

M.A. Examination, 2025
Semester III
Comparative Religion
Course: MACOMRSP303
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 the Lord (Sṛī Bhagavān) define himself in the chapter *Jñānavijñānayoga* of the Bhagavadgītā? What is the philosophical significance of the statement, "I am desire not opposed to righteousness"? Explain following Śaṅkara. 15
2. What is the definition of *māyā*? Explain the effect of *māyā* following *Jñānavijñānayoga*. How can one pass beyond *māyā*? Explain after Śaṅkara's commentary on the *Gītā*. 10+5=15
3. What are the arguments presented by Arjuna in favour of his refusal from the battle of Kurukṣetra? Explain and examine. 15
4. Give an account of the four kinds of men of righteous acts according to the Bhagavadgītā. Who among them is exceedingly dear to the Lord and why? Explain following Śaṅkara's commentary. 10+5=15
5. What is the implication of Lord's statement – "I give unswerving faith to each devotee who seeks to worship with faith whatever divine form (of his choice)" - in the domain of *Vedānta* Philosophy? Explain after Śaṅkara's interpretation. 15
6. Bring out the philosophical significance of:
*nārāyaṇaḥ parovyaktāt akhaṇḍamavyaktasambhavam/
andasyāntastivme lokāḥ saptadīpā ca medinī //* 15

M. A. Examination – 2025
Semester – III
Comparative Religion
MACOMRSP306 – Postcolonial Studies in Religion – I

Time: 3 Hours

Full Marks: 60

Questions are of value as indicated in the margin

Answer **any four** questions

1. Explain how does Edward Said explain the difference between the textual Orient and the actual Orient in the Oriental representations. 15
2. What is the nature of truth established by the West about the East through Oriental knowledge productions, according to Edward Said? How does he explain it by employing Gramsci's notion of hegemony? Explain. 10+5
3. Write an essay on the relationship between Orientalism and colonialism. 15
4. Briefly outline the history and development of postcolonial studies. 15
5. What is decolonisation? How does McLeod propose re-reading practices as means of decolonisation? Elucidate. 5+10
6. How can postcolonial criticism and feminism be considered as cognate disciplines? Explain it after Sugirtharajah. 15

M.A. Examination, 2025

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. How did Raja Rammohan Roy's socio-religious reforms reflect a non-colonized Indian mindset? Illustrate with suitable examples. 15
2. Discuss Keshab Chandra Sen's role in the Brahmo Samaj as a mass leader and explain how his leadership led to two major schisms within the movement. 15
3. Describe the nature of the Ramakrishna–Vivekananda Movement and explain its different aspects and contributions. 15
4. Examine Swami Vivekananda's vision of social and religious reform, and critically compare it with the reform agenda of the Brahmo Samaj. 15
5. To what extent did Swami Vivekananda shape Indian nationalist consciousness? Discuss critically. 15
6. Write short notes on *any two* of the following: 7.5x2=15
 - a) Brahmo *Dharma* of Devendranath Tagore
 - b) The *Sadharan* Brahmo Samaj
 - c) Brahmo Samaj on women's issues
 - d) Rabindranath Tagore and the Brahmo Samaj

M.A. Examination, 2025

Semester – III

Comparative Religion

Course: MACOMROP305

Women and Religion-I

Answer any four questions

Each question is of value as indicated in the margin

Time: 3 Hours

Full Marks: 60

1. Critically evaluate the status of women in India during the Vedic period. 15
2. Give a brief account of the status of women in Islam with special reference to the Muslim women in India. 15
3. Give your views on the status of women with special reference to the debate on the nature and capabilities of women between the Digambara and the Svetambara sects within the Jain tradition. 15
4. Do you agree that the women are treated as equal to men in the Sikh tradition? Justify your answer. 15
5. Discuss the status of women in Buddhism with reference to the establishment of the Bhikkhunī Saṅgha. 15
6. Discuss the position and role of women in Christianity, with special reference to the Indian context. 15

M.A. Examination, 2025
Semester III
Comparative Religion
Course: MACOMROP307
Contemporary Hindu Studies I

Time: 3 Hours

Full Marks: 60

Questions are of value as indicated in the margin

Answer any four questions.

1. Why, according to Aurobindo, the oldest Indian religion had to name itself as *sanātana dharma*? How does *sanātana dharma* fundamentally differ from the rest of religions? Explain. 15
2. What does Aurobindo mean when he says, "Indian religion places four necessities before human life"? Why is the *āśrama* system in Hinduism unique in his opinion? Explain. 10+5=15
3. "India recognised the authority of spiritual experience and knowledge, but she recognised still more the need of variety of spiritual knowledge and experience" (Sri Aurobindo) What are the implications of the statement? How does he connect Hinduism to other Indian religions in the light of this statement? Explain. 15
4. How does Aurobindo explain the origin of *varṇa-vyavasthā* in Hindu religion? Do you agree with his view? Justify your answer. 10+5=15
5. What are the three stages of development of Hinduism according to Aurobindo? Explain the unique features of all the stages following Aurobindo. 15
6. What is "Vedic symbolism"? Why is it important to understand "Vedic symbolism" to understand the statement of the Vedas. Explain and examine. 5+10=15