

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

- 1. Which nation has a large number of adherents in four of the five religious traditions?**
 - A. India.**
 - B. USA.**
 - C. Brazil.**
 - D. Indonesia.**
- 2. What practice is characteristic of animism?**
 - A. Celebrating mass**
 - B. Worshipping only one god**
 - C. Appealing to the saints for protection and healing**
 - D. Performing rituals related to hunting an animal for food**
- 3. Which of the following religions has the smallest number of adherents world-wide?**
 - A. Islam**
 - B. Judaism**
 - C. Hinduism**
 - D. Buddhism**
- 4. What was the purpose of sacrifice in animistic traditions?**
 - A. To control the physical environment**
 - B. To diminish fertility**
 - C. To worship God**
 - D. To forgive sins**
- 5. How does the concept of 'original sin' influence Christian theology?**
 - A. It determines dietary laws for followers**
 - B. It suggests that humanity inherits a fallen nature**
 - C. It necessitates strict ethical codes for believers**
 - D. It emphasizes the importance of rituals in worship**

- 6. How does meditation contribute to spirituality?**
- A. By increasing physical fitness**
 - B. By enhancing self-awareness and mindfulness**
 - C. By promoting communal worship**
 - D. By emphasizing doctrinal study**
- 7. Sam is an atheist and is engaged to Kim who is a theist. On which of the following are they most likely to have different views?**
- A. The location of the wedding reception**
 - B. The inclusion of prayers in the wedding ceremony**
 - C. The type of food to be served at the wedding reception**
 - D. Acknowledging the traditional landowners at the beginning of the wedding ceremony**
- 8. Which of the following is a form of monotheism?**
- A. Judaism**
 - B. Animism**
 - C. Hinduism**
 - D. Agnosticism**
- 9. How do rituals help maintain religious identity?**
- A. By creating individualistic expressions of belief**
 - B. By fostering competition among different faiths**
 - C. By reinforcing community bonds and shared values**
 - D. By discouraging traditional practices**
- 10. In what way can religion serve as a source of social change?**
- A. By promoting isolation from the larger society**
 - B. By inspiring communities to advocate for justice**
 - C. By maintaining existing power structures**
 - D. By discouraging moral reforms**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which nation has a large number of adherents in four of the five religious traditions?

A. India.

B. USA.

C. Brazil.

D. Indonesia.

India is recognized for having a significant number of adherents across four of the five major religious traditions: Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, and Sikhism. Each of these religions has deep cultural and historical roots in India, making it a focal point for their practices and followers. Hinduism is the most predominant faith in India, with the vast majority identifying as Hindus. Buddhism originated in India, and even though its numbers have decreased over time, there are still substantial communities, especially in regions like Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra. Jainism, which also has its origins in India, remains an important religious tradition with a dedicated following. Sikhism, founded in the Punjab region of India in the 15th century, also counts India as its birthplace and has millions of adherents. While the other nations listed have diverse populations and may exhibit adherence to various religious traditions, India's unique combination of these four religions sets it apart. The USA has a variety of religious affiliations, but it does not have as prominent a presence of Buddhism and Sikhism compared to India. Brazil is largely Christian, focusing predominantly on Catholicism and Protestantism with smaller numbers of other traditions. Indonesia is predominantly Muslim, and while it does host a variety of religions, it does not

2. What practice is characteristic of animism?

A. Celebrating mass

B. Worshipping only one god

C. Appealing to the saints for protection and healing

D. Performing rituals related to hunting an animal for food

Animism is a belief system that attributes spiritual essence to animals, plants, and inanimate objects, viewing them as having their own spirits or souls. This worldview often leads to the performance of rituals that honor these spirits, particularly in contexts where humans depend on nature for sustenance. Performing rituals related to hunting an animal for food is a direct embodiment of animist practices, as such rituals typically express respect for the spirit of the animal, acknowledging its life and the connection between humans and the natural world. These rituals may involve offerings, prayers, or ceremonies meant to ensure a successful hunt and to thank the spirit of the animal for its sacrifice. On the other hand, other practices like celebrating mass, worshipping a single deity, or appealing to saints are characteristic of different religious traditions, particularly those that emphasize monotheism or organized spiritual hierarchies rather than the direct, personal relationship with the spirits of the natural world seen in animism. Each of those practices does not align with the fundamental principles of animism, which is rooted in a polytheistic or nature-centric perspective where multiple spirits play a role in the human experience and survival.

