

Arizona State University (ASU) REL100 Religions of the World Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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Introduction

Preparing for a certification exam can feel overwhelming, but with the right tools, it becomes an opportunity to build confidence, sharpen your skills, and move one step closer to your goals. At Examzify, we believe that effective exam preparation isn't just about memorization, it's about understanding the material, identifying knowledge gaps, and building the test-taking strategies that lead to success.

This guide was designed to help you do exactly that.

Whether you're preparing for a licensing exam, professional certification, or entry-level qualification, this book offers structured practice to reinforce key concepts. You'll find a wide range of multiple-choice questions, each followed by clear explanations to help you understand not just the right answer, but why it's correct.

The content in this guide is based on real-world exam objectives and aligned with the types of questions and topics commonly found on official tests. It's ideal for learners who want to:

- Practice answering questions under realistic conditions,
- Improve accuracy and speed,
- Review explanations to strengthen weak areas, and
- Approach the exam with greater confidence.

We recommend using this book not as a stand-alone study tool, but alongside other resources like flashcards, textbooks, or hands-on training. For best results, we recommend working through each question, reflecting on the explanation provided, and revisiting the topics that challenge you most.

Remember: successful test preparation isn't about getting every question right the first time, it's about learning from your mistakes and improving over time. Stay focused, trust the process, and know that every page you turn brings you closer to success.

Let's begin.

How to Use This Guide

This guide is designed to help you study more effectively and approach your exam with confidence. Whether you're reviewing for the first time or doing a final refresh, here's how to get the most out of your Examzify study guide:

1. Start with a Diagnostic Review

Skim through the questions to get a sense of what you know and what you need to focus on. Your goal is to identify knowledge gaps early.

2. Study in Short, Focused Sessions

Break your study time into manageable blocks (e.g. 30 - 45 minutes). Review a handful of questions, reflect on the explanations.

3. Learn from the Explanations

After answering a question, always read the explanation, even if you got it right. It reinforces key points, corrects misunderstandings, and teaches subtle distinctions between similar answers.

4. Track Your Progress

Use bookmarks or notes (if reading digitally) to mark difficult questions. Revisit these regularly and track improvements over time.

5. Simulate the Real Exam

Once you're comfortable, try taking a full set of questions without pausing. Set a timer and simulate test-day conditions to build confidence and time management skills.

6. Repeat and Review

Don't just study once, repetition builds retention. Re-attempt questions after a few days and revisit explanations to reinforce learning. Pair this guide with other Examzify tools like flashcards, and digital practice tests to strengthen your preparation across formats.

There's no single right way to study, but consistent, thoughtful effort always wins. Use this guide flexibly, adapt the tips above to fit your pace and learning style. You've got this!

Questions

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- 1. According to Muslim belief, who is considered the last prophet?**
 - A. Prophet Muhammad**
 - B. Prophet Jesus**
 - C. Prophet Moses**
 - D. Prophet Abraham**

- 2. What significant impact did the Bhagavad Gita have on Hindu philosophy?**
 - A. It emphasized ritualistic practices.**
 - B. It introduced monotheism.**
 - C. It focused on duty and righteousness.**
 - D. It rejected caste distinctions.**

- 3. What is considered the highest law for husband and wife until death in the Laws of Manu?**
 - A. Mutual respect**
 - B. Mutual fidelity**
 - C. Financial security**
 - D. Shared responsibilities**

- 4. The metaphor used in the Laws of Manu regarding pregnancy and childbirth is:**
 - A. Water and soil**
 - B. Soil and seed**
 - C. Light and darkness**
 - D. Air and earth**

- 5. How were the Vedas initially treated before being memorized by priests?**
 - A. Written down**
 - B. Recited orally**
 - C. Shared with the public**
 - D. Ignored completely**

