

Chapter 1: Thinking about Religion

The questions in this test bank have been updated and revised to reflect changes in *THINK World Religions*, 2nd edition. There is also a new system for identifying the difficulty of the questions. In this revision, the questions are now tagged according to the four levels of learning that help organize the text. Think of these four levels as moving from lower-level to higher-level cognitive reasoning. The four levels are:

REMEMBER: a question involving recall of key terms or factual material

UNDERSTAND: a question testing comprehension of more complex ideas

APPLY: a question applying sociological knowledge to some new situation

ANALYZE: a question requiring identifying elements of an argument and their interrelationship

The **45 questions** in this chapter's test bank are divided into five types of questions. As the table below shows, more than half of these questions are "Remember" questions and most questions fall within the lowest three levels of cognitive reasoning (Remember, Understand, and Apply). **Multiple Choice, True/False, Fill in the Blank, and Matching** questions span the broadest range of skills (the majority are "Remember" questions and the remainder are "Understand" questions). **Short Answer** questions span a broad range of skills (from "Remember" to "Analyze"). Finally, **Essay** questions are the most demanding because they include the highest levels of cognitive reasoning (from "Understand" to "Analyze").

Types of Questions

Easy to Difficult Level of Difficulty

	Multiple Choice	True/False	Fill in the Blank	Matching	Short Answer	Essay	Total Questions
Remember	10	6	5	5	2	0	28
Understand	5	4	0	0	1	2	12
Apply	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
Analyze	0	0	0	0	1	2	4
Totals	15	10	5	5	5	5	45

Multiple Choice

1. Which of the following controversies is used by your textbook author to illustrate the relationship between religion and politics?

- A. Barack Obama as a secret Muslim
- B. Bill Clinton and Whitewater
- C. Sarah Palin and Jesse Jackson
- D. Saddam Hussein and George Bush

(UNDERSTAND; Answer: A; page 1)

2. Which of the following is one of the fundamental questions asked by scholars Otto and Müller?

- A. What happens after death?
- B. What is the result of sin?
- C. What is religion?
- D. Why do bad things happen to good people?

(REMEMBER; Answer: C; page 4)

3. Rudolf Otto believed that all religions interacted with the holy. Which of the following best describes what Otto meant by “the holy”?

- A. Something useful for accomplishing worthy goals
- B. Something ultimately good which interacts and transcends everyday life
- C. Something mundane and ordinary
- D. Something defying all expression and comprehension

(UNDERSTAND; Answer: b; page 4)

4. Karl Marx is famous for saying _____.

- A. God is dead
- B. if there were no God anything would be permissible
- C. if there were no God we would have to invent one
- D. religion is the opiate of the masses

(REMEMBER; Answer: D; page 4)

5. Of the following, who viewed religion skeptically?

- A. Rudolf Otto
- B. Max Müller
- C. Friedrich Nietzsche
- D. Thomas Aquinas

(REMEMBER; Answer: C; page 4)

6. Durkheim was interested in the ways in which religion created and maintained _____.

- A. illusion
- B. introspection
- C. cohesive communities
- D. desires

(REMEMBER; Answer: C; page 4)

7. Eliade argued religion balanced the profane and the sacred. What does “profane” mean?

- A. True
- B. Ordinary
- C. Transcendent
- D. Spiritual

(UNDERSTAND; Answer: B; page 4)

8. The idea that a dominant religion has simply been a successful “master narrative” is an argument made by _____ scholars.

- A. Marxist
- B. Conservative
- C. 19th-century
- D. Postmodern

(REMEMBER; Answer: D; pages 4-5)

9. Which of the following is NOT one of the four questions your textbook author will ask of each religion?

- A. What is essential?
- B. What does it mean to be human?
- C. How do we understand evil?
- D. How do humans interact with the sacred?

