



# **SOCIOLOGY OF RELIGION**



BIGARD MEMORIAL SEMINARY, ENUGU  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY  
2023/2024 FIRST SEMESTER MID-TERM QUIZ  
AFFILIATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN  
BSOC 301: SOCIOLOGY OF RELIGION

INSTRUCTIONS: Answer all questions Time allowed: 20 Minutes 01-12-23

Sociology of Religion is sociological investigation into Religion

Sociology is the science of man in the Society

List the competences of religion, according to Nadel (a) Cosmological Aspects

- 1) Capacity to announce and maintain moral values that is the competence to maintain the moral values.
  - 2) Competence to furnish individuals with specific experience and stimulation
  - 3) Competence to hold together societies and maintain its structures
- Cult has been defined as: the body of religious rites and practices associated with the worship of a particular divinity or group of a supernatural being

The principal components of cult are: (a) Ritual (b) Prayer (c) Sacrifice

Sociology of religion belongs to which type of science Social Science

Mention only six types of sacrifice you know: (a) Meat and Drink Sacrifice

- 1) Propitiatory Sacrifice (c) Votive Sacrifice
- 2) Expiatory Sacrifice (e) Thanks and Gift Sacrifice

Sociology of religion must have to consider the two basic relationship in man's life (a) Religious and

- 1) Horizontal Relationship

The most poignant expression of capacities of religion under the cosmological aspects is at The Death of a close kin or friend

2. In the words of Goldthorpe (1985, p. 202), the capacities of religion are What religion can do, its consequences, its desires, effects, and purposes it can fulfill

1. List five points why religion is considered as a part of man's culture (a) Religion is the common property of people in the society

- 1) Religion is learned by the people in the society
- 2) Every society has blueprints in which she expects the people to follow
- 3) Religion is transmitted socially not biologically

2. The three basic elements of religion are (a) Belief (b) Cult

- 3) Moral Law

3. Which type of sacrifice is never shared, and is given wholly to the aggrieved divinity? Expiatory Sacrifice

4. The term "sociology" was coined by who August Comte

5. Which type of sacrifice is the worshipper in asking for favour is expected to make a vow to offer something in return for the blessing if received Votive Sacrifice

6. Emile Durkheim's fourth and profoundly important work is called Elementary forms of religious life

7. Emile Durkheim's concept of anomie is discussed in his work called On Suicide and was published in 1897

8. The statement "Religion is not essentially an individualistic enterprise" was made by Miller

9. Durkheim refers to the sense of unity derived from social integration as the Collective Conscience

10. The seven elements that form the structure of liturgy are: (a) Sacrifice

- 1) Offering (c) Prayer (d) Invocation
- 2) Songs (f) Postures (g) Libation

1. Mention 5 types of Social institutions (a) Family (b) Politics (c) Education

- 1) Economy (e) Religion

2. How many groups do we have in this course (Sociology of Religion) 7 and indicate your group 3

11E) Religion changes constantly





**UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN**  
**DIRECTORATE OF AFFILIATED INSTITUTIONS**  
**BIGARD MEMORIAL SEMINARY, ENUGU**

BMS/IB/3019

Candidate's Number (write very clearly)

800

Level of Study

ARTS

Faculty/College

PHILOSOPHY

Department/Course

SOCIOLOGY OF RELIGION

Title of Paper

02 - 02 - 2024

Date

Examination (insert official title) of the Examination for which you have entered, as it appears at the head of the question paper

**DIRECTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

- Write on both sides of the pages (except in Mathematics)
- Begin each answer on a fresh page
- Write the number of each question at the top of each page
- All rough work must be crossed through, and enclosed within this cover
- If supplementary books are used, they must be fastened at together at the end of this book and inside the cover. Answers must not be written on the supplementary books unless all the leaves in this book have already been used.
- In your own interest you should enter in the space provided below, the numbers of the questions which you have attempted (with sub-sections where necessary).
- In no circumstances must answer books used or unused, be removed from the Examination Room by a Candidate.
- Candidates are warned that importance is attached by the examination to accuracy and clearness of expression.
- Please note that there is severe penalty for cheating at any examination

**NUMBERS OF THE ANSWERS**

in the order in which they have been written.

