

Exam

Name _____

MULTIPLE CHOICE. Choose the one alternative that best completes the statement or answers the question.

1. The three levels of the world are earth, sky, and _____.

- a) sea
- b) underworld
- c) mountains
- d) mesas

2. In Japan, features of the natural landscape were believed to be _____.

- a) *kami*
- b) god-made
- c) Earth-mother given
- d) created by volcanoes

3. According to your textbook, in ancient times, the living were willing to sacrifice _____ to help the dead.

- a) their children
- b) resources
- c) their lives
- d) their gods

4. Because of religion, another name for humans is _____.

- a) *Homo iousian*
- b) *Homo erectus*
- c) *Homo sapiens*
- d) *Homo religiosus*

5. Many ancient cave dwellings depict hunting scenes with a dancing human figure representing a _____.

- a) prehistoric hunter
- b) shaman
- c) tribal dancer
- d) self-portrait of the artist

6. Another name for witchdoctor is _____.

- a) *brahmin*
- b) *rishi*
- c) *magus*
- d) *shaman*

7. Various hunting rituals show that people believed that the spirit of the killed animal or person _____.

- a) seeks revenge
- b) survives death
- c) brings disease
- d) brings compassion

8. Many cultures believed that uninhabited areas were _____.

- a) beloved by the gods
- b) to be exploited
- c) guarded by resident spirits
- d) waste lands

9. One way to deal with unfriendly spirits is to _____.

- a) neglect them
- b) exorcise them
- c) frighten them
- d) take flight

10. To communicate with the spirit world, the shaman enters a _____.

- a) dance
- b) tent
- c) trance
- d) drugged state

11. People in the Neolithic era went to extraordinary lengths to _____.

- a) practise hunting magic
- b) employ a "royal" shaman
- c) create sacred areas
- d) paint on cave walls

12. One very important function of Neolithic-era priests was to _____.

- a) baptize
- b) hear confessions
- c) say mass
- d) track the seasons

13. One of the powerful reasons for human religion suggested by your textbook is _____.

- a) fear of sin
- b) fear of Satan
- c) the idea of an afterlife
- d) the joy of death

14. The *axis mundi* is the symbolic link connecting _____.

- a) heaven and hell
- b) man and ghosts

- c) earth and sky
- d) man and god

15. The Egyptian goddess Bast is commonly associated with a _____.

- a) peacock
- b) cat
- c) owl
- d) serpent

16. The sacred bull mount of the god Shiva is named _____.

- a) Nandi
- b) Europa
- c) Minotaur
- d) Bast

17. One of the activities that the Indo-Europeans did *not* engage in was _____.

- a) hunting
- b) riding horses
- c) farming
- d) waging war

18. Everywhere the Indo-Europeans conquered, they set up _____.

- a) a social system with four divisions
- b) the subjugation of women
- c) tent cities
- d) principalities

19. One of the social classes in India is the _____.

- a) Catalhoyuk
- b) Dyaus
- c) Vestal
- d) Vaishyas

20. The priest class in India is called _____.

- a) Druids
- b) Brahmins
- c) Shudras
- d) Bronislaw

21. In India, the four-level social system was given mythic status in _____.

- a) the *Rig Veda*
- b) *Mt. Meru*
- c) the *Purusha*
- d) *Olympia*

22. Which of the following was not necessary in order to consult the Oracle of Delphi?

- a) pay a fee
- b) sacrifice a black goat
- c) amputate a finger
- d) climb a mountain

23. Zoroastrianism played an integral role in the development of _____.

- a) Monotheism
- b) Polytheism
- c) Atheism
- d) Pantheism

24. When did Zoroastrianism first emerge?

- a) 5,000 years ago
- b) 2,500 years ago
- c) 1,000 years ago
- d) 500 years ago

25. Which groups played an integral role in the development of “mystery religions”?

- a) Persian and Arabic
- b) American and Canadian
- c) Chinese and Japanese
- d) Greek and Roman

