

Chapter One: An Introduction to Religion and the Study of Religion

In this test bank for *World Religions, Fourth Edition*, there is a new system for identifying the difficulty of the questions. Questions are now tagged according to four levels of learning. 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 anthropological knowledge to some new situation.
ANALYZE:	A question requiring identifying elements of an argument and their interrelationship.

Types of Questions

Level of Difficulty	Multiple Choice	Matching	Essay	Total Questions
Remember	15			15
Understand	5	5		10
Apply			5	5
Analyze			5	5
Totals	20	5	10	35

Multiple-Choice Questions

- The author of this text defines the term “religion” as _____.
 - belief in a transcendent, personal deity
 - emotional escape from the troubles of daily life
 - faith in Jesus Christ
 - human transformation in response to perceived ultimacy
 - something one believes in or follows devotedly
 (REMEMBER; answer d; p. 4)
- The key elements of the author’s working definition of religion are _____.
 - belief, human, transformation
 - belief, community, ethics
 - community, ethics, human
 - ethics, human, ultimacy
 - human, transformation, ultimacy
 (REMEMBER; answer e; p. 4)

3. With respect to religious systems, “transformation” includes the characteristics of a(n) _____ from which transformation occurs, a(n) _____ toward which transformation is directed, and a(n) _____ by which transformation occurs.
- beginning, middle, end
 - predicament, ideal state, means
 - predicament, goal, strategy
 - problem, goal, myth
 - problem, solution, ritual
- (REMEMBER; answer b; p. 5)
4. The general term for belief in one or more personal gods is _____.
- agnosticism
 - atheism
 - monotheism
 - polytheism
 - theism
- (REMEMBER; answer e; p. 6)
5. _____ is the belief in an impersonal ultimacy characterized by absolute unity.
- Henotheism
 - Monism
 - Monotheism
 - Pantheism
 - Polytheism
- (REMEMBER; answer b; p. 6)
6. When speaking of spiritual ultimacy, Western religious traditions (*e.g.*, Judaism, Christianity, Islam) tend to use _____ terms, whereas Eastern traditions (like Buddhism and Daoism) tend toward _____ language.
- impersonal (monistic), personal (theistic)
 - impersonal (theistic), personal (monistic)
 - personal (monistic), impersonal (theistic)
 - personal (theistic), impersonal (monistic)
- (UNDERSTAND; answer d; p. 6)
7. One significant development of the modern world is the rise of non-spiritual perceived ultimacies or “secular religions,” among which the author includes _____.
- communism, consumerism, and Catholicism
 - communism, consumerism, and the “new atheism”
 - consumerism, Marxism, and the “new atheism”
 - Marxism, conformism, and the “new atheism”
 - Marxism, the “new atheism,” and Scientology
- (REMEMBER; answer c; p. 7)

8. While not reducible simply to its various functions, religion fills basic human drives, including _____ needs.
- a. economic, social, and political
 - b. individual, psychological, and social
 - c. individual, psychological, and ultimacy
 - d. personal, social, and psychological
 - e. psychological, social, and ultimacy
- (REMEMBER; answer e; p. 8)
9. The author asserts that we can see the influence of religion in many aspects of the contemporary world, including the _____ arenas.
- a. artistic, economic, and political
 - b. artistic, political, and social
 - c. economic, political, and scientific
 - d. economic, individual, and social
 - e. political, economic, and military
- (UNDERSTAND; answer a; p. 9)
10. The author argues for a “moral imperative” to study religion because _____.
- a. it helps us understand a culture’s economic and political commitments so we can work around them for our own benefit
 - b. it helps us figure out how to get them to accept our own religious views and commitments so we can work better together
 - c. peaceful cooperation requires understanding other people, and appreciating their religious commitments is key to that understanding
 - d. social justice has to be based on a community’s religious commitments
- (UNDERSTAND; answer c; p. 10)
11. Science and religion can be viewed as relating to each other in one of three different ways: _____.
- a. complementary, enemies, or non-competing
 - b. confused, enemies, or friends
 - c. confused, friends, or functionally equivalent
 - d. enemies, friends, or functionally equivalent
- (REMEMBER; answer a; p. 11)
12. To study religions from the perspective of one’s own perception of ultimacy is known as the _____ method.
- a. functional
 - b. historical
 - c. phenomenological
 - d. philosophical
 - e. religious
- (REMEMBER; answer e; p. 12)

