

Chapter 2 – Test Bank

Multiple-Choice Questions

1. The goddess Pele is associated with
- childbirth.
 - volcanoes and fire.
 - Brazil.
 - the Haida.

Answer: b

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2. What did the Maori call New Zealand when they first arrived there over a thousand years ago?
- Aotearoa
 - Tangaroa
 - Rongo
 - Tahiti

Answer: a

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3. Which of the following is a traditional Maori belief?
- The world is inhabited by many invisible spirits that can help or harm.
 - All human beings are equal and share the same authority, or mana, in society.
 - Humans were created by a High God, and he abandoned them soon after.
 - The images people see in dreams are the whispers of their gods.

Answer: a

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4. Which of the following mediums are used by indigenous religions in the American continent to transmit stories and histories?

- sandpaintings
- cartography
- board games
- books

Answer: a

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5. *Biophilia* refers to
- the study of biology.
 - a love for all forms of life.
 - a method for studying indigenous religions.
 - a kind of hula.

Answer: b

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6. African religious masks strongly influenced the art of

- a. Pablo Picasso.
- b. Claude Monet.
- c. Ralph Vaughan Williams.
- d. ethnomusicology.

Answer: a

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7. In a holistic culture,

- a. written manuscripts have a special place.
- b. children play a prominent role in ritual.
- c. religions express truths through symbolism.
- d. virtually every object and act may have religious meaning.

Answer: d

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8. The Maori act of welcome, in which the host and the guest press their noses gently to each other, is known as

- a. the hongi.
- b. kapu.
- c. mana.
- d. the wakan.

Answer: a

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9. Animism holds that

- a. animal sacrifice is necessary for ritual purity.
- b. mountains are often at the end of sacred paths.
- c. animal nature must be subservient to human beings.
- d. the life force exists in every part of the universe.

Answer: d

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10. Hehaka Sapa, also known as Black Elk, saw the circle as

- a. a form in which many elements of nature arrange themselves.
- b. a special form of the calumet.
- c. evidence that man must dominate nature.
- d. taboo for the people of Easter Island.

Answer: a

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11. In Hawai'i, during the celebration of *Makahiki*,

- a. the gods were believed to take on human form.
- b. touching volcanic rock was considered taboo.
- c. people received food from the nobles.
- d. war and heavy work were forbidden.

Answer: d

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12. The concept of *sacred space* is evident in all of the following EXCEPT

- a. Uluru (Ayers Rock).
- b. the pyramids of Teotihuacán.
- c. Lono.
- d. Mount Kilimanjaro.

Answer: c

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13. Some African religions tell stories of how a High God created the world and then

- a. abandoned it.
- b. went to Uluru.
- c. became the mother of the Pueblo.
- d. joined the spirits of the dead.

Answer: a

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14. Circumcision is a rite often associated with

- a. entry into adulthood.
- b. the vision quest.
- c. the final passing from this life.
- d. taboo and sacrifice.

Answer: a

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15. The sacrifice of an animal may occur

- a. in order to placate a spirit or after a taboo has been broken.
- b. to celebrate the arrival of menarche.
- c. as an alternative to polygamy.
- d. as an essential part of the ritual that uses *Amanita muscaria*.

Answer: a

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16. A libation, which is a way to atone for breaking a taboo, involves

- a. pouring a bit of drink on the ground as an offering.
- b. feeding sacred wine to animals.
- c. smoking a calumet to placate a spirit.
- d. going into a shamanic trance to seek answers from spirits.

Answer: a

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17. A special ability to know or even enter the spirit world is associated with

- a. shamans.
- b. the Lakota Bible.
- c. John Mbiti.

d. animism.

Answer: a

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18. Divination is employed to

- a. compensate for the violation of a taboo.
- b. restore a woman to the social order after childbirth.
- c. read the past or look into the future.
- d. ensure that peyote is protected by the Supreme Court.

Answer: c

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19. Dancers often wear masks

- a. that complement the flowers making up the lei.
- b. because they have great memories for oral texts.
- c. because birds are often assumed to have protective powers.
- d. to become the spirit represented by the mask.

Answer: d

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20. Christmas, though a Christian holiday, began as a celebration of

- a. the old English goddess of dawn.
- b. the winter solstice.
- c. Samhain in Ireland.
- d. the return of ancestral spirits to the world.

Answer: b

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21. Indigenous religions today are especially threatened by

- a. the destruction of natural environments.
- b. ecotourism.
- c. resistance to the spread of television.
- d. the weakness of the logging industry.

Answer: a

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22. Maori religion is part of the cultural rebirth in

- a. New Zealand.
- b. New Mexico.
- c. New Guinea.
- d. Australia.

Answer: a

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23. The calumet is a

- a. pipe.
- b. drum.

- c. mask.
- d. sandpainting.

Answer: a

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24. Until recently, oral religions were looked at as

- a. too involved with symbolism.
- b. primitive and undeveloped.
- c. overly complex.
- d. a peak of early religious insight.

Answer: b

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25. Sacred time tends to focus on the

- a. distant future.
- b. immediate future.
- c. present.
- d. distant past.

