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UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC

School of Social and Economic Development

DEGREE EXAMINATIONS

SEMESTER 2, 1970

SUBJECT: SE223: Systems of religion, value and belief

DATE: Thursday, 26 November, 1970.

TIME 9 a.m.

MATERIALS REQUIRED: Paper and pens

NUMBER OF QUESTIONS: There are 3 PARTS to this paper.

PART A is compulsory and counts for 15 marks

PART B contains six questions of which you must answer ANY FOUR (5 marks each = 20)

PART C contains 10 compulsory short-answer questions. Write the answers on the question paper and hand it back in (1½ marks each = 15)

TOTAL MARKS FOR THIS EXAM = 50

(The other 50 marks are for work during the semester).

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PART A (Pre-set question)

During the semester, the class has visited, or listened to representatives of various groups - Hindu, Moslem, Humanist, Christian, Bahai, Sikh and Fijian traditional religion.

- (a) What major similarities do you see between them?
- (b) What are the major differences between them?
- (c) What future trends you expect in their role in society and politics? Focus your answers to all questions on the situation in Fiji in the 1970's.

About equal value will be given in marking to each of three questions above.

PART B

1. Outline and comment on Geertz' analysis of religion as a cultural system.
2. What physiological processes can cause death which appears to have been brought about supernaturally?
3. What part did symbolism play in Fiji's independence celebrations?
4. Under what circumstances would cargo cults be most unlikely to develop?
5. You are a prophet. Devise a new religious system (ignoring all reference to any existing religion) for the Pacific (or the world) for the conditions of today and tomorrow. Explain what major features you would incorporate, and why.
6. Weber and others have commented on the relationship of religion to economic activity. How does this apply in Fiji?





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6. Why is witchcraft an effective explanatory device in some societies and not in others?

7. What major reasons would you ascribe for the success of supernatural medical treatment?

8. What would be the likely effect of the acceptance of modern astronomical knowledge on Maya ritual to avoid the end of the world?

9. In societies where totemism does not exist, in what way are similar purposes served?

10. List the main steps in Tylor's theory of the evolution of religion. Do you find it totally adequate as an explanation?

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PRESET QUESTION FOR THE FINAL EXAM

During the semester, the class has visited, or listened to representatives of various groups - Hindu, Moslem, Humanist, Christian, Bahai and Fijian traditional religion.

- (a) What major similarities do you see between them ?
- (b) What are the major differences between them ?
- (c) What future trends you expect in their role in society and politics ? Focus your answers to all questions on the situation in Fiji in the 1970's. About equal value will be given in marking to each of three questions above.

This pre-set question will count for 15 marks out of the total of 50 for the final exam (i.e. devote about 1-hour of your 3-hour exam time to it).

The other 35 marks in the exam will be divided between short answer questions (15 marks) and 4 essay-type questions which will count for 5 marks each (20 marks). There will be six essay-type questions from which you will choose four. There will be no choice on the short-answer questions.

Ron Crocombe

RC/19/10/70

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SE 223 Systems of religion, value and belief

Half-hour test - 19 October 1970.

ANSWER ANY FOUR QUESTIONS.

ALL ARE OF EQUAL VALUE.

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1. Research has shown that water is no more likely to be found by using water divining (or water witching) than without it. What reasons would you give for the fact that so many people continue to use it ?
2. Compare and contrast the functions of Christianity, Islam and Hinduism in society in Fiji today.
3. What principles are involved in the "cure" of "magical fright" or similar "supernatural" ailments?
4. "Funerals are for the living, not the dead." Comment on the social consequences for the living members of a society, of the death of one of its members.
5. What are the major differences between a shaman and a priest ?
6. Comment, giving examples, on the relationship between religion and the physical and cultural environment in which it is found.
7. What positive, and what negative, functions may be attributed to religion in relation to politics in Fiji today ?

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Course SE 223: Systems of religion, value and belief

EXAM 14 September, 1970 at 5 to 6 p.m.

Answer any four questions. All are of equal value

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1. How is the origin of religion explained according to the theory of animism?
2. Describe the origin and function of sacrifice according to Robertson Smith (or according to any other particular writer).
3. Summarise the main function of religion according to either Talcott Parsons or Lowie (state which).
4. Discuss the relationship between myth and ritual.
5. Describe Durkheim's views on the function of religion and comment on the extent to which they do, or do not, apply to religion in Fiji today.
6. Distinguish between Malinowski's and Radcliffe-Brown's theories of magic and religion, and show how these different views have been reconciled.
7. Outline the essential features of religious symbolism.

RGC/ 2nd September, 1970.

1. What physical factors, in Howell's view, predispose man to religious behavior?

2. Define mana.

3. What are the principles of Frazer's Law of Sympathy in magic?

4. Name four different techniques of divination.

5. In what ways does Howell's see witchcraft as a safety valve for small societies?

6. How would you distinguish between a shaman and a priest?

7. Define totemism

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8. How does magic differ from worship as a means to achieve supernatural ends?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. What does Howell's consider to be the main function of ritual?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
10. Hoagland considers religion to have had "survival value" for mankind. In what ways does religion appear to have contributed to human survival?