2, 4, 5

All students of the University of Ibadan are expected to show academic integrity at all times. Understanding this, I solemnly declare that I shall not be involved in any malpractice including soliciting, giving, receiving or using unauthorized aid in this examination.

Signature of student

For Examiner's Use Only

Question No.	Mark
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2

14

4

18

5

11

CA 37

Total...

756



## NUMBER TWO.

### SOCIOLOGY OF RELIGION AS A SCIENCE.

The first question to be addressed here is whether sociology of religion is a science and if it is a science we will find out the type of science it is.

In addressing the scientific nature of sociology of religion, we are compelled to affirm that sociology of religion is a science. The reason being that since sociology have been defined as the science of the society, sociology of religion which is one of the major branches of <sup>sociology</sup> ~~religion~~ that concerns itself with the sociological investigation of ~~science~~ as religion must be a science.

Sociology of religion is a science of human behaviour in his religious life in the society. It is the science that investigates the social and religious aspects of man as presented in the society.

Every discipline focuses on a particular area of study in order to examine the various phenomenon that exists there in. Hence sociology of religion focuses on the human society in order to find out the functions that religion performs in the society and in doing this looks into the relationship between religion and the society and the importance of religion in the society.

The rationale behind this enquiry is that religion has both spiritual and social dimension but it is



an out group.

Those who are out by virtue of birth are considered to remain so till death. They are those who experience what sociologists refer to as 'social closure'. This is a term introduced in sociology by Max Weber to explain the process of preserving privileges by preventing other peoples access to rewards and resources.

Social Closure is defined as the process by which a group or some groups implicitly or explicitly draw categorical boundaries around themselves and around others in order to monopolize resources. Here, the dominant group seeks to safeguard its position and privileges by monopolizing opportunities for only their group members while denying access to outsiders. Instances of this social closure is seen clearly in the racist <sup>behaviors</sup> that whites have against blacks and how they prevented the blacks from having access to vastous resources and opportunities. Martin Luther King Jr played a major role in the fight against this racist movements.

Social Closure is the base of this socio religious phenomenon known as the out caste system. Hence sociologists of religion on the study of religious phenomenon should find out possible ways in which these people who are considered out would be accepted in the society in such a way that they no longer feel unwanted and unwanted as social outcasts (This is also because they only relate



to those of their own kind).

The Scientific nature of sociology of religion is also observed in the social phenomenon that baffles a stranger. In some societies certain materials and objects are considered sacred whereas in some other societies this is not so.

Certain animals are regarded as sacred in some societies and people have high regard for them. However, in other societies they do not believe in the same regard given to such animals. Example is seen in the regard given to snakes around Idemili side of Anambra state, whereas snakes are hunted and killed these people regarded them as sacred even equate them with man such that they are buried the way a man is buried. Sociologist of religion tries to find out why this regard is given to certain animals and what they signify to them.

Also certain trees are regarded as sacred and have great respect given to it by the people. For instance the Iroko tree (*Chlorophora excelsa*) which is also called Oji in Igbo land, Odum in Ghana and Mvule in East Africa. These trees have high significance to people of that society that they are not cut at will. To cut them down may require some rituals to be done in order to show the reverence they have for such trees.

Sociologist of religion on all these makes use of observation and experimentation in order to find out why, how and when people react to such



Only the social dimension that is more evidently and predominately observed in the society. Man's religious life can only be practiced in the society, in his relationship with his fellow man and with God.

As a science, sociology of religion studies various phenomenon and the influence culture has on these phenomenon. This is in a bid to find out the functions of religious phenomenon and how culture has been a major cause for changes in these religious phenomenon.