- 6. What is the main goal of followers in Jainism?**
- A. To achieve liberation and end the cycle of rebirth through non-violence and truth**
 - B. To spread Buddhism**
 - C. To become prophets**
 - D. To build temples**
- 7. What is the intoxicating drink used in many Vedic rituals called?**
- A. Soma**
 - B. Nectar**
 - C. Amrita**
 - D. Chai**
- 8. What is the name of the primordial being who divided his body into four parts?**
- A. Vishnu**
 - B. Purusha**
 - C. Brahma**
 - D. Shiva**
- 9. What language is the Islamic scripture, the Qur'an, originally written in?**
- A. Arabic**
 - B. Urdu**
 - C. Turkish**
 - D. Persian**
- 10. What is an essential characteristic of rituals in many Indigenous religions?**
- A. They are purely for entertainment**
 - B. They often connect the living with ancestors**
 - C. They are only held during festivals**
 - D. They usually do not involve any offerings**

Answers

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1. A
2. C
3. B
4. B
5. A
6. A
7. A
8. B
9. A
10. B

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Explanations

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1. According to Muslim belief, who is considered the last prophet?

- A. Prophet Muhammad**
- B. Prophet Jesus**
- C. Prophet Moses**
- D. Prophet Abraham**

In Islamic belief, Prophet Muhammad is recognized as the last prophet, often referred to as the "Seal of the Prophets." This title signifies that he is the final messenger of God in a long line of prophets who includes figures such as Abraham, Moses, and Jesus. Muslims believe that with Muhammad, divine revelation reached its completion, bringing forth the last and most comprehensive message in the form of the Quran. His teachings and actions serve as a model for Muslims, and his role is central to the faith, establishing him as a significant figure in the development of Islam. The other figures mentioned, while highly revered in Islam, are not considered the final prophets. For example, Jesus is regarded as a prophet and the Messiah, but not the last prophet. Similarly, Moses is a key prophet in both Judaism and Islam, known for leading the Israelites and receiving the Torah. Abraham is viewed as a foundational figure and a prophet but precedes Muhammad. Thus, the recognition of Muhammad as the last prophet is a fundamental tenet of Islamic belief.

2. What significant impact did the Bhagavad Gita have on Hindu philosophy?

- A. It emphasized ritualistic practices.**
- B. It introduced monotheism.**
- C. It focused on duty and righteousness.**
- D. It rejected caste distinctions.**

The Bhagavad Gita holds a crucial place in Hindu philosophy primarily because it emphasizes the concepts of duty (dharma) and righteousness (karma). In this text, Arjuna, a warrior prince, is counselled by Lord Krishna, who reveals that aligning one's actions with their duty is essential, regardless of the challenges that may arise. This focus on performing one's duty correctly and with devotion teaches that righteous action is a path to spiritual growth and enlightenment. The Gita's teachings advocate for the importance of one's responsibilities and ethical conduct, underscoring that individuals must act according to their roles and duties in life while remaining detached from the outcomes of those actions. This notion has profoundly influenced various aspects of Hindu thought, guiding individuals in their ethical and spiritual decision-making across generations. It also helps bridge the gap between various paths to spiritual realization, such as devotion (bhakti), knowledge (jnana), and disciplined action (karma yoga). Other options touch on various themes associated with Hindu beliefs, but they do not capture the primary philosophical impact of the Bhagavad Gita as effectively as the emphasis on duty and righteousness does.

3. What is considered the highest law for husband and wife until death in the Laws of Manu?

- A. Mutual respect
- B. Mutual fidelity**
- C. Financial security
- D. Shared responsibilities

In the context of the Laws of Manu, which is an ancient Indian text outlining dharma (moral and ethical duties), the concept of mutual fidelity is regarded as the highest law for a husband and wife. This principle asserts that spouses should remain faithful to one another, as fidelity is deemed essential for maintaining the sanctity and integrity of marriage. The emphasis on mutual fidelity reflects the cultural and religious values in Hinduism regarding marital relationships, where loyalty and commitment are paramount. This not only strengthens the bond between partners but also establishes a stable family structure, which is a fundamental aspect of societal order. While mutual respect, financial security, and shared responsibilities are certainly important components of a healthy marriage, they do not hold the same doctrinal weight as mutual fidelity in the context of the Laws of Manu. The text prioritizes fidelity as a sacred duty, reinforcing its importance as the foundational ideal that supports the overall harmony of the marital relationship.

