

M.A. Examination, 2022

Semester – III

Comparative Religion

Course: MACOMROP302

Modern Religious Movements in India – I

Full Marks:60

Time: 3 Hours

Answer any four questions

Each question is of value as indicated in the margin

1. Elaborate on the role of Maharshi Debendranath Tagore in establishing Brahmo Dharma and in furthering the Brahmo Samaj movement in Bengal. 15
2. Evaluate the role of Brahmananda Keshab Chandra Sen in the Brahmo Samaj movement. How was he responsible for the two divisions that happened within the Brahmo Samaj organization during his period of time? 5+10= 15
3. What do you understand by *Practical Vedanta*? Describe *Practical Vedanta* as the basis of social service under the leadership of Swami Vivekananda. 15
4. Give a detailed account of *Neo Vedanta* as the philosophical core of Ramakrishna-Vivekananda movement. 15
5. Critically evaluate the contribution of Brahmo Samaj in the rise of Indian political nationalism.

Or,

Critically evaluate the contribution of Swami Vivekananda in shaping of the political consciousness of Indian nationalism 15

6. Write short notes on any two of the following: 7.5+7.5 = 15
  - a) *Sadharan* Brahmo Samaj
  - b) *Adi* Brahmo Samaj
  - c) Sri Ramakrishna's influence in the Ramakrishna-Vivekananda movement
  - d) Swami Vivekananda's views on his contemporary Indian social reformers



M.A. Examination, 2022

Semester – III

Comparative Religion

Course: MACOMPRSP304

Recent Religious Thinkers of the West

Time: 3 Hours

Marks: 60

Answer any four questions

Each question is of value as indicated in the margin

1. Analyse the concept of *mysterium* in the term *mysterium tremendum* following Rudolf Otto in his book – “The Idea of the Holy”. 15
2. Describe how the two contrasting qualities of tremendousness and fascinating harmonize in the experience of the *Numinous*, following Rudolf Otto. 15
3. How does Rudolf Otto establish the ‘Holy’ as a purely *a priori* category? Discuss. 15
4. What is the twofold attitude of human beings and their twofold world in accordance with the nature of the primary words they speak? Explain after Martin Buber from his book – “I and Thou”. 15
5. Explain the nature of I-Thou relationship from the examples of three following relationships:
  - i) A tree as my *Thou*
  - ii) Another human being as my *Thou*
  - iii) A work of art as my *Thou*15
6. Write a note on any one of the following: 15
  - a) Creature feeling or Creature consciousness
  - b) Love and hate as part of I-Thou relationship



M.A. Examination, 2022  
Semester III  
Comparative Religion  
Course: MACOMRSP-303  
The Bhagavad Gita (Classical Commentaries)

Time: 3 Hours

Full Marks: 60

Questions are of value as indicated in the margin

Answer any four questions.

1. How does Śaṅkara distinguish between *karma*, *akarma* and *vikarma*? Why the knowledge of this distinction is important for the practice of *karma yoga*? Illustrate.  
6+9=15
2. What, according to Śaṅkara, is the role of *karma* in liberating an individual from *samsāra*? Why does a *jīvanamukta* continue to live in the world, for some more time, even though "his works have been consumed in the fire of knowledge"? Elucidate.  
8+7=15
3. How does Śaṅkara explain the statement, "The fourfold *varṇa*-system, according to the division of *guṇa* and *karma*, has been ordained by Me" (*cāturvarṇyam mayā sṛṣṭam guṇakarmavibhāgaśaḥ*)? What is the relevance of this explanation in the present-day Indian society? Explain.  
7+8=15
4. What are the arguments given by Arjuna in favour of his proposal to withdraw from the battle of Kurukṣetra? Elaborate  
15
5. Why does Arjuna raise a question like, "Your birth has been later; that of the Sun (*vivasvān*) earlier. How then am I to take it that you imparted this yoga in the beginning?" (*aparam bhabato janma param janma vivasvataḥ/ katham etad vijāniyām tvam ādau proktavān iti*) How does Kṛṣṇa respond to it and what are the implications of his response? Explain.  
7.5+7.5=15
6. Bring out the philosophical significance of -  
15

"nārāyaṇaḥ parovyaktāt akhandamavyaktasambhavam/  
andasyāntastivame lokāḥ saptadīpā ca medinī//"



**M.A. in Comparative Religion**

**Examination, 2022**

**Semester-III**

**Course: MACOMP305**

**Women and Religion**

**Time: 3 Hours**

**Full Marks-60**

**Questions are of value as indicated in the margin**

**Answer any four questions**

1. Write a brief note on status of Women in Hinduism during Middle and later Vedic period. 15
  2. Briefly examine the important factor responsible for shaping practices relating to gender among the Muslim community. 15
  3. Do you think Sikhism is an egalitarian religion which is more supportive of women than other religions? Justify your answer 15
  4. Write a brief note on status of Dalit Buddhist women in India. 15
  5. Critically examine the image of women in Jainism as symbol of attachment. 15
  6. Discuss briefly the role and status of Syrian Cristian women in India. 15
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