# STUDIES OF RELIGION (SOR) PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

## STUDY GUIDE



## SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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https://studiesofreligion.examzify.com

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# Introduction

Preparing for a certification exam can feel overwhelming, but with the right tools, it becomes an opportunity to build confidence, sharpen your skills, and move one step closer to your goals. At Examzify, we believe that effective exam preparation isn't just about memorization, it's about understanding the material, identifying knowledge gaps, and building the test-taking strategies that lead to success.

This guide was designed to help you do exactly that.

Whether you're preparing for a licensing exam, professional certification, or entry-level qualification, this book offers structured practice to reinforce key concepts. You'll find a wide range of multiple-choice questions, each followed by clear explanations to help you understand not just the right answer, but why it's correct.

The content in this guide is based on real-world exam objectives and aligned with the types of questions and topics commonly found on official tests. It's ideal for learners who want to:

- Practice answering questions under realistic conditions,
- Improve accuracy and speed,
- Review explanations to strengthen weak areas, and
- Approach the exam with greater confidence.

We recommend using this book not as a stand-alone study tool, but alongside other resources like flashcards, textbooks, or hands-on training. For best results, we recommend working through each question, reflecting on the explanation provided, and revisiting the topics that challenge you most.

Remember: successful test preparation isn't about getting every question right the first time, it's about learning from your mistakes and improving over time. Stay focused, trust the process, and know that every page you turn brings you closer to success.

Let's begin.

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# How to Use This Guide

This guide is designed to help you study more effectively and approach your exam with confidence. Whether you're reviewing for the first time or doing a final refresh, here's how to get the most out of your Examzify study guide:

### 1. Start with a Diagnostic Review

Skim through the questions to get a sense of what you know and what you need to focus on. Your goal is to identify knowledge gaps early.

### 2. Study in Short, Focused Sessions

Break your study time into manageable blocks (e.g. 30 – 45 minutes). Review a handful of questions, reflect on the explanations.

### 3. Learn from the Explanations

After answering a question, always read the explanation, even if you got it right. It reinforces key points, corrects misunderstandings, and teaches subtle distinctions between similar answers.

### 4. Track Your Progress

Use bookmarks or notes (if reading digitally) to mark difficult questions. Revisit these regularly and track improvements over time.

### 5. Simulate the Real Exam

Once you're comfortable, try taking a full set of questions without pausing. Set a timer and simulate test-day conditions to build confidence and time management skills.

### 6. Repeat and Review

Don't just study once, repetition builds retention. Re-attempt questions after a few days and revisit explanations to reinforce learning. Pair this guide with other Examzify tools like flashcards, and digital practice tests to strengthen your preparation across formats.

There's no single right way to study, but consistent, thoughtful effort always wins. Use this guide flexibly, adapt the tips above to fit your pace and learning style. You've got this!

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# Questions

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1. **Supporters of ecumenism would be likely to reject which of the following practices?**

   A. Sectarianism

   B. Reconciliation

   C. Interfaith dialogue

   D. Denominational switching

2. **What is the most likely reason for the current rise in secularism in Australia?**

   A. A perception that the responses of religious traditions to enduring questions are outdated.

   B. Increasing sectarian rivalry between Christian denominations.

   C. Recent trends in denominational switching.

   D. Growing interest in New Age religions.

3. **Sam believes that evil spirits cause poverty and starvation. Which of the following is Sam most likely to be?**

   A. Rationalist

   B. Animist

   C. Materialist

   D. Humanist

4. **The Native Title Act and Mabo/Wik decisions are associated with which outcome?**

   A. They address past economic injustices for Aboriginal Australians.

   B. They contribute to revitalisation of Aboriginal traditions.

   C. They support terra nullius.

   D. They discourage pastoralists' economic ambitions.

5. **Rational Humanism uses logical reasoning and empirical evidence.**

   A. Rational Humanism relies on tradition

   B. Rational Humanism relies on logical reasoning and empirical evidence

   C. Rational Humanism relies on revelation

   D. Rational Humanism relies on faith alone

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**6. Following the formation of the Uniting Church, which option became included in census data?**

A. 'No religion'

B. 'Christian'

C. 'Spiritual but not religious'

D. 'Non-Australian religion'

**7. In the context of religious demographics, which of the following statements is supported by the material?**

A. Christianity is the largest religion in South Africa

B. Islam is the largest religion in Nepal

C. Buddhism is the largest religion in Germany

D. Hinduism is the largest religion in Philippines

**8. Which method is associated with Rationalism?**

A. Empirical experimentation

B. Logical reasoning as the primary source of knowledge

C. Authority of tradition

D. Revelation

**9. Which term describes a movement that emphasizes personal spirituality and harmony with nature rather than organized doctrine?**

