

Test your knowledge and understanding: Religion and beliefs

Questions based on chapter 4 of *Sociology: Themes and Perspectives Student Handbook*

- 1** Which one of the following statements would a functionalist be most likely to agree with?
 - a** Religion often causes social change
 - b** Religion often causes conflict in society
 - c** Religion reinforces shared values
 - d** Religion is an ideological tool
- 2** Parsons would probably agree with three of the following statements. Which is the odd one out?
 - a** Religion helps people to make sense of their experiences
 - b** Religion helps deal with the problems that disrupt social life
 - c** Religion has some dysfunctional aspects
 - d** Religion provides guidelines for human action
- 3** Marx would probably agree with three of the following statements. Which is the odd one out?
 - a** Religion acts as a mechanism of social control
 - b** Religion is the 'opium of the people'
 - c** Religion is functional for society
 - d** Religion creates false class consciousness
- 4** Which one of the following sociologists is most likely to believe that religion can play a role in changing societies?
 - a** Weber
 - b** Marx
 - c** Parsons
 - d** Durkheim
- 5** Many sociologists believe that religion is a conservative force in society. Which one of the following statements reflects this view?
 - a** Religion is unlikely to be a key factor in causing social change
 - b** Most religious believers are right-wing
 - c** Religion is very powerful
 - d** Religious fundamentalism is becoming increasingly popular
- 6** Which one of the following definitions best describes Weber's concept of the 'spirit of capitalism'?
 - a** A set of values which encourage the accumulation of wealth
 - b** A set of values which encourage a simple life and the avoidance of alcohol and other pleasures
 - c** The view that capitalism is the best economic system
 - d** A set of values based on Protestant beliefs
- 7** Which of the following is not an example of religion being linked to conflict?
 - a** Palestine and Israel
 - b** Iraq
 - c** Aboriginal religion in Durkheim's study
 - d** Northern Ireland
- 8** Which of the following best describes a neo-Marxist view of religion?
 - a** Religion is usually conservative but can become a radical
 - b** Religion is usually radical but can become conservative
 - c** Religion is always conservative
 - d** Religion is always radical
- 9** According to Jean Holm, which of the following religions has the most equal relationships between men and women?
 - a** Roman Catholicism
 - b** Islam
 - c** Quakerism
 - d** Hinduism
- 10** Karen Armstrong believes that the oppression of women in religion was partly due to the development of:
 - a** Churches
 - b** Collective worship
 - c** Monotheism
 - d** Prayer
- 11** Three of these characteristics are associated with churches. Which is the odd one out?
 - a** They are not usually linked to the state
 - b** Members are drawn from all sections of society
 - c** They accept and affirm life in this world
 - d** Believers do not have to demonstrate their faith to become a member
- 12** Three of these characteristics are associated with sects. Which is the odd one out?
 - a** They tend to reject the values of society
 - b** Central authority often rests with a charismatic leader
 - c** They are formal organizations with a hierarchy of paid officials
 - d** Members are often expected to withdraw from conventional life
- 13** Three of the following would probably be considered examples of 'New Age' beliefs or actions. Which is the odd one out?
 - a** Feng shui
 - b** Being a member of the Jehovah's Witnesses
 - c** Having your tarot cards read
 - d** Meditating
- 14** What is the name given to the process whereby the church withdraws from wider society?
 - a** Structural differentiation
 - b** Social differentiation
 - c** Societalization
 - d** Disengagement

15 According to Wallis, three of the following are characteristics of world-affirming new religious movements. Which is the odd one out?

- a They claim to provide access to spiritual or supernatural powers
- b They are usually offshoots of a major church or denomination
- c They offer followers the potential to be successful
- d They tolerate the existence of other religions

16 According to Wallis's typology of religious organisations, which of the following is a definition of a denomination?

- a A respectable organization which sees itself as uniquely legitimate
- b A deviant organization which sees itself as uniquely legitimate
- c A respectable organization which is pluralistically legitimate
- d A deviant organization which is pluralistically legitimate

17 One of the following statements about religious participation is false. Can you identify it?

- a Church attendance is declining in Britain
- b Church attendance is lower in the USA than Britain
- c Non-Christian religions in Britain have gained members
- d Christian churches in Britain have lost members

18 What term is used to describe a society containing a wide variety of religious groups?

- a Cultural diversity
- b Religious pluralism
- c Ethnic diversity
- d Privatization of religion

19 Bruce argues that when two communities are in conflict their religious identity can become a way of asserting their ethnic pride. What term does he use to refer to this?

- a Cultural transition
- b Cultural defence
- c Cultural diversity
- d Cultural pluralism

20 Which of the following statements is a definition of desacrilization?

- a Supernatural forces are no longer seen as controlling the world
- b There is a decline in sacred objects and symbols
- c Secularization is occurring
- d Conventional religions are losing support

21 Miller & Hoffman believe women are more religious than men because:

- a Men take more risks than women
- b Women are closer to nature than men
- c Religion is patriarchal
- d Secularization is taking place.

22 The people in Britain most likely to attend a service or prayer meeting are:

- a Hindus
- b Catholics
- c Muslims
- d Sikhs

23 Which of the following, according to Chryssides, is not a path that can be followed by ethnic minority religions?

- a Apostasy
- b Renewed vigour
- c Cultural transition
- d Accommodation

24 Which of the following writers argues that conflict between civilizations is inevitable?

- a Karen Armstrong
- b Steve Bruce
- c Samuel Huntington
- d Casanova

25 Bauman believes that, in postmodernity, morality:

- a Disappears
- b Becomes stricter
- c Is based upon tradition
- d Is privatized

26. David Lyon believes that, in postmodern societies, religion is:

- a A social institution
- b A cultural resource
- c In serious decline
- d The dominant belief system

27 Voass & Crocket believe that the apparent lack of religiosity amongst younger age groups is due to:

- a A cohort effect
- b Unreliable statistics
- c Secularisation
- d Age – people get more religious as they get older

28 According to Paul Heelas, which of the following characteristics of the New Age shows that it is characteristic of modernity rather than postmodernity?

- a It involves detraditionalization
- b It is linked to consumer culture
- c It is based upon metanarratives
- d It involves dedifferentiation

29 Which of the following claims that humans possess dual consciousness?

- a Marx
- b Gramsci
- c Kate Millett
- d Raymond Williams

30 Edward Said believes Orientalism is created through:

- a Patriarchal ideology
- b Discourse
- c Ruling class power
- d Metanarratives

Answers

- | | | | |
|----|---|----|---|
| 1 | c | 16 | c |
| 2 | c | 17 | b |
| 3 | c | 18 | b |
| 4 | a | 19 | b |
| 5 | a | 20 | b |
| 6 | a | 21 | a |
| 7 | c | 22 | c |
| 8 | a | 23 | c |
| 9 | c | 24 | c |
| 10 | c | 25 | d |
| 11 | a | 26 | b |
| 12 | c | 27 | c |
| 13 | b | 28 | c |
| 14 | d | 29 | b |
| 15 | b | 30 | b |