For instance, the socio religious ceremony of placing a band on the plucking of apple fruits (udala) in Igbo land is nowadays no longer maintained and kept in our society. These fruits are now commercialized in the market place, where as four or five decade ago this was unthinkable for any of these fruits to be seen in the market. Sociologist of religion therefore tries to find out why there are such drastic changes in the society.

Also, the Osu caste system has undergone various changes because of modernity. This implies that modern culture has reduced the drastic effect of this social stigma. However, this Osu caste system still acts as a major force in militating against mutual and cordial relationships among people. The effect of this social stigma is clearly observed in the marriage institutions where the expectation of two people to live together as husband and wife have ended because one of the parties is said to belong to



phenomenon that exists in their midst. In doing this, he makes use of observation and then draws a comprehensive questionnaire in order to be able to make further discoveries about the phenomena in the society.

### CONCLUSION

From the argument presented above, it is therefore undeniable that sociology of religion is a science. This is because it studies the social and religious aspects of man as depicted in the society through observation and experimentation.

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## NUMBER FOUR THE BASIC ELEMENTS OF RELIGION.

### INTRODUCTION.

Man has always wondered about the existence of the eternal. Even as he advances technologically Man is still bordered about the existence of the unknown. His inability to act in the midst of natural disasters and catastrophes borders him. As he makes use of his reason to proper solution to these problems he still finds it difficult. Hence he resorts to the eternal, the Supreme being in whose existence is given various phenomenon Man cannot explain.

There ~~are~~ in religion, three basic elements. These elements exist in almost all religions, these elements <sup>involve and</sup> ~~exist~~ They include:-

1. Belief. ✓
2. Cult. ✓
3. Moral Laws ✓

### BELIEF

One of the characteristics of religion is that in one way or the other it must include the concept of the supernatural, the eternal, the power manifesting itself. According to Michia Tetier, labelling something as supernatural means that they can never be made known to human taste, sound, sight and smell even with the use of most powerful amplifiers and telescope it would be impossible.



Belief in the Supreme being, whose existence and lordship gives man such confidence and security to the extent that man's fear of the unknown is allayed forms the first step of sacrificial experience of man. Belief is the acceptance of a proposition, this acceptance is largely intellectual however it is sometimes strongly coloured by emotions. Belief is used in forming a mental condition and it is the bases of voluntary conditions.

Beliefs helps to fashion man behaviour. Man's value system and belief attitudes are shaped by belief hence every religion has various means through which it fashions the behaviour and value system of its members.

Beyond the belief in the Supernatural is the concept of sacred. The Supernatural is usually believed to be sacred but the concept of sacred goes beyond the supernatural. Its application is almost universal.

### CULT

Cult is a way of reciprocating the good gestures of the supreme being by man. It originates from man's need to enter into a relationship with the Supreme being. In cult lies the origin of worship, sacrifice, prayer and ritual.

Cult is defined as a body of religious rites and practices that are associated with the worship or the propitiation of a particular deity or a group of supernatural beings. Cult originates from man's dependency on the supreme being. A dependency that necessitates.



worship. The major components of cult include Ritual, Prayer and Sacrifice.

### RITUAL

Ritual refers to the way a people communally celebrate the meaning that gives them their identities. In this case ritual functions as a means of social solidarity. The major rituals are usually the rites of passage which consists of a transition from one state to another.

To participate in the rituals one's identity usually undergoes an adventurous transformation involving a widening and deepening of relationship with the community.

For instance, the rites of initiation. At some point in a person's life, usually at the early stage of adolescence, there is need to break away from childhood and enter decisively onto the adult life of the community and gain full membership. To dramatise this rite of initiation, the rite of passage is conducted.

### PRAYER AND SACRIFICE

Prayer is a petition and thankful offering to the supreme being who is believed to be the governor of the natural world. Sacrifice is from the Latin word to "make holy". It is at the heart of petitionary and thankfulness. Sacrifice is also an expression of gratitude indicating a people's grateful engagement of the gift of food and life as belonging to a wider world other than self interest.