

External assessment 2025

Stimulus book

Study of Religion

General instruction

- Work in this book will not be marked.



Queensland
Government

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Stimulus 1

Yoma 85b

‘You shall keep My statutes and My ordinances, which a person shall do and live by them’ (Leviticus 18:5), and not that he should die by them. In all circumstances, one must take care not to die as a result of fulfilling the mitzvot.

Source: *Babylonian Talmud* 2017, William Davidson Edition, translated by A Steinsaltz.

Context

Yoma is a section of the *Talmud*, the text in Judaism that explains and interprets Jewish religious law (halakha).

Stimulus 2

Surah an-Nahl 16:90

God commands justice, and goodness, and generosity towards relatives. And He forbids immorality, and injustice, and oppression. He advises you, so that you may take heed.

Source: *Qur'an* 2012, translated by T Itani.

Context

Surah an-Nahl (‘The Bee’) is the 16th surah (chapter) of the *Qur'an*. It focuses on the blessings bestowed on humanity by Allah and advises believers to keep their promises to others.

Stimulus 3

Surah al-Ahzab 33:35

Muslim men and Muslim women, believing men and believing women, obedient men and obedient women, truthful men and truthful women, patient men and patient women, humble men and humble women, charitable men and charitable women, fasting men and fasting women, men who guard their chastity and women who guard, men who remember God frequently and women who remember — God has prepared for them a pardon, and an immense reward.

Source: *Qur'an* 2012, translated by T Itani.

Context

The 33rd surah (chapter) of the *Qur'an* is known as Surah al-Ahzab (‘The Confederates’) and is about Allah’s mercy and power, particularly during a time of conflict or crisis.

Stimulus 4

Genesis 17:1–8

¹ When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, ‘I am El Shaddai. Walk in My ways and be blameless. ² I will establish my covenant between Me and you, and I will make you exceedingly numerous.’

³ Abram threw himself on his face; and God spoke to him further, ⁴ ‘As for Me, this is My covenant with you: You shall be the father of a multitude of nations. ⁵ And you shall no longer be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I make you the father of a multitude of nations. ⁶ I will make you exceedingly fertile, and make nations of you; and kings shall come forth from you. ⁷ I will maintain My covenant between Me and you, and your offspring to come, as an everlasting covenant throughout the ages, to be God to you and to your offspring to come. ⁸ I assign the land you sojourn in to you and your offspring to come, all the land of Canaan, as an everlasting holding. I will be their God.’

Source: *The Jewish Study Bible: Second Edition* 2004, Oxford University Press.

Context

The Book of Genesis (Bere’shit in Hebrew) is the first book of the *Torah* and is about beginnings. It establishes God’s relationship with God’s people. El Shaddai, referenced in verse 1, is one of the Hebrew names for God.

Stimulus 5

John 1:14

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.

Source: *The Holy Bible* 2021, New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition.

Context

The Gospel of John is the fourth book in the New Testament.

Stimulus 6

Excerpt from ‘Hindu Benevolent Fund’

Hindu Council of Australia ... launched Hindu Benevolent Fund (HBF) in the Deepavali festival in [October] 2017. HBF is a Hindu Council’s community initiative to have a benevolent fund to provide financial support to individuals and families in dire need of financial help to meet their day-to-day needs.

Source: Hindu Council of Australia 2016, ‘Hindu Benevolent Fund’.

Context

A benevolent fund is aimed at acts of charitable goodwill towards others in society.

Stimulus 7

Brihadaranyaka Upanishad 4.4.5

As [the self] does and acts, so it becomes; by doing good it becomes good, and by doing evil it becomes evil — it becomes [virtuous] through good acts and vicious through evil acts. Others, however, say, ‘The self is identified with desire alone. What it desires, it resolves; what it resolves, it works out; and what it works out, it attains’.

Source: Yajnavalkya, quoted in Jaques, K 2024, *Brihadaranyaka Upanishad Commentary*.

Context

The Upanishads are a collection of authoritative sacred teachings in Hinduism that provide philosophical and spiritual insight into the universe.

Stimulus 8

Summary of homelessness in Australia



Homelessness is having inadequate dwelling space or lack of control over access to space, security or tenancy.

Couch surfing or car dwelling is a form of hidden homelessness, whereby an individual or families either become reliant on the hospitality of others or use a vehicle for shelter.