A. The Catholic Church

B. New Age religions

C. Aboriginal Dreaming

D. The Uniting Church

**10. Which viewpoint is most likely to be held by an atheist?**

A. Transcendence can be proven scientifically.

B. There is no life after death.

C. Tarot card readings provide legitimate guidance for decision making.

D. Human beings need supernatural assistance to improve the quality of their lives.

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# Answers

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1. A
2. D
3. B
4. B
5. B
6. A
7. A
8. B
9. B
10. B

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# Explanations

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**1. Supporters of ecumenism would be likely to reject which of the following practices?**

A. Sectarianism

B. Reconciliation

C. Interfaith dialogue

D. Denominational switching

*Ecumenism is about promoting unity and cooperation among Christian churches and reducing barriers between denominations. A practice that runs directly opposite this aim is sectarianism, which treats Christianity as a collection of exclusive, rival groups and emphasizes separation and loyalty to one denomination over others. That mindset keeps believers apart, fosters suspicion, and blocks collaborative efforts, so supporters of ecumenism would reject sectarianism as a barrier to unity. Reconciliation, on the other hand, is exactly about healing old splits and is a central goal of ecumenical work. Interfaith dialogue can also fit within ecumenical aims by promoting understanding and peaceful cooperation with other faiths. Denominational switching isn't inherently opposed to ecumenism—it can reflect personal moves toward perceived greater unity—but it doesn't embody the core ecumenical impulse to overcome division itself.*

**2. What is the most likely reason for the current rise in secularism in Australia?**

A. A perception that the responses of religious traditions to enduring questions are outdated.

B. Increasing sectarian rivalry between Christian denominations.

C. Recent trends in denominational switching.

D. Growing interest in New Age religions.

*The main idea here is that secularism grows when traditional religious answers are seen as out of step with modern life. In Australia, as science, education, and a plural, increasingly skeptical culture expand, many people feel that the big questions of meaning, purpose, and morality can be explored outside or beyond established religious institutions. This perception—that religious explanations no longer fit contemporary life—helps explain why more people disconnect from organized religion or keep belief private, contributing to the rise of secular attitudes and reduced public religious influence. The other options don't fit as well. Sectarian rivalry focuses on conflicts between groups rather than a broad shift away from religious affiliation. Denominational switching shows choices within religion, indicating diversification rather than a move away from religion itself. Growing interest in New Age movements points to alternative spirituality, which can coexist with or diverge from traditional religion but doesn't directly account for a widespread rise in secularism in society.*

**3. Sam believes that evil spirits cause poverty and starvation. Which of the following is Sam most likely to be?**

A. Rationalist

B. Animist

C. Materialist

D. Humanist

*The idea being tested is how people explain misfortune through different belief systems. Believing that poverty and starvation come from evil spirits aligns with animism, which holds that spirits inhabit or influence the world and can cause events, including hardship. A rationalist would seek evidence-based, natural causes; a materialist would focus on physical and economic conditions without spirits; a humanist would center on human welfare and ethical action. So, the view described fits animism best.*

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**4. The Native Title Act and Mabo/Wik decisions are associated with which outcome?**

A. They address past economic injustices for Aboriginal Australians.

B. They contribute to revitalisation of Aboriginal traditions.

C. They support terra nullius.

D. They discourage pastoralists' economic ambitions.

*The main idea here is that recognizing Indigenous land rights and protecting traditional laws and customs strengthens cultural continuity. The Mabo decision in 1992 overturned the notion of terra nullius and established that native title can exist where traditional laws and customs continue to be observed. The Wik decision later clarified that native title can coexist with other land interests, such as pastoral leases. The Native Title Act of 1993 created a framework for claiming and protecting native title, enabling recognition of certain rights to access and use country and facilitating settlements. When these rights and protections are in place, Aboriginal communities can actively revive and practice cultural traditions tied to specific lands—ceremonies, sites of significance, language use, and land-based knowledge—leading to the revitalisation of Aboriginal traditions.*

**5. Rational Humanism uses logical reasoning and empirical evidence.**

A. Rational Humanism relies on tradition

B. Rational Humanism relies on logical reasoning and empirical evidence

C. Rational Humanism relies on revelation

D. Rational Humanism relies on faith alone

*Rational Humanism grounds its beliefs in logical reasoning and empirical evidence, using reason and evidence to understand the world and guide ethics. That makes the description of relying on logical reasoning and empirical evidence the best fit, since this approach prioritizes critical thinking, science, and verifiable data over untested claims. Traditions can influence thinking, but Rational Humanism treats claims through inquiry rather than simply accepting them because they're tradition. Revelation and faith alone rely on sources beyond reason and evidence, which Rational Humanism does not privilege.*