4. The metaphor used in the Laws of Manu regarding pregnancy and childbirth is:

- A. Water and soil
- B. Soil and seed**
- C. Light and darkness
- D. Air and earth

The metaphor used in the Laws of Manu regarding pregnancy and childbirth illustrates the relationship between soil and seed. This analogy emphasizes the nurturing and productive nature of the female role in reproduction, akin to how soil supports the growth of seeds. In this context, the soil represents the woman's body, which provides the necessary environment for the seed (the male contribution) to develop into a new life. This metaphor underscores the importance of both contributors in the procreation process while highlighting the role of the woman as the vital supporter and sustainer of life. The imagery of soil and seed evokes a sense of fertility and growth, which is central to many ancient texts that discuss family and lineage in a cultural framework. This relationship is essential in understanding how ancient societies viewed gender roles, responsibility, and the process of childbirth. The other options, while they may contain poetic elements, do not convey the intricate relationship of creation and nurturing as effectively as the soil and seed metaphor does in this context.

5. How were the Vedas initially treated before being memorized by priests?

- A. Written down**
- B. Recited orally**
- C. Shared with the public**
- D. Ignored completely**

The Vedas were initially treated as oral traditions before being codified in written form. This means that they were predominantly recited orally, transmitted from teacher to student through a carefully maintained tradition, ensuring their preservation and accuracy over generations. The oral transmission was crucial in the development of the Vedic texts, as this method allowed for a deep level of engagement and memorization among the priests, who would perform rituals and invoke the sacred knowledge contained within the Vedas. This form of oral culture helped in maintaining the fidelity of the texts until they were eventually documented in written form. Even though some might think that the Vedas were written down initially or widely shared, the oral recitation played a fundamental role in their historical context, ensuring that the sacred knowledge remained intact and vibrant within the community of practitioners.

6. What is the main goal of followers in Jainism?

- A. To achieve liberation and end the cycle of rebirth through non-violence and truth**
- B. To spread Buddhism**
- C. To become prophets**
- D. To build temples**

The main goal of followers in Jainism is to achieve liberation and end the cycle of rebirth through the principles of non-violence (Ahimsa) and truth (Satya). Jainism teaches that the soul is trapped in a cycle of birth, death, and rebirth (samsara) due to accumulated karma. The path to liberation (moksha) involves purifying the soul by adhering to strict ethical conduct, particularly by practicing non-violence in thought, word, and deed, and by embracing truthfulness. This profound commitment to non-violence stems from the belief that all living beings are interconnected and that harming any being contributes to one's own karmic burden. By living in alignment with these principles, Jains believe they can ultimately liberate themselves from the karmic cycles and attain a state of eternal bliss and freedom. The other choices, while they may pertain to various religious practices or beliefs, do not align with Jainism's core focus on personal liberation through ethical living. Spreading Buddhism (as depicted in one of the options) is specific to followers of Buddhism, and it does not relate to Jain objectives. Similarly, becoming prophets and building temples may be relevant in different religious contexts but do not capture the

7. What is the intoxicating drink used in many Vedic rituals called?

- A. Soma**
- B. Nectar**
- C. Amrita**
- D. Chai**

The intoxicating drink used in many Vedic rituals is called Soma. In ancient Indian texts, particularly in the Rigveda, Soma is depicted as a sacred drink that is associated with divine experiences and has stimulating properties. It played a vital role in Vedic rituals, where it was offered to the gods during sacrificial ceremonies, believed to enhance communication with the divine and elevate the spiritual experience of the participants. Soma is not only a drink but also embodies the concept of a mystical experience tied to the natural world, as it is often said to be derived from a specific plant. The ritual consumption of Soma was believed to grant immortality and access to a higher spiritual plane, reflecting its significance in the religious practices of the time. Other options such as Nectar and Amrita are often used in different contexts. While Amrita can refer to the divine nectar of immortality in Hindu mythology, it specifically denotes the life-giving substance that emerged from the churning of the ocean rather than the drink used in Vedic rituals. Chai, on the other hand, simply refers to tea and is not relevant to Vedic practices. Thus, Soma stands out as the specific drink central to Vedic rituals, highlighting its unique importance in the context of ancient Indian

