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UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC  
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
SEMESTER II 1972

COURSE NO.: SE 322  
TITLE: Systems of Religion Value and Belief  
DATE: Friday, 17 November 1972  
TIME: 9 a.m.  
TIME ALLOWED: 3 hours  
TOTAL NUMBER OF QUESTIONS: 14  
NO. OF QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED: 8 (3 big + 5 small)  
MARK VALUES: Part I - 10      Part III - 15  
Part II - 15      Part IV - 10  
INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES: There are four parts and all four parts should be attempted. The value of each part is explained later. The examination counts for 50 points towards the semester grade.

PART I Compulsory question (10 marks)

1. Explain as far as you can the reasons for the similarities and differences of function between any two specific systems of belief with which you are familiar.

PART II Hinduism and Christianity (Answer ANY ONE) (15 marks)

2. Discuss the likely religious and moral effect of Hindu mythology concerning samsara and karma.
3. Discuss any similarities and/or contrasts you see between the basic concepts and imagery of Hinduism, and that of Christianity.
4. Discuss the Hindu idea of four different aims in life. In what ways are the first three aims tied into the final Hindu religious goal?

PART III Belief, Personality and Society. (Answer ANY ONE) (15 marks)

5. Cargo cults and development plans are both attempts to overcome problems of perceived shortage of goods, skills, power and dignity. In practice, what differences and similarities do you see between the origins, techniques and results of the two approaches.
6. Discuss the physiological processes involved in death and illness attributed to supernatural causes. As a corollary, comment on the relationship between systems of belief and physical states of believers.
7. Describe the role of symbolism in Fiji's independence celebrations.

PART IV Short answers (Answer ANY FIVE in summary form in not more than ten lines each)  
(10 marks - i.e. 2 marks each)

8. What major changes in systems of belief would you expect in Fiji by the year 2,000?
9. What are the main differences between Hindu monistic and Hindu theistic belief?



10. Scientists have been described as the priests of industrial societies. What features do the two roles have in common?
  11. What is the cause, the nature and the function of secondary ritual?
  12. What physical factors, in Howell's view, dispose man to religious behaviour?
  13. Summarise your views of either the positive, or the negative functions of religion in relation to the economy of say one country today.
  14. How does Homans reconcile the apparently divergent views of Malinowski and Radcliffe-Brown as to the relationship between ritual and anxiety?
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