26. The myth of _____ plays an important role in understanding the changes in the seasons

- a) Oedipus
- b) Apollo
- c) Persephone
- d) Pandora

27. Which is the most recent sacred scriptural text?

- a) Hindu *Vedas*
- b) Jewish *Torah*
- c) Zoroastrian *Avesta*
- d) Christian *Gospels*

28. In the ancient Greek cosmology, the primary elements that make up the world are _____.

- a) wood, fire, ash, and earth
- b) earth, air, fire, and water
- c) sun, moon, stars, and the gods
- d) iron, coal, gold, and marble

29. A *surah* is associated with the _____.

- a) *Qur'an*
- b) *Avesta*
- c) *Vedas*
- d) *Zohar*

30. It is believed that Moses received revelations from God on Mount _____.

- a) Carmel
- b) Sinai
- c) Meru
- d) Ararat

31. The Indo-Europeans helped to _____ the notion of hereditary priesthood.

- a) invent
- b) condemn
- c) spread
- d) Modify

32. One way the *avatar* is a saviour is that he saves _____.

- a) the dying
- b) the underworld
- c) the world from evil
- d) social norms

33. When were the Gospels written?

- a) Just after the Birth of Christ
- b) Just after the Baptism of Christ
- c) Two or Three Generations after the Death of Christ
- d) After the Great Schism in 1054

34. The _____ is a medieval book of Jewish mysticism.

- a) *Zohar*
- b) *Upanishads*
- c) *Vedas*
- d) *Avesta*

35. What type of approach to the study of religion does the American Academy of Religion take?

- a) historical studies approach
- b) textual studies approach
- c) religious studies approach
- d) gender studies approach

36. The term fundamentalism was originally applied to _____.

- a) Islam

- b) Judaism
- c) Christianity
- d) Hinduism

37. One of the earliest sets of scriptures we have is the _____.

- a) *Upanishads*
- b) sutras
- c) gospels
- d) *Vedas*

38. The avatar wave gave Buddhism the story of _____.

- a) Avalokiteshvara
- b) Shakyamuni
- c) Amitabha
- d) Rama

39. _____ teaches that the Torah played a role in the creation.

- a) The Gospel of John
- b) The *Lotus Sutra*
- c) The Qur'an
- d) The *Zohar*

40. The avatar wave gave Hinduism the story of _____.

- a) Zoroaster
- b) Shakyamuni
- c) Krishna
- d) Brahma

41. Where did Joseph Smith receive the revelations that became the basis for Mormonism?

- a) New York
- b) California
- c) Utah
- d) North Dakota

42. A Buddhist would place a _____ on top of a burial mound.

- a) *stupa*
- b) *puja*
- c) *mara*
- d) *yad*

43. The Hindu goddess of speech is _____.

- a) Logos
- b) Vac
- c) Indra

d) Zohar

44. According to your text, religion pervades the human world enough that _____.

- a) it has become meaningless
- b) people are indirectly affected by it regardless of whether it plays a direct role in their lives
- c) everyone is religious, whether they like it or not
- d) its prevalence alone shows the nature of the divine

45. According to your text, people study religion _____.

- a) to look at their own beliefs from a different perspective
- b) to know more about their own traditions
- c) to protect themselves from conversion
- d) all of the above

46. Insiders to a religion may be disturbed when outsiders _____.

- a) offer false teachings
- b) kill their gods
- c) offer true teachings
- d) challenge their beliefs

47. "Insider-outsider" matters are complex because there are _____.

