



Sydney Catholic Schools

2025

Year 8 Religious Education Test

- Q1 What does it mean to 'be made in the image and likeness of God'?
- (A) God created every living thing, and every creature is able to love God.
 - (B) Humans are capable of becoming divine.
 - (C) God made every one of us, although we will never intimately know God.
 - (D) Out of all the creatures on this earth, only humankind is able to know and love their Creator.
- Q2 Why is it important to pray regularly when building a relationship with God?
- (A) It keeps communication with God strong.
 - (B) It helps us win favours with God.
 - (C) It helps God to forgive our sins.
 - (D) It is a requirement of the Church.
- Q3 Read the Scripture passage and answer question 3.

'Then the high priest took action; he and all who were with him (that is, the sect of the Sadducees), being filled with jealousy, arrested the apostles and put them in the public prison. But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors, brought them out, and said, "Go, stand in the temple and tell the people the whole message about this life." When they heard this, they entered the temple at daybreak and went on with their teaching.'

ACTS 5:17–21

What happened after the apostles were arrested?

- (A) They remained in prison and awaited a trial.
- (B) The Roman governor made a strict law to restrict the apostles from speaking in the temple.
- (C) They denied knowing Jesus when questioned in prison to avoid punishment.
- (D) An angel freed them from prison, and they continued preaching in the temple.

Q4 Read the Scripture passage and answer question 4.

'Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.'"

GENESIS 1: 26

This Scripture passage presents God as

- (A) Saviour.
- (B) Creator.
- (C) Redeemer.
- (D) Reconciler.

Q5 Why are rituals important in the life of a person, especially during key moments like childhood, adolescence or adulthood?

- (A) They are practices that people do to please their family and friends.
- (B) They are fun events that allow people to dress up and celebrate.
- (C) They mark milestones and help people connect with their family and community.
- (D) They are for people to feel popular when they post on social media.

Q6 The Prodigal Son is one of the most famous parables. The story is about a young man who squandered everything his father gave him. He then went back to his father and repented.

This parable highlights Jesus' teachings of

- (A) service and love.
- (B) forgiveness and love.
- (C) forgiveness and service.
- (D) honour and compassion.

Q7

Choose the words that **BEST** complete the statement.

Sin affects our relationship with ____1____ and others. When we acknowledge our sins, we ____2____ the Body of ____3____.

- (A) 1. God
2. heal
3. Christ
- (B) 1. family
2. complete
3. humanity
- (C) 1. God
2. complete
3. Christ
- (D) 1. family
2. heal
3. humanity

Q8

Read the Scripture passage and answer question 8.

'Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed.'

1 PETER 3:13–14

What should Christians do if they suffer for doing what is right?

- (A) Be afraid and stay silent.
- (B) Fight back with anger.
- (C) Be happy and trust God.
- (D) Stop harming others.

Q9 Which of the following **BEST** shows how martyrs, missionaries and converts helped shape the early Christian communities?

- (A) They hid their faith to avoid trouble with Roman authorities.
- (B) They preached to people who were already Jewish.
- (C) They spread the message of Jesus, even when it meant facing persecution or death.
- (D) They focused on building places of worship instead of sharing the Gospel.

Q10

Who am I?

I was born in 1182. My life was changed when I met a leper. I decided to become a hermit. I renounced all of my possessions and took up a life of poverty in 1209. I am remembered for my deep Christian love of creation. After a significant encounter with nature, I came to the realisation that all of creation is a reflection of God.

I am

- (A) Saint Teresa of Calcutta.
- (B) Saint Francis of Assisi.
- (C) Saint Patrick of Ireland.
- (D) Saint Mary MacKillop of Australia.

Q11 Which of the following statements about the Bible is **TRUE**?

- (A) It is a sacred writing and is inspired by saints.
- (B) It is a sacred book made up of three parts.
- (C) It is a sacred book which records the exact words of God.
- (D) It is a sacred writing and is the inspired word of God.

Q12

Read the following statements and answer question 12.

