

STUDIES OF RELIGION (SOR) II RELIGION & NON-RELIGION PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE) STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE

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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. What is 'mysticism' in the context of religion?

- A. The strict adherence to dogmatic beliefs
- B. The pursuit of experiencing a direct connection with the divine
- C. The interpretation of religious texts
- D. The organization of religious communities

2. What does Diwali symbolize in Hinduism?

- A. The arrival of spring
- B. The victory of light over darkness
- C. The harvest season
- D. The beginning of the new year

3. Which of the following is a characteristic of a secular worldview?

- A. Emphasis on tradition and rituals.
- B. Focus on human reason and empirical evidence.
- C. Belief in multiple divine beings.
- D. Reliance on revelation from sacred texts.

4. A typical principle of humanism is that...

- A. moral values are founded on revelation in sacred texts.
- B. scientific method shows the truth of traditional religion.
- C. many reincarnations give us ample opportunity to make life better.
- D. the solution of people's problems is to be found in reason and humanity.

5. What does agnosticism recognise?

- A. An absence of a soul
- B. An uncertainty of reality
- C. An absence of an afterlife
- D. An uncertainty of knowledge

6. 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

7. Which of the following lists examples of polytheism?

- A. Magi, Scientology, Syncretism
- B. Kali, Vishnu, Lakshmi
- C. Baal, Torah, Pontifex Maximus
- D. St Catherine, the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Holy Spirit

8. What best defines agnosticism?

- A. There is no divine or transcendent reality.
- B. There is some divine or transcendent reality.
- C. It is highly likely there is no divine or transcendent reality.
- D. It is uncertain whether there is a divine or transcendent reality.

9. In terms of spirituality, what do many people seek beyond traditional religions?

- A. A deeper scientific understanding.
- B. A revival of ancient beliefs.
- C. New forms of spiritual expression.
- D. A return to fundamentalism.

10. Which of the following religious traditions has the third largest number of adherents worldwide?

- A. Buddhism
- B. Christianity
- C. Hinduism
- D. Islam

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What is 'mysticism' in the context of religion?

- A. The strict adherence to dogmatic beliefs
- B. The pursuit of experiencing a direct connection with the divine**
- C. The interpretation of religious texts
- D. The organization of religious communities

Mysticism within the context of religion refers to the pursuit of experiencing a direct connection with the divine. It encompasses practices and beliefs that seek to transcend ordinary understanding and foster a personal, experiential relationship with a higher power or spiritual reality. Mystics often emphasize inner experiences, meditation, and contemplation as means to achieve a profound understanding or unity with the divine. This pursuit is characterized by a deep yearning for direct knowledge or closeness to the sacred, moving beyond ritualistic or intellectual understandings of faith. The other options do not capture the essence of mysticism. The strict adherence to dogmatic beliefs represents a more conventional approach to religion, focusing on doctrines rather than personal experiences. Similarly, the interpretation of religious texts is an intellectual endeavor that may not involve the direct, personal experience central to mysticism. Organizing religious communities pertains more to the social and institutional aspects of religion rather than the personal, inward journey that mystics undertake to seek divine communion. Thus, the correct answer reflects the heart of what mysticism represents in religious practice.

2. What does Diwali symbolize in Hinduism?

- A. The arrival of spring
- B. The victory of light over darkness**
- C. The harvest season
- D. The beginning of the new year

Diwali, also known as the Festival of Lights, symbolizes the victory of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance in Hinduism. This theme is integral to the celebration, where the lighting of oil lamps (diyas) in homes and public spaces represents the illumination that knowledge and goodness bring into the world while dispelling the gloom of negativity and harm. The festival is rooted in various mythological stories, the most common being the return of Lord Rama to Ayodhya after defeating the demon king Ravana, which epitomizes the triumph of righteousness. Diwali also coincides with the worship of Goddess Lakshmi, signifying prosperity and well-being, reinforcing the notion that light brings positivity and hope. While the arrival of spring, the harvest season, and the beginning of the new year are significant in various cultural and religious contexts, they do not encapsulate the overarching theme of Diwali. Instead, the festival's essence lies primarily in celebrating the light that represents positivity and moral victory.

3. Which of the following is a characteristic of a secular worldview?

- A. Emphasis on tradition and rituals.
- B. Focus on human reason and empirical evidence.**
- C. Belief in multiple divine beings.
- D. Reliance on revelation from sacred texts.

A secular worldview centers around human reason and empirical evidence as the primary means of understanding the world and making sense of human existence. This perspective emphasizes critical thinking, scientific inquiry, and observable phenomena rather than relying on faith, spiritual beliefs, or traditional religious frameworks. In a secular context, beliefs and values are typically shaped by rational thought and the accumulation of knowledge derived from the sciences and the humanities. This approach enables individuals to explore ethical and philosophical questions without the constraints of religious doctrines or divine authority, promoting a more individualistic exploration of meaning and purpose. The other options reflect characteristics commonly associated with religious worldviews, which prioritize tradition, rituals, divine beings, and revelations from sacred texts—elements that are not fitting within the secular framework. This distinction is fundamental in understanding how secularism contrasts with religious belief systems, highlighting the focus on reasoned inquiry and evidence as foundational to secular thought.

