

Religious Studies

Practice Questions



Instructions

Individual, exam-style questions

The questions contained in this booklet match the style of questions that are typically asked in exams. This booklet is not however, a practice exam. Elevate's research with top students identified that top students do more practice questions than anyone else. They begin the process of testing their knowledge early in the year.

Therefore, we have provided exam-format questions that are sorted by topic so that you can answer them as you learn the information, rather than waiting until the very end of the year to complete exams.

Comments, questions?

Let us know if you need any further advice by visiting www.elevateeducation.com. You can comment on any of our material, or head to the FAQ section and ask us a question. Also, you can find us on social media so you can stay up to date on any brand new tips we release throughout the year.

Other information

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Buddhism

- 1) In the Buddhist tradition briefly outline the main aspects of The Dhamma.
- 2) Name the four most important places of Buddhist pilgrimage and describe one of them in detail.
- 3) Bhikkhus and Bhikkunis are part of what specifically named Buddhist order and by whom and for what reason was it originally assembled?
- 4) What is the first of the Three Refuges? Answer with an explanation of its original Pali/ Sanskrit meaning.
- 5) Collectively, what are: Anicca, Anatta and Dukkha and why are they important to Buddhists?
- 6) What is another name for the Buddhist magga and what can it achieve when it is developed?
- 7) What are the main differences between the Theravada Buddhist tradition and the Mahayana Buddhist tradition?
- 8) Describe and explain Buddhism's Four Noble Truths.
- 9) Explain how vipassana meditation differs from samatha meditation.
- 10) What is the English translation of the Tipitaka, what does it refer to in the Buddhist tradition and what are the three main categories that make it up?
- 11) Give an account of the early life of the Buddha up until his enlightenment.
- 12) Describe the main features of Buddhist festival Wesak.

Judaism

- 1) By what other name is the Torah known and why?
- 2) The Shema, found in the Torah, is crucial to Judaism for what specific concept that it articulates about God?
- 3) Explain what is meant by the Jewish term mitzvot.
- 4) Name the books that make up the Torah.
- 5) How does the Talmud differ from the Torah and to what do the words Mishnah and Gemara refer?
- 6) What is the Shabbat and what role do women play in this tradition?
- 7) At death, in the Jewish tradition, in what is the body dressed and what additional rituals are performed over the coming month?
- 8) How many aspects are there of Tenakh and what are their names?
- 9) Describe when and where the Tzitzit and Tefillin are to be worn.
- 10) Describe the difference between Milchemet mitzvah and Milchemet reshut with reference to two examples.
- 11) What does the annual festival of Tu B'Shevat celebrate and in which Jewish month does it take place?
- 12) In a marriage what does the Ketubah contain and what does it prevent from happening?



Islam

- 1) Explain and describe the central idea behind the Islamic concept of Tawhid and suggest one way that it differs from that of Christianity.
- 2) Shahadah is the first of which central element of Islam and what significance does it hold.
- 3) What is fundamentally important to Islam about the description of the Qur'an as special revelation from Allah?
- 4) Given the Muslim belief in yawm ad-din (Day of Resurrection), why does Islam disapprove of cremation and what alternatives are suggested?
- 5) Describe and explain the fifth pillar of Islam with reference to at least one location.
- 6) Describe and explain the features and significance of the mihrab, qiblah and minbar in a mosque.
- 7) At which time and more specifically which festivals is zakah traditionally given and why it is a pillar of Islam?
- 8) The lending of money is forbidden in Islam if the lender benefits from riba. What is riba and why does it mean that money lending is often forbidden in Islam?
- 9) Surah 17:32 states: "Do not destroy your offspring for fear of poverty, it is We Who provide for them and for you. Surely, destroying them is a great sin." Describe and explain the Islamic teaching on abortion.
- 10) Describe how the three levels of Jihad differ from one another with reference to examples for each.
- 11) What are the Hadith and why are they often controversially sought as an authority in Islam?
- 12) What are Al-Rahman, Al-Aziz, Al-Hakam all examples of and why do they help Muslims to think about the unknowable nature of Allah?

Sikhism

1. In the Sikh tradition what is a Dharam Yudh and what are its main conditions?
2. What does the name Sat Nam mean and how does it relate to the name Waheguru?
3. Describe the main features of a Gurdwara.
4. Give the name of the Sikh scripture and describe its structure naming at least three gurus who contributed to its construction.
5. What is Sewa and what are its different parts?
6. Describe the Sikh concept of reincarnation and explain the actions that can prevent a person from reaching Mukti.
7. Explain three key aspects of the Mool Mantra.
8. In the Sikh tradition what are the five stages of liberation? Give a brief description of each.
9. What is the Sikh name for the festival of Diwali and what does it specifically represent for Sikhs?
10. In the Sikh tradition what are: nam japna, kirat karna, and vand chhakna and why are they so important to Sikhism?
11. What do Sikhs do with the bodies of the deceased and why?
12. What role is the equivalent of a Granthi in other religions and what distinguishes it in Sikhism from other faiths?



Hinduism

1. Describe what is meant in Hinduism by the word 'Avatar' and give 2 examples.
2. Name and describe the three aspects of the Hindu Trimurti.
3. In the Hindu tradition what is the name of the inner spirit that exists in every living being and what role does it play in the law of Karma?
4. Describe the difference between the state of 'samsara' and 'moksha' in the Hindu tradition.
5. Describe the difference between 'sruti' revelation and 'smriti' revelation.
6. Which category do the Hindu scriptures called the 'Vedas' fall into and why?
7. Name and briefly describe 3 other Hindu texts.
8. Why are Hindus cremated when they die?
9. Describe 4 rituals that take place at a Hindu funeral.
10. Which River in India is renowned for Hindu funerals?
11. In the Hindu tradition what is a Varna? Name and describe the four different types of Varna.
12. In which sacred Hindu text is Creation described as 'the breaking of an egg'?
13. Describe the practice of satyagraha adopted by MK Gandhi and explain why it was so effective.

Christianity

1. Describe how a 'Religious truth' might differ from a 'Historical truth.'
2. Give another name for the 'Fine Tuning' or 'Design' argument for the existence of God and evaluate its key points.
3. Who originally put forward the Cosmological argument for the existence of God and on what premise does it rely?
4. Give the collective name and describe individually the three 'persons' of the Christian concept of God.
5. In which Creed are the basic principles of the Christian faith laid out?
6. What is the Hebrew name for Jesus of Nazareth and, in Christian tradition, describe the act through which he 'redeemed the sins of man?'
7. In the Christian tradition to what does the 'Resurrection' refer and why is it so important to Christians living today?
8. Describe the difference between 'General' or 'Natural' Revelation and 'Special' Revelation in the Christian tradition. Include two examples of each type of Revelation.
9. Describe the difference between Baptism and Confirmation, with particular reference to the time frame, symbolism and purpose of these ceremonies.
10. What does the Trinity refer to and why has it led some to accuse Christianity of being polytheistic?
11. Name one place of Christian pilgrimage and describe why it is significant.
12. In what year did the Church of England start to allow people to marry again after divorce, why had this previously not been allowed?
13. Listed are several Christian holidays: Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Holy Week, Easter, and Pentecost. Pick one Christian religious festival and describe and explain its main traditions and the historical reasons for them.
14. Luke 10: 36 "In your opinion, which one of these three acted like a neighbour towards the man attacked by the robbers?" From which Parable is this passage taken? Give a brief account of the Parable and describe why it is important for Christians.
15. Who said that God is 'that than which nothing greater can be conceived' and what is the name given to this type of argument?