

M.A. Semester-I Examination 2023
Comparative Religion
Course: [MACOMRCP101] Phenomenon of Religion

Time: 3 hours

Full Marks: 60

Questions are of value as indicated in the margin.
Answer any four questions.

1. Who, according to Cantwell Smith, are the three main groups that challenge any scholarly inquiry into religion? Respond in detail. 15
 2. Trace the development of the concept of religion from the sense of 'inner piety' to the sense of 'ever changing sociological reality' in modern Europe. 15
 3. What are the four major meanings involved in the term 'Religion' today? Answer after Cantwell Smith 15
 4. What is the process of reification? Describe the steps involved in the process of reification and institutionalization of religions with special reference to Sikhism 15
 5. Discuss the process of individual naming of religions in the nineteenth century with reference to China and Japan. 15
 6. Describe the process of individual naming of religions in India in the nineteenth century. In this connection, discuss whether Cantwell Smith finds the term 'Hinduism' adequate to signify a religion? 10+5=15
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M. A. Examination – 2023

Semester – I

Comparative Religion

MACOMRCP104: Different Methods of Study of Religion

Time: 3 Hours

Full Marks: 60

Questions are of value as indicated in the margin

Answer **any four** questions

1. Write an essay on how Max Muller explains the religious phenomenon through his philological studies. 15
2. Briefly outline the major figures of British anthropological school and their contributions. 15
3. Elucidate the history of development of anthropological studies on totemism. How does it differ from the British anthropological school? Explain. 12+3
4. Briefly explain why Freud considers the concept of God as not only an infantile prototype but also a phylogenetic one. 15
5. How does William James differentiate between the sick soul and the healthy minded soul? Explain. 15
6. Why does Freud understand religion as universal obsessional neurosis? What is the role of scientific thinking in bringing a fundamental revision of the neurotic condition? Elucidate. 8+7

M.A. Semester-I Examination 2023

Comparative Religion

Course: [MACOMRCP102] History of Comparative Religion

Time: 3 hours

Full Marks: 60

Questions are of value as indicated in the margin.

Answer any four questions.

1. Describe the various ways in which religious matters of their own and of others were studied in ancient Greece. How was their mindset conducive to modern day comparative study of religions? Discuss. 12+3=15
 2. Did Reformation and Counter Reformation period of European history have any connection with accumulation of new materials from religions of other cultures? Answer in detail. 15
 3. What are the different outcomes of India- Europe connection that influenced the development of the new discipline of Comparative Religion in the nineteenth century? Discuss in detail 15
 4. How were the concepts of progress and evolution important for the development of Comparative Religion as a new discipline? Discuss critically. 5+10=15
 5. Evaluate the role of Frederich Max Muller as the founder of 'Comparative Religion'. 15
 6. Write short notes on **any two** of the following: 7.5+7.5=15
 - a) Medieval Christianity in Europe
 - b) Deism
 - c) Romantic Revival in religion
 - d) Herbert Spencer
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M. A. Examination – 2023

Semester – I

Comparative Religion

MACOMRCP103: Sociology of Religion

Time: 3 Hours

Full Marks: 60

Questions are of value as indicated in the margin

Answer any four questions

1. How does Feuerbach explain the religious self-alienation? How does Marx criticise it through his new materialistic approach? Explain. 5+10
2. Explain how Marx articulates the religious ideology through the metaphor of base and superstructure in his *Preface to A Contribution to the Critique of Political Economy*. 15
3. Why did Durkheim consider Australia as the most favourable field for the study of totemism? Explain it in its historical and sociological context. 15
4. Can the notion of supernatural and the idea of God help to define religion? Explain it after Durkheim. 8+7
5. Write an essay on “The Rise of Religion and Religion of Non-Privileged Classes” as described by Max Weber in his *Sociology of Religion*. 7.5+7.5
6. Write a short note on Any Three of the following: 3 x 5 = 15
 - a. Caste and Religion
 - b. Class and Religion
 - c. World-Rejecting Asceticism
 - d. Inner-Worldly Asceticism
 - e. Occidental Religion of Salvation