M. A. Comparative Religion Examination, 2025
Semester – II

Paper: Philosophy of Religion (Advanced)

Time: 3 Hours | MACOMRCP 202 | Full Marks: 60

Questions are of equal value or as indicated in the margin

Answer any 4 questions

1. What does Kierkegaard understand by "existence"? Illustrate how he universalizes his own experiences and struggles. 5+10
2. Explain why Kierkegaard characterizes objective truth as "thought without a thinker" and subjective truth as "thought with a relation to a thinker". 15
3. Evaluate the ontotheological and secularization theses of Nietzsche's famous proclamation, "God is dead," and discuss which one is better, and why. 8+7
4. Give an account of Nietzsche's critique of morality based on the three essays in his late work, *On the Genealogy of Morality*. 8+7
5. Write a short essay on Rudolf Otto's experiential approach and his antireductionism. 15

   Or,

   Write a short essay on the three key methodological principles underlying Eliade's Phenomenology of Religion. 15
6. Explain what the term 'phenomenology of religion' means and what this discipline and approach describe. 15

M.A. Examination, 2025
Semester II
Comparative Religion
Course: MACOMRCP203
Religion in the Contemporary World

Time: 3 Hours **Full Marks: 60**

Questions are of value as indicated in the margin

Answer **any four** questions.

1. Write a short essay on the Chronological development of the notion of Indian Secularism. Did the 'Hindutva Judgement' of 1996 have any impact upon the development? Explain. 10+5=15

2. Do you agree with the view that Gandhi secularised religion and sacrilised politics? Is it appropriate to call him the father of Indian Secularism? Justify your answer. 5+10=15

3. Why does T.N. Madan think that Secularism shouldn't have been adopted as an ideal in the Indian Constitution? In your opinion, which one is the strongest of the arguments he has put forth in this regard? Explain. 10+5=15

4. Briefly describe the Mohd. Ahmed Khan vs Shah Bano Begum case of 1985. What impact did the case have upon governance in India? Elucidate. 10+5=15

5. Is it possible to distinguish between Secularism and Secularization? Do you think that adoption of Secularism is necessary to initiate Secularisation? Justify your answer. 7.5+7.5=15

6. How does Ashish Nandy argue against the adoption of Secularism as a constitutional value? How does Achin Vanaik and Akeel Bilgrami oppose his position? Explain and Examine. 10+5=15

M.A. Examination, 2025

Semester – II

Comparative Religion

Course: MACOMRCP201

Ritual Studies

Time: 3 hours **Full Marks: 60**

Answer any four questions

Each question is of value as indicated in the margin

1. Describe the religious, sociological, cultural and independent theories of ritual that have emerged since the nineteenth century and give an example of at least one theory from each group. 15

2. Do you agree with Catherine Bell that a thought-action dichotomy is central to all types of ritual theories? Substantiate your answer with suitable examples. 15

3. What do you understand by 'meaning' of a ritual? How can two different types of meaning emerge for the participant/ actor and the observer/theorist from a given ritual setting? Answer after Clifford Geertz. 15

4. How does Geertz show the difference between society and culture through the example of a failed ritual? How does Catherine Bell show the fallacy embedded within Geertz's argument? Discuss. 15

5. Describe the performance theory of ritual. How does the performance theory change the status of the participant and the observer of a ritual in comparison to previous ritual theories? Discuss. 15

6. Write short notes on ***any two*** of the following: 7.5+7.5

   a) Ritual as social drama. (Victor Turner)
   b) Ritual as a cultural performance. (Peter Singer)
   c) Ritual as a window of culture. (Clifford Geertz)
   d) Ritual as a mode of social action. (Stanley Tambiah)

M. A. Final Examination – 2025

Semester - II

Comparative Religion

MACOMRCP 204 – Methodology, Textual Study & Dissertation

Duration: 2 Hrs. **Max. Marks: 20**

Questions are of value as indicated in the margin

Answer <u>Any FOUR</u> of the following questions:

1. What is research? Explain briefly the importance of research. **2 + 3**

2. Enumerate the major types of research and describe briefly any one of them. **2 + 3**

3. Explain briefly the review of literature. **5**

4. Distinguish between qualitative and quantitative methods of research. **2.5 + 2.5**

5. Illustrate a sole authored book Bibliography in both APA and Chicago styles. **2.5 + 2.5**

6. Write a short note on <u>ANY TWO</u> of the followings; **2.5 + 2.5**

   i. Planning Research
   ii. Note-taking
   iii. Footnote
   iv. Endnote