Statement 1	Oral traditions are sacred stories which were passed down by word of mouth from generation to generation.
Statement 2	Oral traditions are quotes from the divine which were then passed down from generation to generation.

Which option **BEST** describes the two statements?

- (A) Both statements are true.
- (B) Both statements are false.
- (C) Statement 1 is true and statement 2 is false.
- (D) Statement 1 is false and statement 2 is true.

Q13

What am I?

I am a string of beads, but I'm not jewellery.

People use me to pray and reflect.

I help keep track of prayers like the Hail Mary and the Our Father.

I'm often held in the hands during quiet moments of faith.

I remind people of the life of Jesus and His mother, Mary.

I am a

- (A) friendship bracelet.
- (B) rosary.
- (C) scapula.
- (D) bookmark.

Q14

Which of the following **BEST** shows how values and attitudes influence 'right relationships'?

- (A) ignoring others' feelings to stay focused on having goals
- (B) only helping others when it benefits you
- (C) avoiding people who do not share your beliefs
- (D) acting kindly and respectfully, even when it's difficult

Q15 Read the following information about Saint Carlo Acutis and answer question 15.

“Carlo had a great desire to share his faith with others. For example, he built a website about Eucharistic miracles. He used his computer skills and experience with modern means of online communication to speak of the love of God online.”

Online with Saints. p. 69.

Saint Carlo Acutis was called to

- (A) build websites to promote the Vatican.
- (B) design websites for the parishes of his region.
- (C) continue to express his ideas about living the Christian life.
- (D) evangelise through communicating in the digital age.

Q16 God made human beings in his own image and likeness. This is known as

- (A) Imago Dei.
- (B) Laudato Si.
- (C) Fratelli Tutti.
- (D) Nostra Aetate.

Q17 Complete the following statement.

Catholic schools within the Sydney Archdiocese are shaped by their unique history, traditions, and charism, which help them to

- (A) focus on academic success and competition as the main priorities to increase enrolments.
- (B) have the same mission and vision as all schools.
- (C) create a Christ-centred learning environment inspired by faith, service, and the mission of their founding religious order.
- (D) teach students general values that align with society to make them better citizens who are able to contribute to society.

Q18 The story of Moses and his people is **BEST** described as being about

- (A) receiving the Ten Commandments at Mount Hebron.
- (B) experiencing the Ten Plagues and recovering from them.
- (C) escaping persecution by fleeing from Canaan.
- (D) returning home to a land that God had promised him and his people.

Q19 Choose the words which **BEST** complete the statement.

Jesus used parables to promote

- (A) the people of the Kingdom of God.
- (B) the values of the Kingdom of God.
- (C) the values of the audience.
- (D) the people who were in power at the time.

Q20 Which of the following **BEST** explains why people choose to pray?

- (A) to follow the expectations of their Catholic faith
- (B) to take part in a familiar religious routine
- (C) to seek guidance, comfort and strength
- (D) to avoid feeling responsible for their actions

Q21 Read the following quote and answer question 21.

'Let us treat others with the same passion and compassion with which we want to be treated. Let us seek for others the same possibilities which we seek for ourselves. Let us help others to grow, as we would like to be helped ourselves. In a word, if we want security, let us give security; if we want life, let us give life; if we want opportunities, let us provide opportunities. The yardstick we use for others will be the yardstick which time will use for us.'

Pope Francis Address to U.S. Congress, September 25, 2015

What Gospel teaching is Pope Francis talking about?

- (A) the Golden Rule
- (B) the Beatitudes
- (C) the Ten Commandments
- (D) the Commandment of Love

Q22 Which of the following **BEST** describes a challenge that many Christian believers face in the world today?

- (A) Christians becoming the minority in society
- (B) the decline of religious congregations working in schools today
- (C) being required to follow outdated laws that no longer apply
- (D) living a life of faith in a society which does not regard faith as being important

Q23

Read the following statements and answer question 23.

Statement 1	Conscience can prevent sinful actions.
Statement 2	Conscience supports ethical decision-making.