3. Which of the following religions has the smallest number of adherents world-wide?

- A. Islam**
- B. Judaism**
- C. Hinduism**
- D. Buddhism**

Judaism has the smallest number of adherents worldwide compared to the other religions listed. Estimates suggest that there are approximately 14 to 15 million Jews globally, which is significantly lower than the populations of Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism. Islam, with over 1.9 billion followers, is one of the largest religions in the world. Hinduism also has a substantial following, with over 1.2 billion adherents, primarily in India and Nepal. Buddhism, while smaller than the first two, still boasts around half a billion followers globally. These population figures highlight the relatively small size of the Jewish community in comparison to the larger religious traditions, clarifying why Judaism is the correct answer in this context.

4. What was the purpose of sacrifice in animistic traditions?

- A. To control the physical environment**
- B. To diminish fertility**
- C. To worship God**
- D. To forgive sins**

The purpose of sacrifice in animistic traditions, particularly as it relates to controlling the physical environment, stems from the belief that spirits inhabit and influence various elements of nature. Animistic traditions often involve a deep reverence for nature and its forces, which are considered alive and infused with spiritual significance. Sacrifice serves as a way to communicate with these spirits, seeking their favor or appeasement to ensure favorable conditions, such as good harvests, protection, and balance in the ecosystem. Through sacrifices—be they offerings of food, animals, or other valuable items—practitioners aim to establish a harmonious relationship with the spirit world, demonstrating respect and gratitude while also aiding in controlling the unpredictability of natural forces. This act of offering is seen as a form of reciprocity, where humans provide for the needs of the spirits with the expectation that the spirits will in turn provide for them, thus emphasizing the interconnectedness of humans and the environment in animistic belief systems. The other options do not accurately reflect the core motivations behind sacrifices in animistic traditions—diminishing fertility is contrary to the aspiration for abundance, whereas worshiping a singular God or forgiving sins align more with organized religious frameworks than the animistic worldview, which focuses on the myriad

5. How does the concept of 'original sin' influence Christian theology?

- A. It determines dietary laws for followers
- B. It suggests that humanity inherits a fallen nature**
- C. It necessitates strict ethical codes for believers
- D. It emphasizes the importance of rituals in worship

The concept of 'original sin' significantly influences Christian theology by suggesting that humanity inherits a fallen nature due to the sin of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. This doctrine posits that all human beings are born with a predisposition to sin, which fundamentally impacts the understanding of human nature, moral responsibility, and the need for salvation. This theological perspective emphasizes the necessity of divine grace and redemption, which Christians believe is made possible through the sacrificial death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Consequently, original sin shapes doctrines regarding baptism, salvation, and the relationship between humanity and God. It leads to the understanding that all individuals require salvation to overcome their inherent sinful nature and to be reconciled with God. In this context, other options do not directly relate to the primary implications of original sin. For example, dietary laws, strict ethical codes, or rituals, while important aspects of Christian practice and tradition, do not stem specifically from the doctrine of original sin. Instead, these practices are more related to religious observance, moral teachings, and the community's cultural expressions rather than the foundational aspect of humanity's sinful condition as defined by original sin.

6. How does meditation contribute to spirituality?

- A. By increasing physical fitness
- B. By enhancing self-awareness and mindfulness**
- C. By promoting communal worship
- D. By emphasizing doctrinal study

Meditation significantly contributes to spirituality primarily by enhancing self-awareness and mindfulness. This practice encourages individuals to turn their focus inward, fostering a deeper understanding of their thoughts, emotions, and overall state of being. Through meditation, people often experience a heightened sense of presence and clarity, enabling them to cultivate a more profound connection with themselves and their surroundings. The practice of mindfulness, which is central to many forms of meditation, allows individuals to engage fully with each moment. This awareness can lead to insights about one's purpose, values, and beliefs, which are essential components of spiritual growth. By fostering self-exploration and encouraging a non-reactive state of mind, meditation opens pathways to deeper spiritual experiences and understanding. In contrast, physical fitness, communal worship, and doctrinal study, while they may have their own value within spiritual contexts, do not primarily drive the enhancement of personal spirituality in the way that meditation does. Physical fitness relates more to health than spiritual depth, communal worship focuses on group dynamics rather than individual insight, and doctrinal study involves intellectual engagement with religious texts rather than experiential understanding fostered through meditation.

