

CST 308, Spring 2025
Final take home
Due date: May 23rd 2015.

Answer any three of the following four: 13X3=39 marks

1 extra mark (bonus) for proper reference and citation 😊

1. In the article Pluralism, Democracy and the Ulama, Muhammad Qasim Zaman discusses the world of ulama and how they have reasoned to live in modernity, bringing the Islamic tradition to build from pre modern times to speak to modern times. While this involves a range of strategies with positive and not so positive examples, Zaman zooms in on Pakistan to shed light on the “career and contradictions” (71) of Islam there. Discuss how the state handled the Islam question, notably through madrasa reform (4) What was the response from the ulema in the madrasas? (2) Through what kinds of activities do they come to occupy a place in public religion? (2). Discuss the suggestions Zaman makes for the reform of madrasas. (5).
2. What does Robert Hefner argue about the development of religious freedom in the West? List at least three points. (6). From page 130, quote a sentence or two that explains the principle and conditions that led to Europe striking a balance in religious freedom, even when it is contested. (4). What does he say about how lessons from the West can be translatable to the contexts of the “global south”, and do you agree? (3)
3. In Anna Bigelow’s article you have read about Malerkotla and inter faith harmony in this town in Punjab. What are some of the reasons the inhabitants give to argue for the harmony that exists there? (5). Discuss the rituals in pilgrimage and possession to shed light on their role in bringing a diverse lot of people together in ways that tensions are balanced out. (8).
4. In his article, Alebra argues against the critique that interfaith practice is mixing what can’t be mixed by highlighting many sites of shared worship in Europe. He argues that one must focus on continuities, holy persons, shrines and actors (people who are associated with shrines) to go beyond the logic of religious nationalism whose muscular nature tends to ignore community life. Please take out two examples from the article that you enjoyed reading the most, and tell me what these examples tell you about challenges and possibilities of interfaith harmony. (6). Do you think we should have sites of shared worship in Bangladesh, why or why not? Discuss with an illustration of any case or any attitude and conversation that you can think of to highlight the potential and challenges of having such sites (5). What kinds of values should we have in Bangladeshi state and society to have public religion behaving in ways that you consider proper (2)

