

Studies of Religion (SOR) II Religion & Non-Religion Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



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SAMPLE

Questions

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- 1. In what context are the Ten Commandments most significant?**
 - A. As legal guidelines in secular law**
 - B. As ethical guidelines in Judaism and Christianity**
 - C. As historical documents only**
 - D. As mythological stories**
- 2. For individuals with a non-religious worldview, which concept best describes social responsibility?**
 - A. Reading sacred texts and living a good life.**
 - B. Attending ceremonies and actively caring for the environment.**
 - C. Living a moral life and caring for their family.**
 - D. Working for the common good by following established ethical guidelines.**
- 3. What does 'sacred space' refer to?**
 - A. Any public area where people gather**
 - B. Places regarded as holy or spiritually significant**
 - C. Locations used for secular events**
 - D. Spaces primarily for recreational activities**
- 4. How does faith affect one's decision-making process?**
 - A. By requiring strict logical reasoning**
 - B. By providing a sense of trust in beliefs**
 - C. By minimizing emotional considerations**
 - D. By focusing on material outcomes**
- 5. What best explains the growth of ecological awareness within new religious expressions and spiritualities?**
 - A. Fear of the economic impact of climate change**
 - B. Disagreement with traditional religious practice**
 - C. The idea that God is the transcendent creator of the Earth**
 - D. The belief that the human community and the Earth form a unity**

- 6. On which of the following is atheism based?**
- A. Human nature**
 - B. Human reason**
 - C. Conflict between good and evil**
 - D. Conflict between the material and the spiritual**
- 7. On which issue are Ashley and Andy most likely to disagree?**
- A. The problems caused for society by economic exploitation of natural resources**
 - B. The ability of mainstream religious authorities to provide guidance to society**
 - C. The value of alternative medicine**
 - D. The dangers of global warming**
- 8. Which of the following statements reflects a research-oriented perspective on faith?**
- A. Faith can sometimes lead to answers.**
 - B. Both faith and reason are complementary.**
 - C. Research is essential for understanding spiritual matters.**
 - D. Spirituality should not rely on empirical methods.**
- 9. Which of the following is an example of a non-religious worldview responding to social responsibility?**
- A. Greenpeace**
 - B. The Salvation Army**
 - C. The Sydney Royal Easter Show**
 - D. The National Church Life Survey**
- 10. Which of the following statements is true in relation to non-religious world views?**
- A. Atheists place a stronger emphasis on ethics than Humanists.**
 - B. Atheism can have a strong influence on the way followers live their lives.**
 - C. Rational Humanism places a greater emphasis on the role of experimentation than Scientific Humanism.**
 - D. Humanists have a strong commitment to world peace because there is always the possibility that a god exists.**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. In what context are the Ten Commandments most significant?

- A. As legal guidelines in secular law**
- B. As ethical guidelines in Judaism and Christianity**
- C. As historical documents only**
- D. As mythological stories**

The Ten Commandments hold great significance primarily as ethical guidelines within Judaism and Christianity. They are considered foundational moral precepts that provide a framework for the behavior of adherents in these faith traditions. The commandments articulate key principles about the relationship between individuals and God, as well as among individuals themselves, emphasizing concepts such as respect, honesty, and community responsibility. In Judaism, the Ten Commandments (or the Decalogue) are viewed as a divine revelation and are central to the covenant between God and the people of Israel. They are often recited in religious contexts, highlighting their role in shaping Jewish law and ethical practices. Similarly, in Christianity, the commandments are seen as essential moral teachings that guide believers in their lives. They are referenced in the teachings of Jesus and are integrated into Christian ethical discussions, underscoring their lasting influence on Western moral thought. The other contexts provided do not fully capture the religious and ethical weight of the Ten Commandments as they are understood in Judaism and Christianity. While they may have some legal aspects in secular law or historical significance, their primary importance lies in their ethical teachings and spiritual authority within these faiths. The notion of them being merely historical documents or mythological stories diminishes their active role and relevance in the

2. For individuals with a non-religious worldview, which concept best describes social responsibility?

- A. Reading sacred texts and living a good life.**
- B. Attending ceremonies and actively caring for the environment.**
- C. Living a moral life and caring for their family.**
- D. Working for the common good by following established ethical guidelines.**

The concept that best describes social responsibility for individuals with a non-religious worldview is working for the common good by following established ethical guidelines. This choice highlights the idea that social responsibility stems from a commitment to the well-being of society as a whole, rather than being rooted in religious teachings or texts. Under a non-religious framework, individuals often rely on ethical principles derived from philosophy, humanism, or social contracts. These principles encourage actions that support community welfare, advocate for social justice, and promote environmental sustainability through reasoned approaches rather than religious mandates. Other options may describe various aspects of morality or community involvement but may not capture the essence of social responsibility in the context of a non-religious worldview as clearly. For example, reading sacred texts usually implies a religious context, while attending ceremonies may be more associated with cultural practices. Caring for family and living a moral life are certainly important but may not encompass the broader societal implications that come with working for the common good through established ethical guidelines. Thus, the chosen answer effectively reflects the non-religious perspective on social responsibility.