7. Sam is an atheist and is engaged to Kim who is a theist. On which of the following are they most likely to have different views?

A. The location of the wedding reception

B. The inclusion of prayers in the wedding ceremony

C. The type of food to be served at the wedding reception

D. Acknowledging the traditional landowners at the beginning of the wedding ceremony

In a scenario where one partner identifies as an atheist and the other as a theist, differing views on spiritual matters are likely to surface. The inclusion of prayers in the wedding ceremony would be a significant aspect in which they are most likely to hold contrasting opinions. For Kim, the theist, incorporating prayers might hold religious significance, symbolizing a connection to her beliefs and traditions. In contrast, Sam, as an atheist, may feel uncomfortable with the idea of prayer in a ceremony that he believes should be secular or non-religious. This fundamental difference in their beliefs about spirituality and ritual elements in the wedding ceremony is what makes the inclusion of prayers a central topic of divergence for the couple. As for the other options, they tend to be more neutral or practical considerations rather than deeply rooted in belief systems. The location of the wedding reception, the type of food served, and acknowledging traditional landowners may be influenced by personal preferences, cultural practices, or logistical factors rather than a fundamental conflict in their respective worldviews.

8. Which of the following is a form of monotheism?

A. Judaism

B. Animism

C. Hinduism

D. Agnosticism

Judaism is classified as a form of monotheism because it is centered around the belief in a single, all-powerful God. This belief is foundational to Jewish theology and is expressed in the Shema, a key declaration of faith that emphasizes the oneness of God. In Judaism, God is seen as the creator and sustainer of the universe, and worship is directed solely to this one deity. In contrast, animism typically involves the belief in multiple spiritual beings or forces residing in natural objects and phenomena, thereby lacking the singular focus on one god that characterizes monotheism. Hinduism, while it can encompass monotheistic beliefs (especially in certain sects), is traditionally viewed as polytheistic due to the multitude of gods and goddesses that are worshiped. Agnosticism, on the other hand, is not a religion but a philosophical position regarding the existence of deities, where one neither affirms nor denies the existence of a god or gods. Thus, Judaism represents a clear example of monotheistic belief, setting it apart from the other choices provided.

9. How do rituals help maintain religious identity?

- A. By creating individualistic expressions of belief
- B. By fostering competition among different faiths
- C. By reinforcing community bonds and shared values**
- D. By discouraging traditional practices

Rituals play a crucial role in maintaining religious identity because they are communal activities that bring individuals together, reinforcing a sense of belonging to a larger group. Through shared rituals, participants express their beliefs collectively, which helps to solidify their identity as members of that faith tradition. This communal aspect fosters a sense of unity and continuity within the community, as rituals often connect individuals to their history, shared values, and cultural heritage. Moreover, rituals can serve as a reminder of the core tenets of the faith, promoting engagement with the beliefs and customs that define the community's identity. Over time, this repeated participation creates a strong bond among members and deepens their commitment to the shared values and practices that characterize their religion, making them vital in preserving religious identity across generations.

10. In what way can religion serve as a source of social change?

- A. By promoting isolation from the larger society
- B. By inspiring communities to advocate for justice**
- C. By maintaining existing power structures
- D. By discouraging moral reforms

Religion can serve as a source of social change primarily by inspiring communities to advocate for justice. Throughout history, many religious movements have been at the forefront of social change, emphasizing values such as compassion, equity, and social justice. These values often motivate followers to address injustices and advocate for the marginalized or oppressed in society. For example, numerous social movements have been rooted in religious beliefs that call for the better treatment of disadvantaged groups. Leaders and followers draw upon their faith traditions to promote ethical practices and engage in activism that seeks to reshape societal norms and laws, driving reforms in areas like civil rights, poverty alleviation, and environmental stewardship. With regard to the other options, promoting isolation from the larger society would hinder social change by creating barriers rather than fostering engagement and advocacy. Maintaining existing power structures and discouraging moral reforms directly contradicts the transformative potential that religious beliefs can inspire, as they tend to support the status quo rather than challenge it.

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://sor2religionnonreligion.examzify.com>

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