

Chapter 01 Understanding Religion

Multiple Choice Questions

1. (p. 5) Literally, the word *religion* means to
- A. meditate.
 - B. worship.
 - C. connect again.**
 - D. rise above.

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2. (p. 16) The prophetic orientation in religion emphasizes that contact with the sacred is ensured by
- A. making material donations to places of worship.
 - B. performing seated meditation.
 - C. engaging in sacramental rituals and ceremonies.
 - D. proper beliefs and adherence to moral rules.**

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3. (p. 10) Who among the following anthropologists suggested that religion was rooted in spirit worship?
- A. E.B. Tylor**
 - B. James Frazer
 - C. Sigmund Freud
 - D. Carl Jung

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4. (p. 10) Sigmund Freud, when analyzing the origin of religions, emphasized
- A. the roles played by parents and childhood experiences in shaping religious beliefs.
 - B. the certainty of an afterlife.
 - C. that religions are essential to psychological well-being.
 - D. the valuable role that religions play in helping people find meaning in their lives.

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5. (p. 12) The disciple of Freud who ultimately broke away from him over fundamental differences of interpretation of religion was
- A. Carl Jung.
 - B. Wilhelm Schmidt.
 - C. Rudolf Otto.
 - D. Clifford Geertz.

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6. (p. 12) Wilhelm Schmidt, an Austrian philologist, argued that all humankind once believed
- A. in a single High God.
 - B. in twin gods who represented darkness and light.
 - C. that multiple gods existed in the form of natural phenomena.
 - D. that they were spiritually connected to nature.

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7. (p. 7) The belief in many gods is known as
- A. polytheism.
 - B. monotheism.
 - C. agnosticism.
 - D. atheism.

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8. (p. 7) The belief in one God is known as

- A.** monotheism.
- B. polytheism.
- C. atheism.
- D. agnosticism.

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9. (p. 16) The mystical orientation in religion emphasizes

- A. strengthening the sense of one's individuality.
- B.** seeking union with a reality greater than oneself.
- C. the use of rituals and ceremonies.
- D. the use of logical and rational thinking to find answers.

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10. (p. 15) The sacramental orientation in religion is characterized by

- A. a belief that a human being is an intermediary between the believer and the sacred.
- B. the use of silent meditation.
- C. the dominance of male imagery.
- D.** a belief that certain rituals and ceremonies help achieve salvation.

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11. (p. 20) Anthropology has typically been interested in

- A.** how religions influence society and practices in different cultures.
- B. how religions influence one another.
- C. the study of topics relating to monotheistic religious traditions.
- D. the study of linguistic patterns in human societies to determine how religion is experienced.

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12. (p. 12) A religious symbol that blends a circle and a square is called a
A. mandala.
B. mudra.
C. mantra.
D. megalith.

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13. (p. 16) Prophetic orientation is a prominent aspect of
A. Protestant Christianity.
B. Zen Buddhism.
C. Vedic Hinduism.
D. Taoism.

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14. (p. 7) Pantheism is the belief
A. that the sacred is discoverable within the physical world and its processes.
B. that the Greek god Pan is the source of cosmic order.
C. in endless reincarnation.
D. in a distinct personal god.

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15. (p. 15) A religion that values silence and wordless meditation is
A. Shinto.
B. Judaism.
C. Zen Buddhism.
D. Islam.

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16. (p. 17) The growth of city-states is believed to have led to
- A. the dominance of female religious leadership.
 - B. an increase in religious tolerance.
 - C. male dominance in religion.**
 - D. a sense of inclusiveness in society.

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17. (p. 6) The term *myth*, as religious scholars use it, means
- A. a story that is historically untrue.
 - B. a story that is shared from one generation to the next.
 - C. a story that is central to a religion and may or may not be historically true.**
 - D. a story that is found in similar form in many religions.

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18. (p. 19) In Greek, *philosophy* literally means
- A. great system.
 - B. world study.
 - C. careful analysis.
 - D. love of wisdom.**

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19. (p. 4) Who among the following artists had hoped to become a Dutch Reformed Church clergyman but took to painting after a disagreement with church authorities?
- A. Pierre Bonnard
 - B. Vincent van Gogh**
 - C. Pablo Picasso
 - D. Claude Monet

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20. (p. 12) According to Carl Jung, religion is a way for humans to
- A. understand the depth and complexity of reality.
 - B. avoid the dangerous influence of the spirit world.
 - C. exert influence on nature.
 - D. bridge the gap between life and art.

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21. (p. 10) The Scottish anthropologist who wrote the multivolume study of mythology called *The Golden Bough* was
- A. James Frazer.
 - B. C.G. Jung.
 - C. Sigmund Freud.
 - D. E.B. Tylor.

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22. (p. 11) The German theologian who held that religions emerge as human responses to the mysterious side of reality was
- A. Rudolf Otto.
 - B. Carl Jung.
 - C. Karl Rahner.
 - D. Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

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23. (p. 11) The social scientist who argued that religion brings "a new zest" to living was
- A. James Frazer.
 - B. William James.
 - C. E.B. Tylor.
 - D. Carl Jung.