Which option **BEST** describes the two statements?

- (A) Both statements are true.
- (B) Both statements are false.
- (C) Statement 1 is true and statement 2 is false.
- (D) Statement 1 is false and Statement 2 is true.

Q24

Choose the words that **BEST** complete the statement.

Caritas Australia is a ____1____ organisation which promotes ____2____ stewardship and ____3____ responsibility.

- (A) 1. secular
 - 2. natural
 - 3. ecological
- (B) 1. Catholic
 - 2. natural
 - 3. financial
- (C) 1. Catholic
 - 2. environmental
 - 3. ecological
- (D) 1. secular
 - 2. environmental
 - 3. financial

Q25

Read the following statements and answer question 25.

Statement 1	The Stations of the Cross are traditionally prayed during the liturgical season of Advent.
Statement 2	Each Station of the Cross reflects a part of Jesus' life: his birth, death and resurrection.

Which option **BEST** describes the two statements?

- (A) Both statements are true.
- (B) Both statements are false.
- (C) Statement 1 is true and statement 2 is false.
- (D) Statement 1 is false and Statement 2 is true.

Q26

In relation to the environment, the Church teaches that

- (A) good stewardship is both social and environmental.
- (B) human society is more important than the created world.
- (C) people should worry about the social crisis before they worry about the environment.
- (D) the social crisis should be considered separately to the environmental crisis.

Q27

What does the Lord's Prayer show us about how we should speak to God?

- (A) We should pray publicly so that others can learn from us.
- (B) We should pray with honesty, trust and a desire to follow God's will.
- (C) We should always pray using words from the Bible.
- (D) We should only pray using this formal structure.

Q28

When we pray with Scripture using Lectio Divina, we are

- (A) listening deeply to God's Word and reflecting on how it speaks to our lives.
- (B) memorising Bible verses.
- (C) singing psalms.
- (D) reflecting on the Catechism to interpret the message of the Bible.



Image: John and other parishioners at Mass in ACM's Reconciliation Church
<https://www.ourfaithourworks.org/caring-for-our-atsi-brothers-and-sisters/>

Each month, the Reconciliation Church at La Perouse hosts an Aboriginal Mass, integrating a needed and vibrant social component to the faith programs offered at the church. The church also includes Indigenous elements in the liturgy, which makes it unique in the state and perhaps the country.

What the Reconciliation Church does highlights the importance of considering the effects of _____ on religious practices in the Catholic Church.

- (A) identical expressions
- (B) cultural influences
- (C) political policies
- (D) lay participation

Q30

Read the following Scripture passage and answer question 30.

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

ACTS 1:8

What is Jesus' message for his disciples?

- (A) They will receive the Holy Spirit to rule over nations.
- (B) They will receive a new set of commandments to follow.
- (C) They will receive permission to travel throughout the Roman Empire to evangelise.
- (D) They will receive the Holy Spirit and share Jesus' teachings.

Q31

Paul is often called the 'Apostle to the Gentiles'. How did his mission shape the early Church?

- (A) He focused on Jewish customs and taught only within Jewish communities.
- (B) He wrote epistles that reflected his solo travels and ministry in Persia.
- (C) He led early Christians in temple worship and taught them to follow the Law of Moses.
- (D) He travelled and preached to non-Jews, sharing that salvation through Jesus was for all.

Q32

Choose the words which **BEST** complete the statement.

In the Old Testament, the story of ___1___ shows how disobedience to God can lead to evil and separation from Him, while in the New Testament, ___2___ reveals the power of forgiveness and love even in the face of suffering. These examples help us understand the ongoing struggle between good and evil throughout Scripture.

- (A) 1. Adam and Eve
2. Jesus
- (B) 1. Noah and Jacob
2. Judas
- (C) 1. Abraham and Isaac
2. Peter
- (D) 1. Cain and Pharaoh
2. Saul

Q33

Read the following text to answer question 33.

