main earner is almost twice as high as when the main earner is male (19 per cent versus 10 per cent, respectively).

¹ ACOSS: Australian Council of Social Services

² UNSW: University of New South Wales

Source 2B

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See next page

Source 2C

Buddhism teaches that all human beings should display compassion to each other as part of a global community. This involves helping the poor whenever possible.

Owning wealth is not seen as an issue for Buddhists, but they do believe that it can cause dukkha¹ if it is the focus of greed, and gained through exploitation. However, wealth is also seen as a great opportunity for generosity, which benefits the recipient, and also the giver since it is a good action.

Buddhists believe in karma or 'intentional action'. Most Buddhists see the possession of wealth as the outcome of good actions in the past. Wealth, therefore, can bring happiness.

¹ dukkha: suffering, illness, dissatisfaction, imperfection

Source 2D

Sikhism teaches that everyone is equal, and that people living in poverty and suffering malnutrition should be helped. Sikhs believe through dan¹ they can serve humanity by giving money to charity.

Key teachings Sikhs consider:

- Vand Chhakna – sharing what one earns, generosity, the giving of charity. This is considered a religious duty because Sikhs believe this encourages compassion.
- Sewa – giving selfless service to the community. This should be practised in all areas of a Sikh's life.
- Equality – since humanity is the supreme form of life created by God, all human beings should be treated equally and with respect.

¹ dan: Giving to those in need, a key teaching in Sikhism and a form of sewa (service to others)

Question 3 Sources

Read Sources 3A and 3B and then answer Question 3 in the Question/Answer booklet.

Source 3A

Country		Portugal	United Kingdom	Netherlands
Sample size		1501	1841	1498
Percentage who say they are Christian		83	73	41
Percentage of people who agree with the following statements: 'Churches and other religious organisations ...				
Positive attributes	... play an important role in helping the poor and needy.'	67	50	67
	... bring people together and strengthen community bonds.'	71	45	75
	... protect and strengthen morality in society.'	67	39	52
Negative attributes	... focus too much on rules.'	74	41	58
	... are too concerned with money and power.'	66	42	51
	... are too involved in politics.'	52	34	36

Note: This survey was conducted between April and August 2017 in 15 European countries.

Source 3B

An ABC radio host has faced public backlash after airing a story about the birth of Jesus during an interview about the origin of Christmas. Richard Glover, the host of ABC Sydney's Drive program, was inundated with messages from outraged listeners after the segment aired on Wednesday. The host had interviewed Christian scholar, The Reverend Professor Dorothy Lee from Melbourne's University of Divinity, for a segment discussing the two biblical versions of the birth of Jesus Christ.

The chat was part of the program's 'Self Improvement Wednesday' which discusses a range of topics covering history, astronomy and philosophy, with an expert. After the program aired Mr Glover took to Twitter in response to a flurry of backlash from listeners who were left outraged over the subject.

'So many angry about seven minutes of radio today on the biblical account of the birth of Jesus' he wrote. 'I know many don't believe – I don't – but why so angry about a Christian trip into a foundation text?'. Mr Glover defended the segment as 'wonderful and compelling whatever your beliefs', arguing the biblical account was mostly 'literary analysis'.

But the program left listeners divided, inciting furious debate over whether the national broadcaster went too far by hosting a segment on religion and Christianity. 'Can you point to any text or historical document that records the birth or the life of Jesus apart from the Bible?' wrote one person.

Others praised the host for holding an insightful discussion on Christianity ahead of the Christmas period. 'Like it or not, people of faith are part of society. They should be represented on public media', another listener wrote.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Source 1** Adapted from: Yad Vashem, The World Holocaust Remembrance Centre. (n.d.). *Princess Alice: Greece*. Retrieved March, 2022, from <https://www.yadvashem.org/righteous/stories/princess-alice.html>
- Source 2A** Adapted from: The Salvation Army. (2022). *Poverty in Australia - What is poverty in Australia?* Retrieved March, 2022, from <https://www.salvationarmy.org.au/get-involved/anti-poverty-week/poverty-in-australia/>
- Source 2B** Adapted from: Margulies, J. (2021). *Billionaires in space* [Cartoon]. Retrieved March, 2022, from <https://politicalcartoons.com/sku/253364>
- Source 2C** Adapted from: BBC. (n.d.). *What does Buddhism teach about wealth and poverty?* Retrieved March, 2022, from <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zkrkxnb/revision/3>
- Source 2D** BBC. (n.d.). *What does Sikhism teach about wealth and poverty?* Retrieved March, 2022, from <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/z3symsg/revision/3>
- Source 3A** Data from: Pew Research Center. (2018). *Most say religious institutions help poor and needy, bring people together* [Table]. Retrieved March, 2022, from <https://www.pewforum.org/2018/05/29/religion-and-society/>
- Source 3B** Adapted from: Davis, M. (2021, December 14). ABC host enrages listeners after sharing the origin of the Christmas story during a short interview with a Christian scholar about Jesus' birth. *Daily Mirror*. Retrieved March, 2022, from <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-10306575/ABC-host-enrages-listeners-segment-discussed-birth-Jesus-Christ-ahead-Christmas.html>

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