

**M. A. Examination – 2024**

**Semester – III**

**Comparative Religion**

**MACOMRSP306 – Postcolonial Studies In Religion**

**Time: 3 Hours**

**Full Marks: 60**

Questions are of value as indicated in the margin

Answer any four questions

1. How does Edward Said explain the representational character of Orientalism? Outline. 15
2. How do Oriental studies familiarise the non-familiar aspects of the East? Explain it after Said. 15
3. Write an essay on how Said uses Gramsci's notion of hegemony and Foucault's analytics of knowledge/power to elucidate his theory of Orientalism. 15
4. Do you find the methods of postcolonialism as applicable to decolonise the native dominant cultural narratives? Give your explanations. 15
5. How does Postcolonialism contest the cultural representations of the Oriental and colonial texts? Explain. 15
6. What is decolonisation? How does Postcolonialism propose to decolonise the power relations in textuality through reading strategies? Explain. 5 + 10



**M.A. Examination, 2024**  
**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. Describe the socio-religious reform activities of Raja Rammohan Roy in the context of socio-religious challenges faced by the early nineteenth century Bengal. 15
2. Discuss the contribution of Devendranath Tagore as the leader of Brahmo Samaj and as the founder of Brahmo Dharma. 15
3. 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
4. Give an idea of the 'root and branch' reform prescribed by Swami Vivekananda in the backdrop of the existing socio-religious reform movements of his times. 15
5. Describe the nature of overall 'awakening' of India through the impact of Vivekananda. Can this awakening be called 'Hindu revivalism'? Give your views on the matter. 15
6. Write short notes on *any two* of the following:
  - a) *Naba Bidhan* or The New Dispensation 7.5+7.5=15
  - b) *Tattvabodhini Sabha* and *Patrika*
  - c) Calcutta Unitarian Society by Rammohan Roy



**M.A. Examination, 2024**

**Semester-III**

**Comparative Religion**

**Course: MACOMROP305**

**Women and Religion-I**

**(For Regular and Back Candidates)**

**Time: 3 Hours**

**Full Marks: 60**

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

**Answer any four questions**

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| 1. | Write a brief note on the status of Women in Hinduism during Middle and later Vedic periods.                                 | 15 |
| 2. | Briefly examine the important factors responsible for shaping gender practices among the Muslim community.                   | 15 |
| 3. | Do you think Sikhism as an egalitarian religion which is more supportive of women than other religions? Justify your answer. | 15 |
| 4. | Write a brief note on the important factors responsible for shaping gender practices among the Buddhist community.           | 15 |
| 5. | Critically examine the image of women in Jainism as debated by Digmbara and Śvetāmbara schools of Jainism.                   | 15 |
| 6. | Discuss briefly the role and status of Syrian Christian women in India.  | 15 |



**M.A. Examination, 2024**  
**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. What is *karma-jñāna samuccaya*? How does Śaṅkara refute the possibility of *karma-jñāna samuccaya* in spite of Bhagavadgītā's declaration, "whoever performs the work that has to be done is the renouncer and Yogin, not he who has rejected the household fires"? Explain. 3+12=15
2. Give an account of the technique of meditation as given in the '*Dhyānayoga*' of the Bhagavadgītā. What are the preparatory instructions and prohibitions for a practitioner of such meditation? Enumerate. 10+5=15
3. Write a brief exposition on the characteristics of a *Yogī* following Śaṅkara's commentary on the '*Dhyānayoga*' of the Bhagavadgītā. 15
4. What are the arguments given by Arjuna in favour of his proposal to withdraw from the battle of Kurukṣetra? Explain and examine. 15
5. What is the fate of the lax practitioner of yoga whose mind is rich in faith but who fails to reach perfection in Yoga in the present life? Explain following Śaṅkara's exposition on the Bhagavadgītā. 15
6. Bring out the philosophical significance of - 15

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