(REMEMBER; Answer: C; pages 5-6)

10. Your textbook suggests that those who see humanity as fascinated by the young and childlike, might like _____.

- A. Cartman
- B. Freud
- C. Hello Kitty
- D. Pokemon

(REMEMBER; Answer: C; page 6)

11. Your textbook author uses the example of _____ to support the claim that religions often resort to violence.

- A. animal sacrifice in Judaism
- B. animal sacrifice in Hinduism
- C. crucifixion of Jesus in Christianity
- D. radical terrorism in contemporary Islam

(REMEMBER; Answer: D; page 7)

12. Some religions are very active, while others are inactive. These opposites were used by your textbook author to explain the question _____.

- A. "What is essential?"
- B. "What does it mean to be human?"
- C. "How do humans interact with the sacred?"
- D. "How does the sacred become community?"

(UNDERSTAND; Answer: C; page 7)

13. A verbal communion using some form of language is _____.

- A. ritual
- B. argument
- C. conversation
- D. prayer

(UNDERSTAND; Answer: D; page 6)

14. Robson suggests you study the religions of the world using a _____.

- A. Religion Journal
- B. Question Matrix
- C. Test Bank
- D. Study Partner

(REMEMBER; Answer: B; page 7)

15. Watching repeated actions over time is a technique called _____.

- A. linguistics
- B. economics
- C. ethnography
- D. philosophy

(REMEMBER; Answer: C; page 7)

True/False

1. Religion does not have much influence on politics in the modern world.

(UNDERSTAND; Answer: False; page 8)

2. The study of religion is limited to those who believe in them.

(UNDERSTAND; Answer: False; page 5)

3. Marx was one of the most faithful supporters of religious systems.

(UNDERSTAND; Answer: False; page 4)

4. The main aim of the textbook is to discover which of the religions is true.

(UNDERSTAND; Answer: False; page 5).

5. Some religions do not believe in a god or gods.

(REMEMBER; Answer: True; page 5)

6. Some religious practices encourage physical action.

(REMEMBER; Answer: True; page 6)

7. Some religions practice violence as a means of communicating with the sacred.

(REMEMBER; Answer: True; pages 6–7)

8. While some religions believe in countless gods, others don't believe in a god at all.

(REMEMBER; Answer: True; page 5)

9. Ethnography offers a way to learn about people by observing and talking.

(REMEMBER; Answer: True; page 7)

10. Contemporary scholars of religion use ethnographic techniques.

(REMEMBER; Answer: True; page 7)

Fill in the Blank

1. _____ argued modern science had eliminated the need for religion.
(REMEMBER; Answer: Nietzsche; page 4)
2. _____ argued religion was like a drug: it was used by the wealthy to oppress the poor.
(REMEMBER; Answer: Marx; page 4)
3. Eliade argued religion was a way of balancing the _____ and the _____.
(REMEMBER; Answer: sacred, profane; page 4)
4. _____ argued religion would be unnecessary once people learned to understand their own subconscious minds.
(REMEMBER; Answer: Freud; page 4)
5. _____ and _____ thought the study of religion could be placed on a scientific basis in the late part of the 19th century.
(REMEMBER; Answer: Otto and Müller; page 4)

Matching

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| 1. Marx | A. God is Dead |
| 2. Nietzsche | B. <i>Introduction to the Science of Religion</i> |
| 3. Müller | C. Religion is the Opiate of the Masses |
| 4. Eliade | D. <i>The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism</i> |
| 5. Weber | E. Heirophanies |

Correct answers:

- 1—C
2—A
3—B
4—E
5—D

(REMEMBER)

Short Answer

1. List the four basic questions your textbook author will use to discuss the religions of the world.
(REMEMBER)
2. How are Cartman and Hello Kitty involved in understanding religion?
(APPLY)
3. What does “sacred” mean?

(UNDERSTAND)

4. Name three modern critics of religion.

(REMEMBER)

5. What is a question matrix and how can it help in studying religion?

(ANALYZE)

Essay

1. How has science become useful for the study of religion?

(ANALYZE)

2. What is the relationship between religion and culture? How do they influence one another?

(ANALYZE)

3. Name three critics of religion and briefly describe their views.

(UNDERSTAND)

4. Name three scholars of religion, and discuss their approach to the topic.

(UNDERSTAND)

5. How can using modern scientific techniques, like ethnography, help someone understand religion?

(APPLY)