Answer: d

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26. Sacred space often encompasses

- a. a great mountain or tree.
- b. the construction of a skyscraper.
- c. the command of a ruler.
- d. the veneration of a sacred book.

Answer: a

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27. The vision quest in Native American religions

- a. has often been associated with marriage ceremonies.
- b. is frequently undertaken during adolescence.
- c. always makes use of hallucinatory herbs.
- d. is a part of the preparatory ritual for death.

Answer: b

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28. In indigenous societies, the human journey through life is aided and marked by

- a. libation.
- b. spiritual trances.
- c. scarification.
- d. rites of passage.

Answer: d

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29. Which of the following is a value the Europeans introduced to the Maori?

- a. individualism

- b. reverence for sacred spaces
- c. hospitality
- d. respect for ancestors

Answer: a

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30. Indigenous religions

- a. frequently make little distinction between a god and an ancestor.
- b. make clear distinctions between the natural and the supernatural.
- c. frequently value androgyny.
- d. almost always mark marriage with public religious ceremonies.

Answer: a

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31. The Sioux term *wakan* means

- a. holy, mysterious.
- b. mountain god.
- c. sky, space.
- d. brightness.

Answer: a

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32. Joseph Campbell, in his books, has strongly recommended reading the myths of many religions. Doing this, he says,

- a. gives us a sense of the great variety of creation stories.
- b. makes us more tolerant of other religions.
- c. sharpens our appreciation for storytelling and drama.
- d. shows us the symbolic messages that underlie religious stories.

Answer: d

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33. The term *Poro* refers to

- a. a mourning ritual performed at the death of a religious leader.
- b. a secret initiation society for males.
- c. the general name for the dried powders used for Navajo sandpaintings.
- d. a dance of the Lakota people.

Answer: b

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34. Very common to the vision quest is

- a. the creation of a sandpainting.
- b. several days of dancing.
- c. the memorization of the names of ancestors.
- d. fasting.

Answer: d

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35. A rule that forbids specific behavior with regard to certain objects, people, animals, days, or phases of life is known as a

- a. taboo.
- b. kinolau.
- c. calumet.
- d. koko.

Answer: a

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36. In the context of African and Caribbean religions, the practice of sympathetic magic involves

- a. directing the power of invisible spiritual forces through incantations, figurines, and potions.
- b. smoking specially carved pipes filled with hallucinogenic substances to induce a trance.
- c. looking into the past by examining the entrails of an animal sacrificed to the gods.
- d. burying the dead with all their belongings to appease their departed spirits.

Answer: a

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37. In many Native American religions,

- a. animals are believed to have been created after humans.
- b. human beings have an antagonistic relationship with animals.
- c. human beings and animals are often viewed as coming into existence together.
- d. animal sacrifices are regularly performed.

Answer: c

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38. Sacred time in indigenous religions is

- a. cyclical.
- b. linear.
- c. relative.
- d. historically focused.

Answer: a

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39. While performing rituals, Navajo healers were known to

- a. weave rugs with geometric patterns.
- b. mold silver and turquoise jewelry.
- c. perform traditional powwow dances.
- d. create sandpaintings.

Answer: d

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40. A *kiva* is

- a. a ritual toast offered in special indigenous ceremonies.
- b. an underground chamber used in rituals.
- c. a multistoried house.
- d. a special kind of sandpainting.

Answer: b

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41. Ancestral Pueblo peoples lived in
- a. multistoried villages.
 - b. underground rooms called *kivas*.
 - c. *tipis*.
 - d. log lodges.

Answer: a

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42. Pueblo peoples consider *kachinas* to be
- a. gods.
 - b. spirits of animals, people, or plants that act as guardians.
 - c. humans in full dance regalia.
 - d. powerful village shamans.

Answer: b

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Essay Topics

43. Explain why ancient religions are no longer called *primitive* religions but instead are called *indigenous* religions. What is the difference of meaning in the two terms?
44. Mention two reasons why indigenous religions received less scholarly attention than the dominant religions in the past.
45. Describe three developments that have promoted renewed interest in indigenous religions.
46. What do we mean when we describe a culture as *holistic*?
47. Describe the relationship of human beings with the rest of nature that is typical of several North American native religions.
48. Describe briefly two examples of *sacred time* and two examples of *sacred space*.
49. Explain the notion of the High God in indigenous religions.
50. Describe three typical life-cycle ceremonies and give an example of each from a specific indigenous religion.
51. Explain the notion of taboo. Describe two specific religion-based examples, and speculate on how or why each arose.
52. What roles does the shaman typically perform in indigenous religions? List three contemporary professions that involve work that might be undertaken by a shaman.

53. Describe the trance state as practiced by a specific religion. What is the goal of the practice?
54. Describe the special roles played by the arts in indigenous religions—roles often taken by texts in book-centered religions. Mention two specific examples.
55. Describe two specific trends that today threaten the existence of indigenous religions.
56. Describe one specific example of oral religion existing within elements of a religion that apparently absorbed it.