'Pope Francis has explicitly called on Catholics to be revolutionaries. "I ask you to swim against the tide; yes, I am asking you to rebel against this culture that sees everything as temporary and that ultimately believes you are incapable of responsibility, that believes you are incapable of true love."

Robert Christian, National Catholic Reporter, 2013.

Pope Francis asks Catholics to be

- (A) penitential.
- (B) countercultural.
- (C) foundational.
- (D) interactive.

Q34

How do the teachings of Jesus provide a guide for Christian living?

- (A) They replace the need to follow the laws of society.
- (B) They fulfil ancient prophecies.
- (C) They are relevant to human lives and values.
- (D) They can lead to good fortune and success.

Q35

Read the following passage and answer question 35.

"They went to their deaths accompanied by derision; they were covered with skins of wild animals and ripped to pieces by dogs, or they were nailed to crosses and, when darkness fell, set on fire to become lamps in the night ..."

Tacitus. Annals xv, 44

These acts experienced by the early Christians would **BEST** be described as

- (A) punishment.
- (B) persecution.
- (C) exploitation.
- (D) mistreatment.

Q36

Read the following statements and answer question 36.

Statement 1	Christians believe that human dignity is the result of God's respect for us.
Statement 2	The weak, needy, orphaned and troubled possess a God-given sense of dignity.

Which option **BEST** describes the two statements?

- (A) Both statements are true.
- (B) Both statements are false.
- (C) Statement 1 is true and statement 2 is false.
- (D) Statement 1 is false and statement 2 is true.

Q37

Read the following Scripture passage and answer question 37.

“He said, ‘Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want.’”

MARK 14:36

Jesus prayed this prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane. This type of prayer is called a prayer of

- (A) thanksgiving.
- (B) blessing.
- (C) petition.
- (D) praise.

Q38

In the Catholic Church, during the Sacrament of Baptism, which of the following actions is symbolic of the Holy Spirit?

- (A) the godparents lighting the Baptismal Candle
- (B) the candidate dressing in white clothing
- (C) the priest praying the Ephphetha Prayer over the ears and mouth
- (D) the priest anointing the candidate with oil

Q39 In Acts 9:1–22, Saul experiences a powerful conversion that transforms him into a follower of Jesus.

Which of the following **BEST** explains the significance of this event for the early Church?

- (A) Saul's conversion showed that Christianity had finally spread beyond the Jewish lands.
- (B) Saul's transformation meant that Christians no longer had to keep their faith secret.
- (C) Saul's transformation demonstrated that even enemies of the Church could become its greatest witnesses.
- (D) Saul's conversion led to the end of all persecution against Christians in the Roman Empire.

Q40 What happened during the Feeding of the Five Thousand?

- (A) The crowd ate until they were satisfied with no food left over.
- (B) Jesus only fed those who believed in him.
- (C) Jesus blessed the fish and bread before sharing them.
- (D) Jesus celebrated the first Eucharist.

Q41 Choose the option which **BEST** completes the statement.

Part of being human and Christian means that you have rights. The right to be treated justly is one of these rights. Another of these rights is the right to

- (A) choose when to end life.
- (B) refuse to attend school.
- (C) do something if it feels good.
- (D) express oneself respectfully.

Q42 What is the connection between the Old and New Testaments?

- (A) The Word of God is revealed in both.
- (B) The New Testament shows ancient things happening again at a later time.
- (C) They both contain the Gospels which inform the reader about God.
- (D) They contain the same style of writing, allowing the reader to connect to God.

- Q43 What characteristics of parables helped them resonate with Jesus' followers?
- (A) unknown characters, a memorable story and were short in length.
 - (B) imagery of nature, mixed messages and familiar people.
 - (C) imagery of working the land, familiar people and a dominant message.
 - (D) a dominant message, an insight into the power of God, and unknown characters.

- Q44 Cardinal Joseph Cardijn founded the Young Christian Workers and was one of the Fathers of the Second Vatican Council. He developed an approach to decision-making which is used in many social justice situations.

What is the name of the approach?