4. A typical principle of humanism is that...

- A. moral values are founded on revelation in sacred texts.
- B. scientific method shows the truth of traditional religion.
- C. many reincarnations give us ample opportunity to make life better.
- D. the solution of people's problems is to be found in reason and humanity.**

The principle that highlights the belief in finding solutions to human problems through reason and humanity aligns perfectly with the core tenets of humanism. Humanism is a philosophical stance that emphasizes the value and agency of human beings, focusing on the importance of rational thinking and ethical considerations grounded in human experiences rather than divine or supernatural revelations. This concept promotes the idea that through critical thinking, empathy, and cooperation, individuals can understand and address the challenges in life without relying on external religious dogmas or sacred texts. Humanists advocate for using human reason to navigate moral dilemmas and improve the human condition, which explains why recognizing reason and humanity as essential tools for problem-solving is central to this philosophy. The other options reflect beliefs associated with religious traditions or doctrines rather than humanist principles. For instance, founding moral values on sacred texts or claiming that scientific methods validate traditional religions do not embody the humanist focus on reason as a guiding principle. Likewise, talking about reincarnation suggests a spiritual framework more aligned with specific religious doctrines rather than the secular, human-centered viewpoint of humanism.

5. What does agnosticism recognise?

- A. An absence of a soul
- B. An uncertainty of reality
- C. An absence of an afterlife
- D. An uncertainty of knowledge**

Agnosticism is fundamentally rooted in the recognition of uncertainty regarding knowledge, particularly in relation to the existence of deities or metaphysical truths. It emphasizes that human beings may not have the capacity to ascertain definitive answers about the existence of God or the nature of spiritual truths. As such, agnostics may withhold belief in the existence or non-existence of divine beings, asserting that these matters are ultimately unknowable or beyond human comprehension. This position contrasts with definitive claims made in theistic or atheistic perspectives, as agnostics do not categorically affirm or deny the existence of a divine entity but rather maintain an open and questioning approach to these profound inquiries. In this context, the choice accurately reflects core principles of agnosticism, emphasizing the limits of human understanding concerning ultimate truths.

6. 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.

7. Which of the following lists examples of polytheism?

- A. Magi, Scientology, Syncretism
- B. Kali, Vishnu, Lakshmi**
- C. Baal, Torah, Pontifex Maximus
- D. St Catherine, the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Holy Spirit

The correct choice, which lists examples of polytheism, is centered on deities from Hinduism: Kali, Vishnu, and Lakshmi. Polytheism is defined as the belief in or worship of multiple gods or deities. In Hinduism, there are numerous gods and goddesses, each representing different aspects of life, nature, and the universe, which aligns perfectly with the concept of polytheism. Kali is often associated with empowerment and destruction, Vishnu is seen as the preserver and protector of the universe, and Lakshmi is the goddess of wealth and prosperity. The existence of multiple distinct deities, each with their respective roles and attributes, exemplifies the polytheistic nature of Hindu worship. In contrast, other choices either reflect monotheistic beliefs or do not appropriately represent polytheistic systems. For instance, while the Magi and Scientology might be related to different religious practices, they do not demonstrate polytheistic worship. Additionally, mentions of figures like St. Catherine, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the Holy Spirit are more reflective of a monotheistic framework within Christianity, where they are revered in a context different from worshiping multiple gods. Thus, option B stands out for its clear representation

8. What best defines agnosticism?

- A. There is no divine or transcendent reality.
- B. There is some divine or transcendent reality.
- C. It is highly likely there is no divine or transcendent reality.
- D. It is uncertain whether there is a divine or transcendent reality.**

Agnosticism is best defined by the idea of uncertainty regarding the existence of a divine or transcendent reality. This perspective holds that human knowledge is limited, particularly in matters of the divine, and thus one cannot say definitively whether such a reality exists or not. Agnostics may acknowledge the possibility of a divine being or being's absence but ultimately conclude that it is impossible to know for certain. This definition importantly captures the essence of agnosticism, which neither claims outright disbelief nor firm belief in the divine. Other choices hint at beliefs or assertions about the existence or non-existence of a transcendent reality, which aligns more with atheism or theism, rather than the agnostic position of skepticism about knowledge. The essence of agnosticism lies in its commitment to doubt and the acknowledgment of human limitations in understanding metaphysical concepts.

9. In terms of spirituality, what do many people seek beyond traditional religions?

- A. A deeper scientific understanding.
- B. A revival of ancient beliefs.
- C. New forms of spiritual expression.**
- D. A return to fundamentalism.

Many individuals exploring spirituality beyond traditional religions are often looking for new forms of spiritual expression. This pursuit reflects a desire for personalized spiritual experiences that resonate with contemporary life, rather than adhering strictly to established doctrines and practices. In our rapidly evolving world, many feel that traditional religions may not fully address their spiritual needs or questions, prompting them to seek alternatives that allow for greater individuality and innovation in their spiritual journeys. This quest for new forms of expression can manifest in various ways, including a blend of different traditions, practices from various cultures, or even entirely new spiritual concepts that promote personal growth, mindfulness, and a holistic approach to spirituality. Such expressions may incorporate elements like meditation, yoga, nature spirituality, or holistic health, reflecting a broader and more inclusive understanding of spirituality that moves beyond religious boundaries. While some may indeed seek a deeper scientific understanding or look to revive ancient beliefs, these pursuits do not capture the prevalent trend of seeking fresh, innovative forms of spirituality that resonate with their personal experiences. Similarly, a return to fundamentalism represents a desire to strictly adhere to certain beliefs and practices rather than exploring and creating new spiritual expressions. This position, therefore, distinctly highlights why the pursuit of new forms of spiritual expression is a relevant and significant trend in contemporary spirituality.

10. Which of the following religious traditions has the third largest number of adherents worldwide?

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

The third largest religious tradition worldwide is Buddhism. While Christianity and Islam comprise the two largest religions, the number of adherents for Hinduism falls behind that of Buddhism, which has millions of followers across the globe. Hinduism, characterized by a wide variety of beliefs and practices, is primarily concentrated in India and Nepal, which contributes to its significant but lesser global numbers compared to Buddhism. By understanding the distribution and demographics of these religions, it's clear that Buddhism holds the position of the third largest faith, with a strong presence in various countries in Asia and beyond.

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!

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