13. The phenomenological approach to the study of religion requires the student to _____.
- a. accept as factual everything they are told by the representatives of the religion under investigation
 - b. evaluate a religion from the perspective of the outside observer
 - c. judge the validity of a religious tradition based on the student's presuppositions
 - d. understand a religion from the perspective of persons within that particular religious tradition
- (UNDERSTAND; answer d; p. 12)
14. This text employs the _____ methods for the study of religion.
- a. comparative, functional, and religious
 - b. comparative, historical, and phenomenological
 - c. comparative, historical, and philosophical
 - d. functional, historical, and philosophical
 - e. functional, phenomenological, and religious
- (REMEMBER; answer b; p. 14)
15. This text takes as its fundamental focus for study of religions the _____ of a given religious tradition.
- a. creed or other statements of beliefs
 - b. ethical teachings
 - c. perception of ultimacy
 - d. system of rituals
 - e. worldview rooted in distinctive perceptions of ultimacy
- (REMEMBER; answer e; p. 14)
16. Which of the following terms is a synonym for "ultimacy" in this study?
- a. god
 - b. life
 - c. nothingness
 - d. sacred
 - e. symbol
- (REMEMBER; answer d; p. 16)
17. The central distinguishing characteristic of a religious symbol is that it _____.
- a. is described in a sacred writing
 - b. enables people to participate in perceived ultimacy
 - c. has to do with a god or gods
 - d. may be used only by holy persons such as priests
 - e. represents something other than itself
- (UNDERSTAND; answer b; p. 16)

18. Religious “myth” refers to _____.
a. false stories that bolster people’s unscientific views of the universe
b. fictional stories that teach pseudo-science
c. foundational stories that reveal how life is to be understood
d. stories from primitive (and now dead) religions

(REMEMBER; answer c; p. 17)

19. Symbolic actions that create sacred space and time are called _____.
a. eschatological myths
b. magic
c. origins myths
d. religious images
e. religious rituals

(REMEMBER; answer e; p. 19)

20. The term “indigenous religions” refers to _____.
a. extinct religions
b. the earliest and most basic form of religion
c. religions of Southeast Asia
d. religions of the Middle East
e. new religions

(REMEMBER; answer b; p. 20)

Matching Question

Which of the terms (in the right column) best fits each of the descriptions (in the left column) of different approaches to the study of religion?

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|---|---------------------|
| 21. Attempting to understand the religion from the perspective of people within the religion
(UNDERSTAND; answer d; p. 13) | a. comparative |
| 22. Describing how a religion has come into existence and developed through time
(UNDERSTAND; answer c; p. 13) | b. functional |
| 23. Examining the role(s) religion plays in particular human contexts
(UNDERSTAND; answer b; p. 13) | c. historical |
| 24. Examining what is common among religions
(UNDERSTAND; answer a; p. 14) | d. phenomenological |
| 25. Rationally evaluating the truth claims of a religion
(UNDERSTAND; answer e; p. 12) | e. philosophical |

Essay Questions

26. Evaluate the pros and cons of stipulating a working definition of “religion” when beginning the academic study of religion.
(ANALYZE)

27. Define the term “ultimacy” as used in this book. How does it compare with your understanding of the term “god”? What are the benefits and drawbacks of each term when talking about the focus of religion?
(ANALYZE)
28. On the basis of the four criteria of clarity, inclusivity, specificity, and utility, evaluate the adequacy of each of the following definitions of religion for an academic study of the subject.
- a. Religion is something one believes in or follows devotedly.
 - b. Religion is faith in Jesus Christ.
 - c. Religion is human transformation in response to perceived ultimacy.
- (ANALYZE)
29. What are three possible ways that one may view the relationship between science and religion? Explain each position, comparing it with the other two. Which do you think is the best understanding? Why so?
(ANALYZE)
30. What is the specialized meaning of “myth” in the study of religion? Name and describe at least two the types of myths. What role does myth play in a religious system? Choose at least one example to illustrate how this works.
(APPLY)
31. Define the term “ritual” and describe the key features of religious ritual. What role does ritual play in a religious system? Choose at least one example to illustrate how this works.
(APPLY)
32. Compare and contrast the key features of a descriptive approach to study of religion *versus* an evaluative approach. In what contexts or for what purposes would each of these two approaches be most suitable?
(APPLY)
33. What is one contemporary example of what this text calls the “moral imperative” for the study of religion? Why do you think this example fits the category?
(APPLY)
34. What are the basic characteristics of a phenomenological approach to the study of religion? What are the advantages and disadvantages of this method *versus* the other approaches mentioned in this text (religious, philosophical, functional, historical, and comparative)?
(ANALYZE)
35. Think of the last time you were at a Super Bowl party, a professional baseball game, or some other major sporting event. What features of ritual did you observe at this event? How do they compare with your experience of a religious ritual?
(APPLY)