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Anthropology 124
First Exam
8 March 1965

Comparative Religion

Dr. Crocombe

NAME

(last)

(first)

1. Place letters representing categories in left hand column in front of the appropriate theory or theories in right hand list. 20 correct answers. 20 points.

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------|--------------------------|
| A. social aspects not stressed | _____ | animistic theory |
| B. sacrifice discussed | _____ | Robertson Smith's theory |
| C. totemism discussed | _____ | naturistic theory |
| D. society is "sacred" | _____ | Pettazzoni's article |
| E. posited original plurality of gods | _____ | Durkheim's theory |
| F. emotions stressed | _____ | Freud's theory |
| G. "mana" discussed | _____ | Marret's theory |

2. List 3 aspects of man's nature which make him religion-prone, as presented by Howells in his chapter The Nature of Religion. 6 pts.

1.

2.

3.

3. Explain or briefly outline Homans' synthesis of the theories of Malinowski and Radcliffe-Brown. Keep answer to space provided. 20 pts.

Questions 4 and 5: Nine correct answers. 18 points

4. The class discussion of ritual activity on the Pacific Island of Atiu specifically illustrated which of the following propositions? Place an X before the correct answers.

- ☐ Origin myths serve to establish a framework for society's view of nature
- ☐ Unpredictable events are often thought to have supernatural origins.
- ☐ Ritual activity is oriented in terms of perceived problems.
- ☐ Religion is largely a personal matter.
- ☐ Disasters often reinforce religious belief systems.
- ☐ Local variations in religion should be considered in their context.
- ☐ Religion and ethics are always closely associated.
- ☐ Religious practices usually are antecedent to beliefs sanctifying the practices.
- ☐ Sanctions are generally heaviest where breaches in the social code can most seriously disrupt social organization.
- ☐ Within a society the nature of religious activity depends on the group concerned.

5. The myths of a society:

- ☐ usually explain reality in a non-technical manner
- ☐ always lay down the basic ethical rules of the society.
- ☐ serve to distinguish the society from others.
- ☐ sometimes satisfy vicarious desires disruptive to social organization if translated into action.
- ☐ invariably establish an unchanging framework by which social behavior may be evaluated.
- ☐ often highlight tension-loaded relations.
- ☐ usually provide brief accounts of the essential facts concerning historical events crucial to a society.
- ☐ often validate the hierarchy of social relations.

6. Which of the following is NOT minimally necessary for a religious system, according to Parsons? 3 points.

- ☐ A set of prescribed activities interpreted as obligatory.
- ☐ A set of beliefs concerning entities which are "supernatural"
- ☐ A set of souls, spirits or otherwise etherial beings.
- ☐ A sense that "we" who share common beliefs are a group bound together in a "moral community".

7. List 3 possessions which enabled the blind man to drive off the wolves in the movie, "The Loon's Necklace." 3 points.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

8. Summarize Clyde Kluckhohn's article, Myth and Rituals: A General Theory. Restrain answer to space provided on this page. 30 points.