8. What is the name of the primordial being who divided his body into four parts?

- A. Vishnu**
- B. Purusha**
- C. Brahma**
- D. Shiva**

The correct answer is Purusha, which is significant in Hindu philosophy and cosmology. Purusha is often described as a cosmic being or the spiritual essence that existed before the creation of the world. According to the Rigveda, Purusha's body was sacrificed by the gods to create all living beings and the various aspects of the universe, effectively dividing himself into four parts, which correspond to the four social classes (varnas) in Hindu society: the priests (Brahmins), warriors (Kshatriyas), merchants and landowners (Vaishyas), and laborers and service providers (Shudras). This mythological narrative encapsulates the concept of unity and diversity in creation, demonstrating how life and social order emerged from a singular, primordial source. The connection of Purusha to the broader themes within Hindu cosmology highlights the idea of sacrifice and transformation, where the universe is created from the Self. This concept has profound implications, addressing existential questions about the nature of life, society, and the divine.

9. What language is the Islamic scripture, the Qur'an, originally written in?

- A. Arabic**
- B. Urdu**
- C. Turkish**
- D. Persian**

The Islamic scripture, the Qur'an, was originally written in Arabic. This is significant because Arabic is not only the language of the Qur'an but also holds a special place in Islamic tradition and practice. Muslims around the world regard the Arabic text as sacred, and it is used in religious rituals, prayers, and recitations. The linguistic structure and beauty of Arabic contribute to the depth and nuances of the text, making it unique in its expression of Islamic teachings. The other languages mentioned—Urdu, Turkish, and Persian—are historically related to Islamic cultures, but they are not the original languages of the Qur'an. Urdu, for instance, developed later in the Indian subcontinent and has been influenced by Arabic, but it is distinctly different. Turkish and Persian also have their own rich literary traditions and histories in relation to Islam, but the Qur'an itself is fundamentally rooted in Arabic, making it the correct answer.

10. What is an essential characteristic of rituals in many Indigenous religions?

- A. They are purely for entertainment**
- B. They often connect the living with ancestors**
- C. They are only held during festivals**
- D. They usually do not involve any offerings**

Rituals in many Indigenous religions serve a profound purpose that often includes connecting the living with their ancestors. This connection is significant because it acknowledges the continuity of life, the wisdom of those who have come before, and the guidance that ancestors can provide to the current generation. Such rituals can involve storytelling, ceremony, and practices that honor ancestors, reflecting a deep respect for their roles in shaping the community's identity and beliefs. Through these rituals, individuals and communities express their spiritual ties to their heritage, fostering a sense of belonging and responsibility towards their past and future. This characteristic highlights the foundational role that connection to ancestors plays in the spiritual life of many Indigenous cultures, serving not just as a remembrance, but also as a means of receiving strength and guidance. In contrast, the other options do not accurately reflect the functions or experiences of rituals in Indigenous religions. While entertainment may occasionally be a byproduct of ritual practices, it is not their essential purpose. Additionally, rituals are not limited to festivals; they can occur throughout the year and at various significant life events. Finally, offerings are often a critical component of many rituals, serving to honor spirits, ancestors, and the natural world, emphasizing the reciprocal relationships within Indigenous belief systems.

Next Steps

Congratulations on reaching the final section of this guide. You've taken a meaningful step toward passing your certification exam and advancing your career.

As you continue preparing, remember that consistent practice, review, and self-reflection are key to success. Make time to revisit difficult topics, simulate exam conditions, and track your progress along the way.

If you need help, have suggestions, or want to share feedback, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to our team at hello@examzify.com.

Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:

<https://asu-rel100.examzify.com>

We wish you the very best on your exam journey. You've got this!

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