

M.A. Examination, 2025
Semester – I
Comparative Religion
Course: MACOMRCP101
Phenomenon of Religion

Full Marks: 60

Time: 3 Hours

Answer **any four** questions

Each question is of value as indicated in the margin

1. Why does Wilfred Cantwell Smith think that the concept 'religion' is inadequate to express the actual religious life of people? Discuss in detail. 15
2. Discuss the respective roles of prominent religious personalities and general religious communities in the creation and preservation of religious traditions with suitable examples. 15
3. Examine the dynamic interrelationship among faith, tradition, and transcendental reality with reference to Cantwell Smith. 15
4. If faith is personal and unobservable by an outsider, in what ways can it be brought under academic discussion? Answer after Cantwell Smith. 15
5. Critically assess Smith's arguments demonstrating the inadequacy of the term 'religion' for understanding religion as a historical phenomenon. 15
6. Write short notes on *any two* of the following. 7.5+7.5
 - a) Faith expressed through community
 - b) Faith expressed through personality
 - c) Faith expressed through art and architecture
 - d) Faith expressed through written propositions

M.A. Examination, 2025

Semester – I

Comparative Religion

Course: MACOMRCP 102

History of Comparative Religion

Answer any four questions

Each question is of value as indicated in the margin

1. Discuss the ancient Greek mindset towards the study of their own religion as well as the religions of others. 15
2. Examine the attitude of medieval Europe towards religions other than Christianity. 15
3. How did the development of rationalism contribute to the modern study of religions? Discuss in detail 15
4. Discuss some key nineteenth-century developments that contributed to the emergence of the 'Science of Religion'. 15
5. Critically assess comparative religion as a historical, scientific, critical, and objective mode of studying religions. 15
6. Write short notes on any two of the following: 7.5+7.5=15
 - a) Fredrich Max Muller as the father of Comparative Religion
 - b) The theory of evolution
 - c) The age of Romantic Revival
 - d) Indo-European studies

M. A. Examination – 2025
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 Marx explain the duplication of world into religious world and secular world through his new materialistic approach? Explain. 15
2. Why does Marx say that the religion is an inverted consciousness of the world? How does he address it in his *Critique of Hegel's Philosophy of Right*? 7+8
3. Write an essay on how does Durkheim establish that the idea of the divine and the notion of the supernatural do not form the basis for the definition of religion. 7+8
4. Briefly explain the theory of naturism, as enunciated by Durkheim. Outline his criticism against naturism. 10+5
5. Write an essay on "The Rise of Religions" and "Religion of Non-Privileged Classes" as described by Max Weber. 7.5+7.5
6. Write short notes on any **three** of the following: 5×3=15
 - a. Caste and Religious Orientation
 - b. Sociology of Religion
 - c. Religion and Estate
 - d. Other-worldly and Inner-worldly Asceticism
 - e. Mysticism and Religious Salvation

M. A. Examination – 2025

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. For James Frazer, Magic is essential both for witchcraft and sorcery and an integral part of understanding religion. Elaborate. 15
2. EB Tylor identified animism as the proto-religion of all societies. However, the religions institutionalize as societies turn complex. Explain the possible ways of institutionalization of Religion. 15
3. Explain the view of William James regarding 'religious pathology' and 'the sick and healthy souls'. 15
4. "... the beginnings of religion, ethics, society and art meet in the Oedipus complex". Discuss after Freud. 15
5. Elaborate on the importance of symbols and myths in the work of Carl Jung. 15
6. Write a short note on any three of the following: 5 × 3 = 15
 - a) Spirituality and Religion
 - b) Emotionalist approach to understand Religion
 - c) Shamanism
 - d) Sociological approaches to understand religion
 - e) Malinowski's functionalism in understanding religion