- a) false prophets
- b) many kinds of insiders
- c) actually no such matters
- d) actually no outsiders

48. One concept shared by all human cultures and fundamental to religion is _____.

- a) competing heavenly jurisdictions
- b) a porous separation between this and the spirit world
- c) sacred places
- d) natural elements warring with humans

49. The place above the clouds was typically the home of the deity which was invariably _____.

- a) omnipotent
- b) female
- c) pacifist
- d) male

50. Great rivers and waterfalls are often regarded as _____.

- a) gathering places
- b) places of danger
- c) beyond human control
- d) sacred

51. A long-standing tendency has been to attribute _____ to animals.

- a) memory
- b) charitable thoughts
- c) spirits
- d) emotions

52. The festival of Hallowe'en reflects a belief in _____ returning to earth once a year.

- a) gods
- b) dead witches
- c) souls
- d) gods of the underworld

53. The only dimension essential to religion is _____.

- a) imaginative
- b) emotional
- c) intellectual
- d) all of the above

54. Early humans believed that the spirits of animals needed to be _____.

- a) watered
- b) fed
- c) appeased
- d) monitored

55. "Indo-European" is a term referring to _____.

- a) an Asian style of western temple architecture
- b) an ethnic group
- c) a religion
- d) a cultural system

56. Zoroaster was a prophet who lived more than 2,500 years ago in the area of _____.

- a) eastern Himalayas
- b) eastern Europe
- c) eastern Iran or Afghanistan
- d) Southeast Asia

57. Mystery religions became so influential and popular during the Roman period that they posed a threat to the _____.

- a) stability of the Roman empire
- b) lives of government officials
- c) official Roman religion and priesthood
- d) emperor

58. Many scholars have suggested that some of the mystery religions directly influenced the

development of _____.

- a) Jewish sectarianism
- b) Roman religious militants
- c) Christianity
- d) secret societies

59. Which is considered one of the oldest mystery religions?

- a) Socratic
- b) Oedipal
- c) Eleusinian
- d) Augustinian

60. During the Babylonian exile, the experts in Jewish law were referred to as _____.

- a) Levites
- b) Sadducees
- c) priests
- d) rabbis

61. Christians commonly refer to scriptures as the _____.

- a) book
- b) word
- c) word of Jesus
- d) word of God

62. The term "fundamentalism" was first coined _____.

- a) in the beginning of the twentieth century
- b) during the Reformation
- c) in the latter part of the twentieth century
- d) during the Enlightenment

63. A functional definition for religion might be that it _____.

- a) is a way of promoting ideologically-based class structures
- b) is a way of controlling human libido
- c) is a way of developing deferential behaviour
- d) is a way of creating community

64. When giving dates it is preferable to use CE which means _____.

- a) Christ Era
- b) Common Era
- c) Columbian Era
- d) Christian Era

65. When giving dates it is preferable to use BCE which means _____.

- a) Before the Christ Era

- b) Before the Common Era
- c) Before the Columbian Era
- d) Before the Christian Era

TRUE/FALSE. Write 'T' if the statement is true and 'F' if the statement is false.

1. In India, serpent spirits are called *nagas*.
2. The surahs of the Qur'an are believed to be the sacred words of God revealed to the prophet Muhammad by an angel.
3. One thing a shaman does is appease animal spirits.
4. Stonehenge is an ancient burial site.
5. *Obon* is a religious food offering.
6. The altar on top of the ancient city of Petra is an example of a "high place."
7. "Avatar" is a word that comes from the Sanskrit for "blue-skinned humanoid."
8. One of the gods associated with the virility of the bull is Dionysus.
9. One of the four elements in the ancient Greek cosmology is earth.
10. The earliest scriptures we have are the Jewish scriptures of the Zohar.
11. One concept shared by all cultures is a belief in some sort of life after death.
12. One meaning for "sacred" is "set aside."
13. Ancient cultures around the world did not favour high places as burial sites.
14. One of the meanings for the Greek word for "prophet" is someone who speaks on behalf of a deity.
15. The *avatar* is a deity in a truly human form.
16. The gospels were not written until two or three generations after the death of Jesus.
17. In Christianity, Jesus can be considered as a sort of *avatar*.
18. Christian, Jewish, and Muslim mystics believed they could describe their relationship with the deity.

SHORT ANSWER. Write the word or phrase that best completes each statement or answers the question.

