

STUDY QUESTIONS
HUSTON SMITH, CHAPTER ON ISLAM

1. T/F Mohammedanism is an acceptable alternative name for Islam.
2. "The perfect peace that comes when ones life is surrendered to God" is the full meaning of what word?
A. Mohammedanism B. Islam C. Zoroastrianism
D. Christianity
3. What is the literal meaning of the word "Allah?"
4. What is the importance of the word "the" in the answer to question 3?
5. According to the Koran, _____ the son of _____ travels to Mecca where he becomes the ancestor of the Muslims while the other son, _____ stays in Palestine and becomes the ancestor of the Jews.
6. Muhammad, described as the "seal of the prophets," means that:
A. His message is the most important one of a long line of prophets extending before and after his own time.
B. Without his message no one can understand other messages from God, they are "sealed."
C. That there will be no other prophets after him.
D. That he has become an intermediary between God and the human race and all other prophets receive their messages by means of him.
7. The prevalent religion of Arabia before the advent of Mohammed is best described as an _____.
(Use two words.)
8. A personification of the terrors of the desert was called a _____.
9. T/F Muhammad's childhood was filled with tragedy; he lost both parents while still a little child.
10. Which of the following dates is most nearly correct for the birth of Muhammad?
A. 471 A.D. B. 471 B.C. C. 571 B.C. D. 500 A.D.
11. The wealthy widow _____ married Muhammad although she was _____ years his senior.
12. T/F Allah was not worshipped at all before the time of Muhammad.
13. Muhammad received his revelation of the _____ in a cave on Mt. Hira, located just outside the city of _____.
14. The only miracle with which Muhammad claimed to be associated was that of the writing of the

33. T/F All Muslims share a belief in the literal truth of the pictures of heaven and hell contained in the Koran.

34. T/F The "Beatific vision" results from the removal of everything that separates human beings from Allah, so that the soul sees Allah constantly as he is in his heavenly glory.

35. T/F Muslims claim that one of Islam's strengths is the definiteness of its guidance in how to live a life pleasing to God.

36. How many stages does Allah's revelation to human beings go through?

- A. 2 B. 3 C. 4 D. 5

37. The Revelation of God through Moses consisted of the _____.

38. The revelation of God through Mohammed consisted of directions on how to _____.

39. "The glory of Islam consists in having embodied the beautiful sentiment of Jesus into _____." Complete the sentence.

40. Name the five pillars of Islam.

- A.
B.
C.
D.
E.

41. The creed of Islam consists of the sentence:

42. One purpose of prayer for the Muslim is to keep human life in _____ to prevent the individual human being from seeking to play _____.

43. T/F Muslims are required, except under very unusual circumstances, to pray five times a day.

44. T/F Islam is like most Eastern religions in that it has no day of the week set aside for communal religious worship.

45. Muslims pray facing _____.

46. The two basic themes of prayer in Islam are:

- A.
B.

47. The religious tax to be distributed for the benefit of the poor amounts to 2 and 1/2 % of a persons income/holdings. (Circle the word that makes the previous sentence true.)

48. The able bodied Muslim not involved in war or some other crises will fast during the month of _____.

49. What is the significance of the fact that most Muslims use a lunar calendar?

50. T/F The Muslim religious fast includes water.

51. During pilgrimage, upon approach to the holy city all pilgrims discard their ordinary clothes for two white, sheet-like garments. What is the symbolism of this special dress?

52. Islamic law based on what Mohammed did or said is called _____.

53. T/F The establishment of a social order in obedience to the will of God is a natural and accepted goal of Islam.

54. T/F Islamic law requires that a person's inheritance be divided equally among his heirs.

55. T/F Islamic inheritance law recognizes the right of a woman to inherit.

56. The general basis of Islamic law in the sphere of economics is to ensure a wide distribution of material goods and the easy circulation of wealth.

57. Currently, Muslim law distinguishes between business loans and loans to meet human needs. On which sort of loans does Islamic law permit interest? How is this justified?

58. T/F Most Muslims see an unbridgeable gap between Islam and capitalism.

59. Smith lists three basic concrete ways early Islam elevated the position of women. These three were:

A.

B.

C.

60. T/F In Islam only husbands are allowed to initiate divorce proceedings.

61. T/F Although Islamic law allows polygamy, most contemporary Muslims feel that there is a pressure toward monogamy in Islamic legislation.

62. How did Mohammed demonstrate the racial equality of Islam through his actions?

63. The concept of _____ (Use the Arabic term, please.) is the extension into social life of the Koranic injunction to punish evil doers to the full extent of the injury they do.

64. T/F In theory, the Koran attempts to guarantee the rights of other religions to practice their faith in Islamic communities.