



Chapter 15 Exercises

Multiple Choice

- What is not true of the sociological perspective on religion?
 - Religion is a cultural universal.
 - Religion is a social institution.
 - Religion is a system of beliefs.
 - Religion is a symbol of high culture.
- Which two words did Émile Durkheim use to distinguish religious and nonreligious objects?
 - Sacred; profane
 - Unclean; holy
 - Secular; religious
 - Ordinary; sanctified
- What correlation between religion and society did Max Weber study?
 - Religion was pushed out of society as countries began to industrialize.
 - Religion was important to people in the lower class but not important to those in higher classes.
 - Religion was very influential over the economy and the habits of workers.
 - Religion was a way for governments to control people.
- What was Karl Marx's view of religion and society?
 - Religion was the key to uniting the bourgeoisie and the proletariat.
 - Religion kept the proletariat in their low social class.
 - Religion inspired the proletariat to work harder for the bourgeoisie.
 - Religion was something only the bourgeoisie had time to contemplate.
- Some believe that religion is important because it adds meaning to people's lives and provides answers to difficult questions. A sociologist using which theory would agree with this statement?
 - Functionalism
 - Conflict theory
 - Symbolic interactionism
 - Feminist theory
- If, like Durkheim, you are interested in how ordinary objects become sacred, which theoretical approach will help you most in analyzing the data you collect?
 - Functionalism
 - Conflict theory
 - Symbolic interactionism
 - Feminist theory
- Religious beliefs can become deeply rooted in people such that they hate people of other religions. A sociologist studying this phenomenon is probably:
 - A functionalist
 - A conflict theorist
 - A symbolic interactionist
 - A feminist
- Roberto has just moved to a new city. He does not know anyone, but he wants to find a mosque where he can practice Islam. Which theory will Roberto use, either consciously or subconsciously, to make a decision?
 - Rational choice theory
 - Enlightenment theory
 - Logical approach to decision-making theory
 - Pro vs. con list

9. Sanchita worships three different and separate gods. Her religion falls into which category?
 - a. Monotheism
 - b. Polytheism
 - c. Atheism
 - d. Totemism
10. What name do Buddhists give to their four basic rules?
 - a. Communion
 - b. Commandments
 - c. Pathways to Meditation
 - d. Noble Truths
11. When Hattie visited a Church of Christ, she realized how similar their practices and beliefs are to her regular denomination of choice, the Episcopalian Church. These similarities probably mean that the Church of Christ is:
 - a. A faith that is not part of any larger category
 - b. A cult within the Christian faith
 - c. A sect within the Christian faith
 - d. An ecclesia within the Christian faith
12. If someone who follows the teaching of Confucius uses the word *jen*, they are referring to:
 - a. A sacred text
 - b. A teaching that everyone should be treated kindly
 - c. A mystical type of meditation
 - d. The argument over whether Confucianism is a religion or a social system
13. How many pillars are essential to the Islamic faith?
 - a. 3
 - b. 4
 - c. 5
 - d. 6
14. Megachurches have become popular in certain parts of the United States. Where else in the world are megachurches widely popular?
 - a. South Korea
 - b. The United Kingdom
 - c. Samoa
 - d. Mongolia
15. The _____ records Jewish interpretations of the _____, which is a sacred text.
 - a. Torah; Talmud
 - b. Hasidic texts; Aggadic Midrashim
 - c. Talmud; Torah
 - d. Tanakh; Tawrat
16. When Rosa and Sergei realized that the poor were being neglected in their city, they mobilized the members of their synagogue to send letters to the government, asking them to fix the growing rate of poverty or at least fund the citizens so that they might help their neighbors. This is an example of:
 - a. Zero-tolerance theology
 - b. Liberation theology
 - c. Social theology
 - d. Protest theology
17. What did Marx and Freud see as the downfall of religion that would lead to the secularization of society?
 - a. Class stratification of society
 - b. Social strains of society
 - c. Apathy of society
 - d. Modernization of society
18. For decades, Americans have disagreed over the constitutionality of prayer in schools. This controversy is an example of the tension between:
 - a. Church and state
 - b. State law and federal law
 - c. Social classes
 - d. Different religions

19. Many people are familiar with the yin-yang symbol. From which religion does this come?
 - a. Confucianism
 - b. Baha'i
 - c. Taoism
 - d. Jainism
20. Which text is considered sacred by Christians of most sects?
 - a. The Book of Mormon
 - b. The Apocrypha
 - c. The Hymnal
 - d. The Bible

Free Response

21. List some ways that you perceive religion having social control in the everyday world.
22. What are some sacred items you're familiar with? Are there some objects—such as cups, candles, or clothing—that would be considered profane in normal settings but are considered sacred in special circumstances or when used in specific ways?
23. Consider a religion that you are familiar with and discuss some of the associated beliefs, behaviors, and norms. Discuss how these things meet social needs. Then, research a religion that you don't know much about. Explain how the associated beliefs, behaviors, and norms are like/unlike the first religion you discussed.
24. Consider the different types of religious organizations in the United States. What role did ecclesia play in the history of the United States? How have sects tended to change over time? What role do cults have today?
25. What is your understanding of monotheism versus polytheism? How might your ideology be an obstacle to understanding the theism of another religion you're unfamiliar with?
26. In U.S. society, do you believe there is social stratification that correlates with religious beliefs? What about within the practitioners of a given religion? Provide examples to illustrate your point.
27. Do you believe the United States is becoming more secularized or more fundamentalist? Comparing your generation to that of your parents or grandparents, what differences do you see in the relationship between religion and society? What would popular media have you believe is the state of religion in the United States today?