3. What does 'sacred space' refer to?

- A. Any public area where people gather
- B. Places regarded as holy or spiritually significant**
- C. Locations used for secular events
- D. Spaces primarily for recreational activities

The term 'sacred space' specifically refers to places that are deemed holy or spiritually significant within a particular religious or spiritual tradition. These spaces are often associated with rituals, worship, and profound experiences that evoke a sense of the divine. They can include sites such as temples, churches, mosques, or natural environments that have cultural or religious importance. The character of sacred spaces is heavily influenced by the beliefs and narratives of the communities that honor them, making them places where individuals feel a connection to their faith, heritage, or spirituality. In contrast, other options depict spaces that do not carry this religious or spiritual weight. Public areas where people gather, locations for secular events, and spaces for recreational activities do not hold the same significance as sacred sites that invite contemplation, reverence, and spiritual practice.

4. How does faith affect one's decision-making process?

- A. By requiring strict logical reasoning
- B. By providing a sense of trust in beliefs**
- C. By minimizing emotional considerations
- D. By focusing on material outcomes

Faith significantly influences decision-making by instilling a sense of trust in one's beliefs. When individuals possess faith, they often rely on their values, principles, and convictions to guide their choices, even in uncertain or challenging circumstances. This trust can serve as a foundation for decisions, prompting individuals to act in alignment with their spiritual or moral beliefs rather than purely on empirical evidence or logical reasoning. In many cases, faith provides comfort and reassurance, enabling individuals to navigate complex situations with confidence that their beliefs will guide them appropriately. This impact is particularly significant in areas where answers may not come as clearly through logic or scientific reasoning alone, showcasing the role of personal and communal beliefs in shaping choices and actions.

5. What best explains the growth of ecological awareness within new religious expressions and spiritualities?
- A. Fear of the economic impact of climate change
 - B. Disagreement with traditional religious practice
 - C. The idea that God is the transcendent creator of the Earth
 - D. The belief that the human community and the Earth form a unity**

The belief that the human community and the Earth form a unity is a key factor in the growth of ecological awareness within new religious expressions and spiritualities. This perspective emphasizes an interconnectedness between humans and the natural world, fostering a deeper appreciation for the environment and encouraging sustainable practices. Many new religious movements and spiritualities advocate for a holistic view of existence, which perceives humanity as part of a larger ecological system, rather than separate from it. This unified worldview prompts adherents to engage in ecological advocacy and to treat the Earth with respect, recognizing that the health of our planet directly affects human well-being. In this context, spiritual practices often incorporate elements of environmental stewardship, stressing the importance of caring for the Earth as a sacred responsibility. The other options, while potentially related to ecological awareness to some extent, do not capture the core reason for the growth of this awareness as effectively. The fear of economic consequences may motivate some individuals but does not touch on the spiritual and intrinsic connections emphasized in new religious movements. Disagreement with traditional religious practice often leads to new expressions but doesn't inherently foster ecological awareness on its own. The idea of God as the transcendent creator does reflect a reverence for the Earth, but it lacks the direct emphasis on unity that inspires

6. On which of the following is atheism based?
- A. Human nature
 - B. Human reason**
 - C. Conflict between good and evil
 - D. Conflict between the material and the spiritual

Atheism is fundamentally grounded in human reason, as it often stems from a reliance on empirical evidence, logical reasoning, and critical thinking rather than faith or belief in the supernatural. Atheists typically seek explanations for the universe and human existence based on observable phenomena and rational thought processes. This approach emphasizes the importance of questioning established doctrines and using reason as a primary tool to understand the world. While human nature, the conflict between good and evil, and the conflict between the material and the spiritual can all be relevant discussions in the context of belief systems, they do not fundamentally define atheism. Instead, atheism's core is the conclusion reached through rational inquiry and skepticism regarding the existence of deities, leading to a non-belief stance that is intellectually grounded in human reasoning.

