

QP CODE:

H2045

Enrollment Number:

Name:

M.A. DEGREE EXAMINATIONS, FEBRUARY 2026

Fourth Semester

M.A. Sociology

M21SO05DE – Sociology of Religion

(2023 July admissions)

Time: 3 Hours

Max Marks: 70

Section A

Answer any ten of the following questions in a word or sentence each. Each question carries 1 mark.

1. What is Atheism?
2. What does a religious symbol stand for?
3. Which is the oldest monotheistic religion in the world?
4. Whose religious teachings are represented by the Dharma Wheel?
5. What is myth?
6. Who founded Sikhism?
7. Who discussed the cultural perspectives of religion?
8. Who wrote the book *Magic, Science and Religion and Other Essays*?
9. Who stated, "If religion gave birth to all that is essential in society, it is because the idea of society is the soul of religion".
10. Who discussed the relationship between religion and capitalism?
11. Who argued that religion is a tool used by a ruling class?
12. Attribution of the significance to totems stemming from the collective social understanding built around the symbols are called-----.
13. Name a reformer associated with Protestant religious movements.
14. ----- was started in 1828 by Raja Ram Mohan Roy.
15. -----is a socio-political ideology that emphasises the identity and interests of specific communities, frequently resulting in exclusion or hostility toward others.

(1X10=10)

Section B

Answer any five of the following questions in two or three sentences each. Each question carries 2 marks.

16. Define Religion.
17. Describe contagious magic.
18. How did James Frazer use the comparative method to study religion?
19. Define sacred.
20. What is charismatic authority?

21. What is collective consciousness?
22. Define binary opposition.
23. Delineate religious movement.
24. Explain the key features of cult.
25. Define Fundamentalism.

(2X5=10)

Section C

Answer any five of the following questions in a paragraph each. Each question carries 4 marks.

26. Discuss the social functions of religion.
27. Explain the relationship between myths and rituals, according to Frazer.
28. Distinguish between magic and religion, according to Malinowski.
29. Explain how religion functions as social cohesion.
30. Explain religion as a social construct, according to Durkheim.
31. Describe Marx's view that religion as the opium of the masses.
32. Briefly discuss the structural analysis of ritual by Levi-Strauss.
33. Explain how communalism poses challenges to social harmony.

(4X5=20)

Section D

Answer any three of the following questions in two pages each. Each question carries 10 marks.

34. Discuss the nature and types of religions.
35. Examine the three stages of human thought as proposed by James Frazer.
36. Explain the Marxian perspectives of religion.
37. Discuss the problems associated with the politicisation of religion.
38. Explain the problems of fundamentalism.
39. Explain the challenges to secularism in contemporary India.

(10X3=30)