1. What are three basic characteristics of religion from ancient times? Use examples to illustrate your answer.
2. What did Bronislaw Malinowski learn about dangerous endeavours and ritual?
3. What is one way that certain illnesses are dealt with in Sri Lanka?
4. Ancient people preferred high places for burial sites. What did they do if there were no high places?
5. How did the concept of "sky father" unite the Indo-Europeans?
6. Describe the central myth in the Eleusinian mystery tradition.
7. What are three of the reasons people study religion?
8. Where do "insiders" get their religious knowledge?
9. What are some of the problems with dividing religions into Eastern and Western religions?
10. What can be said about the development of Temple Religion?
11. How did prophetic religion develop?
12. What was the original purpose of Stonehenge?
13. What are three characteristics of the mystery religions?

ESSAY. Write your answer in the space provided or on a separate sheet of paper.

1. What is the Hindu story of Princess Dhamayanti about?
2. What are the five overarching assertions about religion put forward by scholars who employ the religious studies approach.
3. Discuss the typical process in which one becomes a shaman.
4. What is scriptural religion?
5. How does the concept of *avatar* appear in three different religions?

Multiple Choice Answers

1. b

Page Ref: 5

2. a

Page Ref: 5

3. b

Page Ref: 6

4. d

Page Ref: 7

5. b

Page Ref: 7

6. d

Page Ref: 7

7. b

Page Ref: 8

8. c

Page Ref: 8

9. c

Page Ref: 9

10. c

Page Ref: 7

11. c

Page Ref: 9

12. d

Page Ref: 9

13. c

Page Ref: 6

14. c

Page Ref: 9

15. b

Page Ref: 10

16. a

Page Ref: 10

17. c

Page Ref: 10

18. a

Page Ref: 10

19. d

Page Ref: 10

20. b

Page Ref: 10

21. a

Page Ref: 10

22. c

Page Ref: 13

23. a

Page Ref: 13

24. b

Page Ref: 13

25. d

Page Ref: 15

26. c

Page Ref: 15

27. d

Page Ref: 17

28. b

Page Ref: 13

29. a

Page Ref: 18

30. b

Page Ref: 19

31. c

Page Ref: 11

32. c

Page Ref: 18-19

33. c

Page Ref: 18

34. a

Page Ref: 18

35. c

Page Ref: 21

36. c

Page Ref: 19

37. d

Page Ref: 17

38. c

Page Ref: 16

39. d

Page Ref: 18-19

40. c

Page Ref: 16

41. a

Page Ref: 19

42. a

Page Ref: 9

43. b

Page Ref: 19

44. b

Page Ref: 20

45. d

Page Ref: 20

46. d

Page Ref: 20

47. b

Page Ref: 20

48. c

Page Ref: 4

49. d

Page Ref: 5

50. d

Page Ref: 5

51. c

Page Ref: 5

52. c

Page Ref: 6

53. d

Page Ref: 6

54. c

Page Ref: 8

55. d
Page Ref: 10
56. c
Page Ref: 13
57. c
Page Ref: 15
58. c
Page Ref: 16
59. c
Page Ref: 15
60. d
Page Ref: 17
61. d
Page Ref: 17
62. a
Page Ref: 19
63. d
Page Ref: 19
64. b
Page Ref: 22
65. b
Page Ref: 22

True or False Answers

1. TRUE
Page Ref: 5
2. TRUE
Page Ref: 18
3. TRUE
Page Ref: 7
4. TRUE
Page Ref: 4
5. FALSE
Page Ref: 6
6. TRUE
Page Ref: 5
7. FALSE
Page Ref: 16
8. FALSE
Page Ref: 10
9. TRUE
Page Ref: 13
10. FALSE
Page Ref: 17
11. TRUE
Page Ref: 4
12. TRUE
Page Ref: 5
13. FALSE
Page Ref: 9
14. TRUE
Page Ref: 12

15. TRUE

Page Ref: 16

16. TRUE

Page Ref: 18

17. TRUE

Page Ref: 16

18. FALSE

Page Ref: 15

Short Answers

1. Three characteristics common to most religions are a belief in powerful gods, sacred places, and belief in some sort of life after death. These characteristics may manifest themselves differently in terms of the names given to the deity or the geographic location of a sacred place or the description of life after death, but they have more in common than not. Powerful gods, even in ancient times, occupied the highest strata of the universe and were concerned with creation. Certain "high places" have been considered as holy in many religious traditions. Often these high places become sacred places in terms of becoming burial grounds, which points to a concern with the afterlife.