7. On which issue are Ashley and Andy most likely to disagree?

- A. The problems caused for society by economic exploitation of natural resources**
- B. The ability of mainstream religious authorities to provide guidance to society**
- C. The value of alternative medicine**
- D. The dangers of global warming**

The emphasis on the value of alternative medicine as the issue on which Ashley and Andy are most likely to disagree suggests that their perspectives on health, wellness, and the efficacy of different medical practices diverge significantly. This kind of disagreement often stems from foundational beliefs about science, tradition, and personal experiences with health care. In discussions about alternative medicine, individuals may have vastly different views based on their reliance on conventional medicine versus holistic or non-conventional approaches. One person may advocate for alternative medicine due to personal or anecdotal successes, whereas the other might prefer evidence-based practices and thus be skeptical of alternatives that lack rigorous scientific validation. This disagreement can be particularly pronounced because it touches on deeper values, such as trust in medical institutions, beliefs about health and well-being, and varying definitions of what constitutes effective treatment. Other issues listed, while significant, tend to have more consensus within societal discussions, as they are often informed by broader social, environmental, and economic understandings that transcend personal health beliefs.

8. Which of the following statements reflects a research-oriented perspective on faith?

- A. Faith can sometimes lead to answers.**
- B. Both faith and reason are complementary.**
- C. Research is essential for understanding spiritual matters.**
- D. Spirituality should not rely on empirical methods.**

The statement that research is essential for understanding spiritual matters reflects a research-oriented perspective on faith because it emphasizes the importance of inquiry, analysis, and evidence in exploring spiritual concepts. This perspective views spirituality not just as a matter of personal belief or intuition but as an area where academic study and critical thinking can yield insights and foster a deeper understanding. By advocating for research in spiritual matters, the statement acknowledges that various methodologies, including empirical ones, can provide valuable information about faith practices, religious beliefs, and their impacts on individuals and communities. This aligns with a broader academic approach that seeks to systematically investigate and comprehend the complexities of spirituality and religion. In contrast, the other statements primarily focus on personal experiences, the relationship between faith and reason, or the idea that spirituality exists outside the realm of empirical inquiry, which does not align with a research-oriented perspective.

9. Which of the following is an example of a non-religious worldview responding to social responsibility?

- A. Greenpeace**
- B. The Salvation Army**
- C. The Sydney Royal Easter Show**
- D. The National Church Life Survey**

Greenpeace is considered an example of a non-religious worldview responding to social responsibility because it is an environmental organization that advocates for the preservation of the planet and addresses issues such as climate change, deforestation, and pollution. Its mission is rooted in promoting ecological sustainability and social justice, rather than being based in religious beliefs or doctrine. The organization actively engages in campaigns and initiatives that aim to influence public policy and encourage individuals and communities to take responsibility for their environmental impact. In contrast, the Salvation Army is a religious organization that operates from a Christian framework, focusing on providing humanitarian aid and support to those in need as an expression of faith. The Sydney Royal Easter Show is an event that celebrates Australian agriculture and community, without a specific focus on social responsibility from a non-religious perspective. The National Church Life Survey essentially collects data about church communities, reflecting a religious viewpoint and not embodying a non-religious approach to social issues. Thus, Greenpeace stands out as the option that embodies a non-religious commitment to social responsibility.

10. Which of the following statements is true in relation to non-religious world views?

- A. Atheists place a stronger emphasis on ethics than Humanists.**
- B. Atheism can have a strong influence on the way followers live their lives.**
- C. Rational Humanism places a greater emphasis on the role of experimentation than Scientific Humanism.**
- D. Humanists have a strong commitment to world peace because there is always the possibility that a god exists.**

The choice stating that atheism can have a strong influence on the way followers live their lives is correct because it acknowledges that atheism, as a worldview, often shapes the ethical, moral, and lifestyle choices of individuals who identify as atheists. Atheists do not adhere to religious doctrines but instead may find meaning and guidance through secular philosophies, science, and critical thinking. This can lead to a focus on human welfare, social justice, and personal responsibility, impacting their day-to-day decisions and interactions with others. The other options do not hold the same truth. For instance, the assertion about atheists placing a stronger emphasis on ethics than humanists oversimplifies the ethical frameworks of these groups. Both atheists and humanists can emphasize ethics, but their approaches may differ, and it's not accurate to position one as inherently stronger than the other. The statement regarding Rational Humanism emphasizing experimentation over Scientific Humanism is misleading, as both value evidence and scientific inquiry but differ conceptually rather than in the methods they endorse. Lastly, the claim that Humanists commit to world peace due to the possibility of a god's existence contradicts the fundamental humanist belief in human agency and reason without reliance on religious considerations.