Australia's homelessness rate is increasing, as is the rate of people vulnerable to homelessness.

Lack of social and affordable housing is a major contributor to the homelessness issue in Australia.

Financial stress and sudden changes in personal circumstances can lead to a lack of control over housing and living circumstances.

Adequate and safe housing provides individuals and families with a way of life that supports human survival with security and dignity.

Context

Stimulus 9, 10, 11 and 12 refer to the concepts of liberation and compassion and Venerable Robina Courtin's expression of Buddhist beliefs. Robina Courtin was born in Australia and became a Buddhist nun in the Tibetan Buddhist tradition in 1978. She is the founder of Liberation Prison Project, which supports prisoners in receiving spiritual guidance. The project has brought Buddhist beliefs and practices into the lives of over 20 000 inmates in prisons across the world.

Stimulus 9

Excerpt from 'Compassion for everyone, not just the victims'

Compassion has to be equal for all beings, for it to be genuine compassion. Compassion is simply seeing that others are suffering and, even more sadly — this is the point — that others are causing themselves suffering by being angry and blaming everyone else.

Source: Courtin, R 2021, 'Compassion for everyone, not just the victims', *Robina's Blog*.

Stimulus 10

Real liberation

Redacted text can be viewed online:

The redacted quote from Lama Zopa Rinpoche can be found at the foot of pages of the Liberation Prison Project website <https://liberationprisonproject.org/about/>

This content has been redacted for copyright purposes.

Source: Thubten Zopa, quoted in Liberation Prison Project 2021, *Liberation Prison Project: Buddhism in prisons around the world*.

Stimulus 11

The heart of enlightenment

All the joy the world contains

Comes through wishing happiness for others.

All the misery the world contains

Comes through wanting pleasure for oneself.

Source: Shantideva, quoted in Michie, D 2017, *Buddhism for Busy People: Finding happiness in an uncertain world*.

Stimulus 12

Excerpt from an interview with Venerable Robina Courtin: ‘The Meaning of Life — A Bird Needs Two Wings’

This content has been redacted for copyright purposes.

Redacted text can be viewed online:

Redacted wording was the full article by Robina Courtin: ‘The Meaning of Life — A Bird Needs Two Wings’ December 20, 2019 *Excellence Reporter*

Source: Courtin, R 2019, ‘The Meaning of Life — A Bird Needs Two Wings’, *Excellence Reporter*.

References

Stimulus 1

Excerpt from *Babylonian Talmud* (2017). ‘Yoma 85b’, William Davidson Edition, translated by A Steinsaltz, on Sefaria Library <https://www.sefaria.org/Yoma.85b.3?lang=bi&with=all&lang2=en>
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Stimulus 2

Qur’an 2012, Chapter 16: Surah an-Nahl, translated by T Itani, <https://www.clearquran.com/016.html>.
Provided by the translator under the Creative Commons Licence.

Stimulus 3

Qur’an 2012, Chapter 33: Surah al-Ahzab, translated by T Itani, <https://www.clearquran.com/033.html>.
Provided by the translator under the Creative Commons Licence.

Stimulus 4

Genesis 17:1-9 in *The Jewish Study Bible: Second Edition* 2004, Oxford University Press

Stimulus 5

John 1:14 in *The Holy Bible* 2021, New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition, National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America.

Stimulus 6

Hindu Council of Australia. (2025). *Hindu Benevolent Fund* <https://hinducouncil.com.au/hindu-benevolent-fund/>

Stimulus 7

Jaques, K 2024, *Brihadaranyaka Upanishad Commentary*. https://www.kenjaques.org.uk/Brihadaranyaka_Upanishad_Chapter_Four.html

Stimulus 9

Courtin R (2021, July 22). ‘Compassion for everyone, not just the victims’ *Robina’s Blog* <https://robinacourtin.com/compassion-for-everyone-not-just-the-victims/>

Stimulus 10

The redacted quote from Lama Zopa Rinpoche can be found at the foot of pages of the *Liberation Prison Project* website <https://liberationprisonproject.org/about/>

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Shantideva quoted in Michie, D 2017, *Buddhism for Busy People: Finding happiness in an uncertain world* p.128.

Stimulus 12

Redacted wording was the full article by Robina Courtin: ‘The Meaning of Life — A Bird Needs Two Wings’ December 20, 2019 *Excellence Reporter*.



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