

## Chapter Two: The Twin Transformations of “Religion”

### Multiple Choice

1. It was the philosopher Karl Jaspers, writing in 1949, who first drew attention to an extraordinary thing: that in a relatively short span of human history, between about 800 and 200 B.C.E., people living across \_\_\_\_\_ radically changed how they thought about divinity and how they acted toward it.
  - a. Asia
  - b. South Asia
  - c. Africa
  - d. Eurasia

Answer: d (page 11)

2. Socrates (469–399 B.C.E.), who radically challenged established truths in Athens, had two elements in common with Buddha and Lao Tse: the argument that power lay in a transcendent realm (heaven and God) and that truth lay in a/an \_\_\_\_\_ code.
  - a. moral
  - b. ethical
  - c. quixotic
  - d. social

Answer: b (page 12)

3. How we prove a theorem in geometry and how we proceed to know something about the good life are two examples of \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. first-order thinking
  - b. hypothesis testing
  - c. matrix logic (deductive thinking)
  - d. second-order thinking

Answer: d (page 12)

4. Questions about how we do and how we should reason through tough issues are the bases for \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. first-order thinking
  - b. hypothesis testing
  - c. philosophy
  - d. psychology

Answer: c (page 12)

5. Movement and \_\_\_\_\_ lead people to seek “common denominators.”
- a. exchange
  - b. thought
  - c. slavery
  - d. economic sanctions

Answer: a (page 12)

- 6 The Law of Moses as contained in the first five books of the Bible, is known as the \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. 5 books
  - b. Torah
  - c. Pentateuch
  - d. cinq livres

Answer: c (page 13)

7. This religion had shifted from the group’s sacrifice of animals, to each individual’s avoidance of certain tabooed animals. From destroying life in atonement for sin, religious life was refocused on living according to the Law.
- a. Christianity
  - b. Judaism
  - c. Buddhism
  - d. Hinduism

Answer: b (page 14)

8. The word *religion* comes from the Latin word *religio*, whose early meaning appears to have been, “\_\_\_\_\_” or a “feeling relative to such a power.”
- a. a power outside the individual
  - b. a power inside the individual
  - c. a force for good originating in the individual
  - d. a force for good originating outside of the individual

Answer: a (page 14)

9. The phrase “the Christian religion” was often used to mean the \_\_\_\_\_, the central ritual performed by people considering themselves Christians.
- a. Eucharist

- b. Trinity
- c. Confession
- d. Appraisal

Answer: a (page 14)

10. The Reformation continued the idea that there would be only one kind of *religio*, but it would be exist in different degrees in different people; both Martin Luther and John Calvin stressed the importance of individual piety and faith over and against any external religious system, by which they meant the \_\_\_\_\_ Church.

- a. Episcopal
- b. Islamic
- c. Lutheran
- d. Catholic

Answer: d (page 15)

11. The idea of religion as a system of beliefs, as opposed to personal piety, did not take hold until the \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. sixteenth century
- b. fifteenth century
- c. seventeenth century
- d. eighteenth century

Answer: c (page 15)

12. As Europeans began to study other religions, they tended to use the religions most familiar to them, namely Judaism and Christianity, as a general model. They assumed all religions would have three central elements: \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. a central *dogma* , *exclusivity*, and *separation*
- b. a central *text* , *exclusivity*, and *dogmatic belifes*
- c. a central *text* , *exclusivity*, and *separation*
- d. a central *text* , *dogmatic belifes*, and *separation*

Answer: c (page 15)

13. \_\_\_\_\_, writing in the late seventeenth century, advocated the separation of state and religion as a way of ensuring toleration and religious freedom.

- a. John Locke
- b. Benjamin Franklin
- c. Thomas Jefferson
- d. Samuel Adams

Answer: a (page 15)

14. The nineteenth-century European notions of what counted as a religion have powerfully shaped how other religions and other countries have viewed religion. With few exceptions, the creation of terms for *religion* and for particular religions, has been the result of Western Christian influence transmitted through \_\_\_\_\_ domination.