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2. Malinowski studied the Trobriand Islanders. The hunters did not do rituals before fishing in the lagoon, but did rituals before fishing on the open ocean. This shows religious behaviour is used, in part, to cope with danger.

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3. In Sri Lanka, people with certain illnesses are advised to have a shaman offer a chicken to buy off the "graveyard demon." The shaman is then paid a second chicken for his services.

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4. Artificial high places were sometimes built, but only for the elite of the society. The pyramids of Egypt and the Buddhist stupas in Asia are examples of these practices. The pyramids have a shaft pointed at important stars. Buddhist stupas have a centre pole to connect the earth with the heavens.

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5. The Indo-Europeans spread from India to Rome and central Europe. They worshiped a "sky father" (called, in Greek, Zeus Pater; in Latin, Jupiter; and in Sanskrit, Dyaus Pitar). They sang hymns to female deities, such as the goddess of dawn, and had a hereditary priesthood.

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6. Named for an ancient Greek town called Eleusis, it grew out of the myth of the young Persephone, or Kore ("girl"), who is abducted by the god of the dead, Hades, and taken down into the underworld. With the disappearance of this young girl—a potent symbol of growth and fertility—everything on earth begins to die. This imperils not only humans but also the gods themselves, who depend on humans to feed them through sacrifices. The girl's mother, Demeter, is therefore allowed to descend into the underworld and bring her back. Scholars understand the Persephone myth to be based on the seasonal cycles of stagnation during the winter and renewal in the spring.

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7. The first reason is because it exists. A closely related reason is that religion plays a significant role in human affairs on a large scale, and is often connected to public displays of art, the act of war, and natural disasters. People also study religion for personal reasons.

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8. "Insiders" learn religion from their parents, teachers at religious schools, and/or members of their

religious communities.

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9. The biggest problem is that although Western religions developed in the Middle East, there is now no clear dividing line between Eastern and Western religions. Every religion is now found all over the world.

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10. This pattern began approximately 3,000 years ago and manifests itself in the building of large temples to accommodate sacrifice and sacred rituals that were conducted by a special group of people called priests. In India, the priests were known as brahmins. Other examples are roman priests, Jewish temple priests who were hereditary and druids.

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11. After 700 BCE several religious traditions began to form under the leadership of individual prophets and sages. The word "prophet" is taken from Greek and has at least two related meanings, one referring a person who relates the words of a deity and one who foretells the future. The sacred site of the Delphic oracle combines both these notions as do the Hebrew prophets of the post-586 BCE period. Jesus and later Muhammad are understood as prophets, as is Zarathustra.

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12. The Stonehenge we know today is what remains of a structure erected between 3,500 and 4,000 years ago. However, the site had already been used as a burial ground for centuries before that time: researchers believe that the remains of as many as 240 people, probably from a single ruling family or clan, were interred there between roughly 3000 and 2500 BCE.¹ The structure itself is generally believed to have been used for ceremonial purposes, and its orientation—toward the point where the sun rises on the summer solstice—has led many to think it might have been designed to serve as a kind of astronomical observatory. Another recent theory, based on excavations of a nearby Neolithic village, Durrington Walls, with a similar circular arrangement of timber posts, suggests that the two sites represented the living and the dead, respectively, with Stonehenge serving as the permanent dwelling place of the ancestors. If so, parallels can be found in other ancient cultures.

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13. These religions kept secret from all those who were not initiated their core beliefs and practices in the hope of securing for themselves blessings now and in the afterlife. These religions became so powerful that they challenged the authority of the well-established Roman priests. Dionysian rituals are an example of the use of mind-altering drugs in some mystery traditions.