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24. (p. 19) Psychology deals with
- A. the study of nature.
 - B. the study of human cultures and societies.
 - C.** human mental states and behaviors.
 - D. questions of life and existence.

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25. (p. 12) Who among the following psychologists described religion as something that grew out of a person's need to arrive at personal fulfillment?
- A. Rudolf Otto
 - B. E.B. Tylor
 - C. Sigmund Freud
 - D.** Carl Jung

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26. (p. 17) Examples of symbolic forms of the female divine in religions are
- A. swords and crosses.
 - B.** spirals and eggs.
 - C. mandalas and lightning bolts.
 - D. hills and mountains.

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27. (p. 19) The approach that makes use of rational and systematic reasoning to answer the great questions of life and existence is known as
- A. theology.
 - B. paleontology.
 - C.** philosophy.
 - D. mythology.

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28. (p. 14) Religions that emphasize a creation tend to see time as
- A. cyclical.
 - B.** linear.
 - C. repetitive.
 - D. unlimited.

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29. (p. 20) The area of investigation that explores sites of ancient civilizations, often uncovering remains of religious significance, is known as
- A. paleontology.
 - B. semiology.
 - C. sociology.
 - D.** archeology.

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30. (p. 19) Literally, *theology* means
- A. discovery of the soul.
 - B. structure of society.
 - C. logic of pattern.
 - D.** study of the divine.

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31. (p. 22) One of the first sociologists to emphasize that religions emerge from whole tribes of people and reinforce their values was
- A.** Emile Durkheim.
 - B. Clifford Geertz.
 - C. E.E. Evans-Pritchard.
 - D. Jacques Derrida.

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32. (p. 23) Who among the following anthropologists lived in Indonesia and Morocco and championed a description of the appearances of rituals and religious objects and their meaning for the practitioners?

- A. Michel Foucault
- B.** Clifford Geertz
- C. E.E. Evans-Pritchard
- D. Jacques Derrida

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33. (p. 22) The French thinker who recognized extraordinary structural similarities in the myths of the tribal peoples of the Americas was

- A. Michel Foucault.
- B. Jean-Paul Sartre.
- C. Jacques Derrida.
- D.** Claude Lévi-Strauss.

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34. (p. 22) The French thinker who sought to go behind and beyond ordinary interpretations and to, in essence, deconstruct texts and other phenomena in search of fresh ways of seeing was

- A. Michel Foucault.
- B.** Jacques Derrida.
- C. Claude Lévi-Strauss.
- D. Émile Durkheim.

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35. (p. 22) The French post-structuralist who focused on those oppressed and marginalized by society, such as prisoners and the mentally ill, was

- A. Émile Durkheim.
- B. Jacques Derrida.
- C. Michel Foucault.
- D. Claude Lévi-Strauss.

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36. (p. 22) The analytical approach that emphasizes the individuality of each experience in human society and rejects the notion of underlying grand structures is known as

- A. structuralism.
- B. functionalism.
- C. post-structuralism.
- D. interactionism.

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37. (p. 22) The analytical approach that searches for universal similarities in the languages, religions, and mythologies of various peoples is known as

- A. structuralism.
- B. interactionism.
- C. post-structuralism.
- D. functionalism.

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38. (p. 21) The analytical approach that studies the written texts of religions and non-written material as reflections of the cultural values and assumptions that produced them is known as

- A. structuralism.
- B.** literary theory.
- C. linguistics.
- D. post-structuralism.

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Essay Questions

39. Why do religions exist? Give at least three possible reasons and defend them with good arguments (and, when appropriate, references to others who offer similar reasons).

Answers will vary.

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40. List and briefly describe five key characteristics of religion.

Answers will vary.

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41. Explain the difference between the transcendent and immanent notions of sacredness. What characteristics might we expect in a religion that acknowledges a transcendent God or gods? What characteristics might we expect in a religion that emphasizes sacredness that is immanent?

Answers will vary.

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42. Could we use the term *religion* for a belief system of only one person? Explain your answer.

Answers will vary.

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43. Religions often speak of the sacred or treat people or places as sacred. Is there anything objectively "sacred," or is this just an imaginative human projection? Defend your answer.

Answers will vary.

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44. List four symbols typically thought of as religious, and explain what each of them represents.

Answers will vary.

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45. Explain the distinctions between the sacramental, prophetic, and mystical orientations of religions.

Answers will vary.

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46. Describe the range of attitudes among religions toward words and special texts.

Answers will vary.

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47. Explain how a continuum with exclusiveness at one end and inclusiveness at the other can be used to describe religious views.

Answers will vary.

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48. How do we typically distinguish between religion and philosophy?

Answers will vary.

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49. Offer, with evidence, an explanation why males and male imagery came to dominate many of the religions of the past thousand years.

Answers will vary.

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50. Describe at least three contemporary examples of religious devotion to female deities or the religious use of female imagery.

Answers will vary.

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51. Describe three different discipline-based approaches to the study of religions, and explain the specific emphasis that each makes.

Answers will vary.

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52. The term *religion* literally means "to join again." What elements do you see being connected by a religion?

Answers will vary.

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