- a. imperial
- b. colonial
- c. mercantile
- d. exchange-system (trade)

Answer: b (page 16)

15. People who followed Buddhism, Confucianism, or Taoism, did not follow a \_\_\_\_\_, but rather a \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. religion; collection of teachings
- b. collection of teachings; religion
- c. truth; religion
- d. collection of teachings; truth

Answer: a (page 16-17)

16. The names for religions were often provided by outsiders—for example the term *Judaism* is \_\_\_\_\_, not Hebrew.

- a. Roman
- b. Italian
- c. English (from the Crusades)
- d. Greek

Answer: d (page 17)

17. The ideas of soul, spirit, and dreams that Tylor described as basic or primitive do indeed \_\_\_\_\_ many religious systems.

- a. transform
- b. reanimate
- c. animate
- d. reflect on

Answer: c (page 19)

18. Boas's complex approach to myths probably was best continued by the French anthropologist \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. Claude Lévi-Strauss
- b. Edward Tylor
- c. Bronislaw Malinowski
- d. John Locke

Answer: a (page 20)

19. Max Weber argued that the doctrine of "unknowable election," taught by the theologian \_\_\_\_\_, was so unsettling that people worked hard to succeed in this world, grasping at the idea that the material signs of their success also were signs of God's favor.

- a. Martin Luther
- b. Pope Pius IX
- c. John Paul
- d. John Calvin

Answer: d (page 21)

20. In his *Natural History of Religion* (1757), Hume argued that religion first came from "the incessant hopes and fears which actuate the human mind." Religion thus offers one way of overcoming \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. behavior
- b. bad behavior
- c. anxiety
- d. hubris

Answer: c (page 22)

21. The sociologist Émile Durkheim (1858–1917), saw the birth of religion in the ideas and \_\_\_\_\_ generated out of collective social action.

- a. behaviors
- b. bad behaviors
- c. anxieties
- d. emotions

Answer: d (page 24)

22. Friedrich Engels showed that the power of religion was to \_\_\_\_\_ as well as to confirm the existing social order.

- a. buttress

- b. subvert
- c. shore up
- d. reduce

Answer: b (page 27)

23. In Weber's study of India, he argued that the caste system and the doctrine of \_\_\_\_\_, the idea that one's actions in this or a previous life determined the course of one's life, inhibited the development of a rational economic ethic because it led religious energies away from this world and directed them toward the "other world."

- a. *dharma*
- b. *debt*
- c. *karma*
- d. *position*

Answer: c (page 28)

24. \_\_\_\_\_ occupies an important place in late twentieth-century anthropology for his efforts to bring together Weber's emphasis on cultural orientations, often born of religious ideas, with a semiotic emphasis on the symbolic mediation of ideas and social forces.

- a. Bronislaw Malinowski
- b. Nihls Bohr
- c. Franz Boas
- d. Clifford Geertz

Answer: d (page 30)

25. Augustine of Hippo emphasized the necessity of discipline, administered through law, family, and schools, to induce the proper capacity to understand and absorb Christian teachings. Symbols did not induce faith; \_\_\_\_\_ did.

- a. discipline
- b. understanding
- c. obedience
- d. reflection

Answer: a (page 31)

### **Essay Questions**

1. Relate Talal Asad's attack on the Western understanding of religion in relationship to transhistorical definitions of religion.

2. Describe Karl Jaspers' (1949) idea of the "axial" age. Which philosophical systems are included in this?
3. Explain how it is that there is not a single formulation of the Hindu Religion.
4. In Tylor's book *Primitive Culture* (1871), he stated that primitive people acted as proto-scientists when they created religion. What did he mean by this?
5. Max Weber wrote that one can only come to understand social action by first discovering the meaning of the action for the individual and second, by explaining it in terms of the social conditions and actions that preceded it. Explain this set of conclusions in your own words.