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Essay Questions

1. * The princess's father holds a party to which he invites marriageable princes.
- * Four gods come disguised as Prince Nala.
- * The princess is able to distinguish the real Nala, her preference.
- * She is able to do this because the gods do not sweat and they float above the ground.
- * She marries Nala and they live happily ever after.

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2. * There is distinction between the devotional expression of a religious belief and the study of diverse devotional expressions.
- * Religions are internally diverse.
- * Religions are always evolving and changing.

*Religions are enmeshed in virtually all dimensions of human agency and expression.

*Religions are historically embedded.

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3. The word "shaman" comes from a specific central Asian culture, but it has become the generic term for a person who acts as an intermediary between humans and the spirit world. Other terms include "medicine man," "soul doctor," and "witchdoctor." Shamans are still active in a number of cultures today. The way they operate varies, but certain patterns seem to be almost universal, which in itself suggests that the way of the shaman is very ancient. Sometimes the child of a shaman will follow in the parent's footsteps, but more often a shaman will be "called" to the role by his or her psychic abilities, as manifested in some extraordinary vision or revelation, or perhaps a near-death experience. Candidates for the role of shaman face a long and rigorous apprenticeship that often includes a vision quest, in the course of which they are likely to confront terrifying apparitions. Typically the quester will acquire a guiding spirit, sometimes the spirit of a particular animal (perhaps a bear or an eagle, whose claws or feathers the shaman may wear to draw strength from its special powers) and sometimes a more humanlike spirit (a god or goddess). That spirit will then often continue to serve as a guide and protector throughout the shaman's life.

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4. The earliest scriptures came into existence approximately 3,000 years ago in diverse parts of the world. The earliest scriptures we have are the Zoroastrian Avesta of Persia, the Hindu Vedas, and the Torah of Judaism. The religions that grew out of these scriptures were ones that required believers adhere to the tenets of these writings as being the word of the deity represented.

Scripturalism has been at the root of Islam and much of Protestant Christianity. In Judaism the role of scripture began to take prominence during the Babylonian exile, when the priestly function was no longer used and people came to rely on the teachings of the sages the rabbis instead of the rituals of the priests. By the third century, the scriptures of the Christian canon were formed and it became as central to Christianity as the Torah was to Judaism. This scriptural reliance came to its peak in the religion of Islam, which understands the surahs of the Qur'an to be the sacred words of God revealed to the prophet Muhammad by an angel.

Some religions have maintained that their scriptures existed before creation. So in Judaism, the *Zohar* speaks of the Torah as playing a role in creation, as does the prologue of the Gospel of John in Christianity, and Islam's understanding that the Qur'an existed in the mind of God before the world was created. In the religions of Egypt and India, it was thought that the gods would not have created the world themselves but rather have had others do this for them and so the divine word came to have special meaning. It is the case that in some scriptural religions the scriptural writings take on such an authority that they are known as fundamentalist religions.

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5. *Avatar* is a Sanskrit theological term meaning the coming to earth of a god in human form having been incarnated in a human womb. In Christianity, the avatar is spoken of as fully human and fully divine at the same time. The avatar god is also considered to be a saviour god, saving the cosmos from evil and saving those who believe in him from an eternity of certain hell.

There is a well-established pattern to these avatar stories and so typically there is a non-sexual conception. The mother is chosen to bear the avatar because of her exceptional purity, and an angel or

prophet announces his coming. The birth is usually in a rustic setting followed by many miracles. Wise men are led the new born child by a celestial sign and the baby's birth is met by an attempt of an evil king to kill him. The child has special powers and as an adult can perform miracles. He usually marries and has a child before he begins his mission to the world. His death is a triumph over evil and upon death he dwells in a paradise where his followers hope to join him. The avatar pattern took root in Asia and the Middle East some 2,000 years ago and is best exemplified in Hinduism by the worship of Krishna, in Buddhism by the worship of the Amitabha Buddha, and in Christianity by the worship of Jesus the Christ.

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