

AI

SEMINAR 8

Religion

Getting Started – Quiz

Try answering the following questions about religion.

1. Who gave David a sword and armour to fight Goliath?

- a) Peter b) Saul c) Moses d) Herod

2. What is the term for the Muslim Holy Month?

- a) January b) Armageddon c) Baal d) Ramadan

3. Who was the founder of Methodism in the 1720s?

- a) John Wesley b) Martin Luther c) John Calvin d) Samuel

4. Where is the birthplace of Muhammad?

- a) Medina b) Jerusalem c) Macedonia d) Mecca

5. Yoga is a way of reaching a certain level of salvation in:

- a) Shintoism b) Buddhism c) Taoism d) Hinduism

6. Who tested Job?

- a) God b) Adam c) Satan d) Abraham

7. The Koran was revealed to Muhammad by what angel?

- a) Gabriel b) Michael c) Peter d) James

8. What name means ‘the enlightened* one’?

- a) Jesus b) John c) Buddha d) Samaritan

9. What is the term for the Jewish New Year?

- a) Yom Kippur b) Rosh Hashanah c) Leviticus d) Deuteronomy

10. Which story is a Biblical explanation for the differences among languages?

- a) The Tower of Babel b) Noah’s Ark c) Cain’s Murder of Abel d) The Holy Grail

11. Dianetics, a way of knowing what the soul is doing to the body through the mind, is practised in:

- a) Moonies-Unification Church b) Mormonism c) Scientology d) Jehovah’s Witnesses

12. The Age of Aquarius, as the time when there is world government, no wars, no disease, hunger, pollution, or poverty, is connected to:

- a) New Age Spiritualism b) Neopaganism c) Witchcraft d) the Orthodox Church

13. In Taoism, the development of virtue is one’s chief task and the Three Jewels to be sought are:

- a) love, peace, and happiness
b) compassion, moderation, and humility
c) pride, individualism, and charity
d) delight, perfection, and forgiveness

Note-Taking

Note-taking can help you to organise your thoughts, follow the argument of a speaker or writer, and record and remember the details as well as the gist* of presentations.

Good notes...

- 1) are accurate,
- 2) contain essential information,
- 3) show the overall organisation and ideas clearly,
- 4) are concise, i.e., they use abbreviations and other shortening techniques,
- 5) help you listen or read more successfully,
- 6) can be used later (e.g. for exam revision),
- 7) include follow-up points, i.e. your own comments to the ideas.

Abbreviations and Symbols

What are the commonly used abbreviations and symbols for the following terms?

- | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. for example | 7. equal to | 13. page |
| 2. that is | 8. not equal to | 14. pages |
| 3. number | 9. ditto or same as above | 15. Anno Domini |
| 4. therefore | 10. approximately or similar to | 16. Before Christ |
| 5. greater than | 11. in reference to | 17. etcetera |
| 6. less than | 12. and | |

Listening – Note Taking: Major Religions of the World

Religion	Buddhism	Christianity	Confucianism	Hinduism	Islam
1 Time & place of foundation					
2 Founder of the religion					
3 Lived from _____ to _____					
4 Religious texts					
5 Number of followers today and where practised					
6 Other information					

Sources consulted: Mary Waters and Alan Waters, Study Tasks in English, CUP, 1995.

Discussion Questions

1. What similarities are there between different religions?
2. Do you think that different religions are/can be compatible*? If so, how?
3. How important is religion in your country? What different religions do you have?
4. What are some of the advantages that religion can bring to people and the environment?
5. What are the main religions in your country?
6. How important is religion in your culture?
7. Is religion more important or less important than it used to be?
8. Are there any places of pilgrimage in your country? Have you been to any of them? Why?
9. Do you believe that these places possess special powers?
10. Do you know anyone who has been cured by visiting one of these places?

Questions adapted from: MacAndrew, Richard. Instant Discussions. Boston: Heinle, 2003.

Reading

Catholic priests' celibacy

The Brazilian cardinal, Claudio Hummes, has said the Catholic Church might have to think again in the future about the issue of celibacy. His statement comes two weeks after the Vatican again confirmed that it will not allow priests to marry. The BBC's Christian Fraser reports from Rome:

The number of men joining the priesthood has been falling steadily for years. The question many in the church are asking is whether the demand the Vatican makes on its priests, to be chaste and celibate, is forcing young men to ignore the calling.

Cardinal Hummes, who takes over the congregation for the clergy this month – and he must try in his new role to re-energise the seminary – believes there is a debate to be had. Celibacy is a discipline, he said; it's not a dogma of the church. Certainly the majority of the apostles were married and in this modern age the church must observe these things; it has to advance with history.

The seventy-two year old cardinal is viewed by some as a potential successor to Pope Benedict. His comments will be taken seriously. But two weeks ago, senior figures in the Vatican met for three hours to discuss this issue and they reaffirmed the need for solid Christian and human training.

Roughly a hundred and fifty thousand men world-wide have left the priesthood to marry. The church considers them outcasts. But in the Middle Ages, there was no formal ban on marriage for the clergy. In fact many Popes had wives, including the 9th century pope, Hadrian the Second.