**6. Following the formation of the Uniting Church, which option became included in census data?**

A. 'No religion'

B. 'Christian'

C. 'Spiritual but not religious'

D. 'Non-Australian religion'

*The question hinges on how census data reflect changes in how Australians identify their religion. After the Uniting Church formed, census data began to explicitly include a category for people who have no religious affiliation. This marks the growing visibility of non-religious identification in the population, beyond traditional denominations. The option for no religion provides a clear way to measure secular or non-affiliated Australians, which is why it stands out as the historically relevant census category in this context. The other options either describe existing religious group labels that were already present before the Uniting Church era (like Christian) or represent labels that have not been standard census categories.*

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**7. In the context of religious demographics, which of the following statements is supported by the material?**

A. Christianity is the largest religion in South Africa

B. Islam is the largest religion in Nepal

C. Buddhism is the largest religion in Germany

D. Hinduism is the largest religion in Philippines

*This item tests recognition of which religion has the largest share in a country's population. In South Africa, Christianity is the largest religion, reflecting its long history of missionary activity and a broad Christian presence across many communities. Islam and Hinduism exist as minority communities but do not surpass Christianity. The other statements don't fit common demographic patterns: Nepal's largest religion is Hinduism; Germany's largest religion is Christianity (not Buddhism); and the Philippines is predominantly Christian (not Hindu).*

**8. Which method is associated with Rationalism?**

A. Empirical experimentation

B. Logical reasoning as the primary source of knowledge

C. Authority of tradition

D. Revelation

*Rationalism centers on using reason as the main path to knowledge. The method is to start from clear, self-evident principles and derive further truths through logical deduction, much like a mathematical proof. This is why describing logical reasoning as the primary source of knowledge is the best fit. Think of how rationalists like Descartes argue from fundamental propositions to a coherent system of truths, often using methodical doubt to reach conclusions that must be true if the initial premise is true. In contrast, empirical experimentation relies on sensory observation, tradition appeals to what has been handed down, and revelation rests on divine disclosure. Each has its place, but the defining method of rationalism is reasoning from foundational principles through deduction.*

**9. Which term describes a movement that emphasizes personal spirituality and harmony with nature rather than organized doctrine?**

A. The Catholic Church

B. New Age religions

C. Aboriginal Dreaming

D. The Uniting Church

*The description points to a movement that centers on personal spirituality and harmony with nature rather than a single, centralized doctrine. New Age religions fit this well: they emphasize individual spiritual exploration, eclectic beliefs drawn from many traditions, and practices often rooted in nature and personal well being, with little emphasis on formal creeds or a centralized authority. In contrast, the Catholic Church is a highly organized institution with defined doctrines and hierarchy; Aboriginal Dreaming refers to Indigenous Australian cosmology and cultural practices tied to land and ancestors; and the Uniting Church is a formal denomination with shared creeds and governance. So the movement described is New Age religions.*

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**10. Which viewpoint is most likely to be held by an atheist?**

A. Transcendence can be proven scientifically.

B. There is no life after death.

C. Tarot card readings provide legitimate guidance for decision making.

D. Human beings need supernatural assistance to improve the quality of their lives.

*A naturalistic view of reality is central here: many atheists rely on evidence from the natural world and do not posit supernatural forces or realms beyond physical existence. The option stating that there is no life after death fits this outlook because it denies a postmortem, immaterial existence that would require a supernatural explanation. This aligns with the idea that once biological life ends, there is no continuation in a conscious or spiritual form, a position commonly associated with atheism's emphasis on empirical evidence and natural causes. The other statements invoke supernatural ideas or claims that depend on non-natural sources—proving transcendence scientifically, tarot readings as legitimate guidance, or the need for supernatural help to improve life. Such views are not characteristic of an atheistic stance, which is why the statement about no life after death is the best match.*

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# Next Steps

Congratulations on reaching the final section of this guide. You've taken a meaningful step toward passing your certification exam and advancing your career.

As you continue preparing, remember that consistent practice, review, and self-reflection are key to success. Make time to revisit difficult topics, simulate exam conditions, and track your progress along the way.

If you need help, have suggestions, or want to share feedback, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to our team at hello@examzify.com.

Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:

https://studiesofreligion.examzify.com

We wish you the very best on your exam journey. You've got this!

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