- (A) Look–Think–Report
- (B) Think–Act–Judge
- (C) See–Act–Report
- (D) See–Judge–Act

- Q45 Read the following scenario and answer question 45.

Blake has been invited to a party organised by a group of Year Eight students. They have chosen Carly's place as her parents will not be home. Carly's older sister Jessica, who is in her last year at university, is staying at home to act as a supervisor while her parents are out. Some of Blake's friends have decided to bring alcohol. If he doesn't attend the party, Blake feels that he would be letting down his friends.

Blake decides to attend the party and ends up drinking alcohol, even though he knows it goes against what he believes is right.

What does this suggest about his conscience?

- (A) He is ignoring the voice of God within him - Blake knows what is right but chooses to act against it, putting peer approval above faith.
- (B) He is showing Christian courage by trying to fit in - Blake is being brave by staying close to his friends, even if it means compromising his beliefs.
- (C) He is living out his baptismal freedom - Blake is making his own choices, which shows he is free to decide what's best for him.
- (D) He is still learning how to listen to his conscience - Blake's decision shows that his moral understanding is developing and influenced by others.

Q46

Read the following Scripture passage and answer question 46.

‘Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.’

PHILIPPIANS 4: 8–9

Based on the message in Philippians 4:8–9, which of the following **BEST** supports a person’s growth in goodness?

- (A) considering personal achievements and recognition as signs of a good life
- (B) avoiding conflicts with others to maintain peace and comfort
- (C) choosing what inspires kindness, fairness and moral strength
- (D) seeking praise from others, even when it challenges one’s values

Q47

Read the following scenario to answer question 47.

During a Year 9 Religious Education class, students are exploring the concept of creation and humanity’s role within it. The teacher shows a documentary about a rainforest ecosystem, highlighting how deforestation in one area led to soil erosion, loss of animal habitats, and changes in local climate patterns. After the documentary, the class discusses how human actions can influence the natural world.

What does this tell you about creation?

- (A) Creation is interdependent; what we do in one part can affect other parts.
- (B) Creation is resilient; our actions have an impact; however, the consequences are limited.
- (C) Creation is independent; with care, each part of creation can stand on its own.
- (D) Creation is adaptable; despite human actions, creation will evolve to adapt to a future world.

Q48

Read the following quote and answer question 48.

'The Bible is God's love letter to us.'

Saint Augustine

This statement means that

- (A) God dictated the words to be recorded in the Bible.
- (B) God is communicating to Christians through the words contained in the Bible.
- (C) God's love is dependent upon reading the Bible.
- (D) God writes letters contained in the Bible to guide Christians.

Q49

Read the following **TWO** quotes and answer question 49.

'The world exists for everyone, because all of us were born with the same dignity.'

Pope Francis, Fratelli Tutti, no. 118

'For 60 years, Caritas Australia has been working with communities around the world to confront the challenges of poverty. Through locally-led programs, we work with all people towards a world where all can thrive and reach their full potential.'

<https://www.caritas.org.au/>

What do Pope Francis and Caritas Australia advocate?

- (A) global cooperation that prioritises innovation and progress for the sake of human advancement
- (B) commitment to recognising the inherent worth of every person and supporting initiatives that empower all people to flourish
- (C) prioritising assistance for those who demonstrate potential for success, ensuring resources are used efficiently
- (D) supporting efforts that uplift individuals within their community, ensuring care is provided locally before extending it globally

Q50

What is the **BEST** way to describe the meaning of sacrament?

- (A) A sacrament is a visible sign of God's invisible grace, given through sacred rituals. Through the sacraments, we receive in increasing measure the treasures of divine life.
- (B) A sacrament is a symbol that reminds people of stories from the Bible. As a sign of the actions of the prophets from the Old Testament, it is a means by which faith is strengthened.
- (C) A sacrament is an official ceremony that makes people feel special. Bishops administer sacraments in the cathedral at different times during the liturgical year.
- (D) A sacrament is an event that Catholics must attend to fully participate in the Church. Sacraments are received by true witnesses of the New Testament.

*** End ***