Christian Fraser, BBC News, Rome, 04 December, 2006 – Published 14:56 GMT

Discussion Questions

1. Is celibacy required in other religions?
2. Do you know why celibacy was originally imposed in the Catholic Church?
3. Do you think priests should be allowed to marry?
4. Can women become priests in the Catholic Church?
5. What do you think about the Catholic Church's attitudes towards contraception, abortion, homosexuality, euthanasia etc.? Do you think these attitudes will change in the future?
6. Are attitudes towards these issues different in other Christian churches? And what about other religions (Islam, Buddhism, Judaism etc.)?

Zen Stories

Pre-reading Questions

1. What are some typical features of Eastern religions?
2. What do you know about Zen Buddhism?

Readings

1 A priest was in charge of the garden within a famous Zen temple. He had been given the job because he loved the flowers, shrubs, and trees. Next to the temple there was another, smaller temple where there lived a very old Zen master. One day, when the priest was expecting some special guests, he took extra care in tending to the garden. He pulled up the weeds, trimmed the shrubs, and spent a long time raking up and carefully arranging all the dry autumn leaves. As he worked, the old master watched him with interest from across the wall that separated the temples.

When he had finished, the priest stood back to admire his work. "Isn't it beautiful," he called out to the old master. "Yes," replied the old man, "but there is something missing. Help me over this wall and I'll put it right for you."

After hesitating, the priest lifted the old fellow over and set him down. Slowly, the master walked to the tree near the centre of the garden, took it by the trunk, and shook it. Leaves fell down all over the garden. "There," said the old man, "you can put me back now."

2 One of master Gasan's monks visited the university in Tokyo. When he returned, he asked the master if he had ever read the Christian Bible. "No," Gasan replied. "Please read some of it to me." The monk opened the Bible to the Sermon on the Mount of St. Matthew and began reading. After reading Christ's words about the lilies in the field, he paused. Master Gasan was silent for a long time. "Yes," he finally said, "Whoever said these words is an enlightened being. What you have read to me is the essence of everything I have been trying to teach you here!"

(In another version of this story, it is a Christian who reads the Bible passage to Gasan.)

Discussion Questions

1. What is your interpretation of these short stories and their meaning?
2. What title would you give each story?
3. What generalisations can be made about Zen stories?
4. Do you think that stories such as these are still relevant in the modern world?

Grammar – Verbs + Infinitive or Gerund

Some common verbs can be followed either by the infinitive form (to + verb) or the gerund (verb + -ing), but the choice of infinitive or gerund affects the meaning. Choose the most appropriate form in each sentence, answer the questions in pairs, and then discuss the differences in meaning.

- 1 If you were a Muslim, how often would you stop **working / to work**, in order to make time to pray?
- 2 The nun stopped praying **going / to go** back to work.
- 3 What do you remember **doing / to do** on your first visit to a church?
- 4 If you are a man, what should you always remember **doing / to do** when you enter a synagogue?
- 5 Is there anything in the past that you regret **saying / to say** to your priest?
- 6 I regret **saying / to say** that I don't believe in God.
- 7 If you were holding a religious fast, how long would you stop **eating / to eat**?

- 8 He stopped **working/to work** to say a prayer.
- 9 The monks take many hours a day **meditating / to meditate**.
- 10 The monks spend many hours a day **meditating / to meditate**.
- 11 He welcomed the new members of the group and then went on **explaining / to explain** the rules.
- 12 How long do you intend to go on **working / to work** for the mission?
13. I meant **going/to go** to the mass but I couldn't.
14. If you want to go to Holy Communion, it will mean **going/to go** to confession first.
15. Don't forget **saying/to say** a prayer before every meal.
16. I forgot **being told/to be told** about his son's christening.

Vocabulary

1. enlightened	osvícený
2. *gist, main idea	jádro, podstata, hlavní myšlenka
3. compatible	slučitelný
4. sacred	svatý, posvátný
5. emerging alliance, emergence	vznikající spojení, spojení které vzniká, vývoj, vznik
6. *diverse	různorodý
7. *long-term	dlouhodobý
8. *to preserve	uchovat si, zachovat
9. *debt reduction	snížení dluhů
10. *compassion	soucit
11. divine	boží
12. *indigenous	původní, domorodý
13. to be infused with	být naplněn
14. to revere, to have reverence	vážít si, chovat v úctě
15. widespread	rozšířený
16. *restraint	sebeovládání
17. *profound, deep	hluboký, vážný
18. *to restrict	omezit
19. to distort	překroutit

Word bank

1. to believe in God	věřit v boha
2. to go to church	chodit do kostela
3. to go for a mass	chodit na mši
4. to pray	modlit se
5. to be (deeply) religious	být (silně) nábožensky založený
6. to be christened	být pokřtěn
7. to be baptized	být pokřtěn
8. christening	křest
9. Christianity	křesťanství
10. to be a (believing) Christian	být (věřící) křesťan
11. to belong to an organized religion	patřit k organizovanému náboženství
12. to practice one's religion	praktikovat své náboženství
13. to spread religion	šířit náboženství
14. church ceremony	církevní obřad

15. to be an atheist	být ateista
16. to confess	zpovídat se
17. to go to confession	jít ke zpovědi
18. to go to Holy Communion	jít ke svatému přijímání
19. to crucify	ukřižovat
20. to resurrect	vzkřísit
21. resurrection	vzkříšení
22. sin	hřích
23. pilgrim	poutník
24. place of pilgrimage	poutní místo
25. altar	oltář
26. aisle	ulička (v kostele)