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Review of Achievement Standards (RAS) Exemplar

Level 1 Religious Studies

Achievement Standard 91917

Explore a characteristic found in two different religious traditions

Achievement

TOTAL 04

Candidate's chosen question:

3. Important changes and events in life are often recognised in ritual. Explore a life ritual in two different religious traditions.

Candidate's answer:

Baptism and Shabbat are both religious rituals that occur in Judaism and Catholicism. These events help their monotheistic religious community to express their faith and bring them closer to God.

A key ritual in Catholicism is Baptism. Baptism is one of the 7 catholic sacraments, which are key events in every Catholics life. The ceremony of Baptism is the 1st sacrament and one of the most important. All Catholics must go through this to begin their journey as a Catholic, then follow with the rest of the sacraments (some are optional, like matrimony). One of the main purposes of Baptism is to cleanse the recipients of original sin, (Catholic's believe everyone in born with original sin and that it comes from Adam and Eve disobeying God) and it can be fulfilled at any age. It's purpose is also to pass the faith on to the recipient using the Paschal Candle. The Paschal Candle is an ancient religious candle used in very important occasions. It's white with the Greek letters alpha and omega (meaning beginning and end) present on it. It also has 5 grains of incense present on it which represents the wounds of Jesus Christ. Catholics believe that the Paschal Candles flame represents the light of Jesus Christ (John 1 :4-5 "In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shining in the darkness has not overcome it yet"), which is why it's used to light the recipients Baptism Candle. Typically the god parents of the recipient will do this. White garments are usually worn by the recipient to symbolise purity.

In Judaism, the celebration of Shabbat is an important ritual. This ritual is completed weekly starting on sunset of Friday to sunset on Saturday. Shabbat is a time of rest and a time to reconnect with and get closer to God. Jews have a variety of rules they must follow during this period of time. Some examples are no electronics, no work, no cooking etc. Though all Jews must follow these rules some follow it more strict then others. For example some families take no electronics as no ipads, laptops, TV and other electronic devices while others may follow to a different extent as in no electricity at all, such as no lights, oven etc.. Instead of using these electronics most families will play traditional board games. To show their respect to God on Shabbat, they will wear they're nicest clothes to welcome him. Candles are also heavily used during this time, and is believed that the light of these candles represent the light of God. Because they are not allowed to cook during this time, they will spend the day before prepping and making all their traditional meals so that when the time comes the food is already prepared. Jews also must make sure that all their food is kosher. When Shabbat begins family and friends will also come together to share a meal, which is the food they prepared the day before. The following day, (Saturday) most Jews will do peaceful activities like go on a picnic with their friends and families etc.

In conclusion, both of these rituals help to bring their religious community closer together and closer to God. It helps them express their faith and is also used as forms of worship.

Achievement Exemplar 2021

Subject	Religious Studies RAS	Standard	91917	Total score	04
Q	Grade score	Annotation			
3	04	The candidate has explained and mostly presented information on a characteristic found in both Catholicism and Judaism. They have shown understanding of the content and have given basic detail. There is no discussion or detailed attempt to compare the similarities of the ritual in both religions.			