

RELIGIOUS LITERACY QUIZ
STEPHEN PROTHERO, BOSTON UNIVERSITY

1. Name the Four Gospels. List as many as you can.
2. Name a sacred text of Hinduism.
3. Name the holy book of Islam.
4. Where, according to the Bible, was Jesus born?
5. George Bush spoke in his first inaugural of the Jericho road. What Bible story was he invoking?
6. What are the first five books of the Hebrew Bible or the Christian Old Testament?
7. What is the Golden Rule?
8. "God helps those who help themselves." Is this in the Bible? If so, where?
9. "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of God." Does this appear in the Bible? If so, where?
10. Name the Ten Commandments. List as many as you can.
11. Name the Four Noble Truths of Buddhism.
12. What are the seven sacraments of Catholicism? List as many as you can.
13. The First Amendment says two things about religion, each in its own "clause." What are the two religion clauses of the First Amendment?
14. What is Ramadan? In what religion is it celebrated?
15. Match the Bible characters with the stories in which they appear. (Draw a line from one to the other; some characters may be matched with more than one story or vice versa.)

Adam and Eve

Exodus

Paul

Binding of Isaac

Moses

Olive Branch

Noah

Garden of Eden

Jesus

Parting of the Red Sea

Abraham

Road to Damascus

Serpent

Garden of Gethsemane

RELIGIOUS LITERACY QUIZ (Results)
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Total Students: 122 in 2006; 175 in 2007

Four Gospels: Average=2.3: (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John) 8% said Paul. Other incorrect answers: James, Joshua, Mary, Jeremiah

Hindu Scripture: 26% correct: (Vedas, Upanishads, Bhagavad Gita, Mahabharata, Kama Sutra, Ramayana) Other incorrect answers: Torah, Bible

Muslim Scripture: 85% correct: (Qur'an)

Jesus' Birthplace: 60% correct: (Bethlehem) 15% said Jerusalem

Jericho Road: Almost 3% correct: (Good Samaritan Story)

Bible's First Five Books: 12% got all five books: (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy) Average=1.6

Golden Rule: 63% correct: ("Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.")

"God helps those who help themselves." 76.5% knew that this is not in the Bible.

"Blessed are the poor in spirit." 61% knew that this was from the Bible. Only 16%, however, knew that it was from the Beatitudes or Sermon on the Mount.

Ten Commandments: Average=4.6: (4 could name all 10): (I am the Lord your God, No Other Gods Before Me, Name in Vain, Keep the Sabbath Holy, Honor Mother and Father, Not Kill, No Adultery, No Stealing, No Bearing False Witness, No Coveting)

Four Noble Truths: Average=17%: (Life is suffering, Suffering has an origin, Suffering can be overcome, The path to overcoming suffering is the Noble Eightfold Path) (2 people in 2007 could name all 4)

Seven Sacraments: Average 2.5%: (Baptism, Communion, Confession, Confirmation, Ordination, Marriage, Unction)

First Amendment Clauses: 32% knew at least one answer: (Establishment Clause; Free Exercise Clause)

Ramadan: 62% knew that this was Islamic; 38% knew that it was a fast.

Bible Stories: 96% correctly placed Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden; 93% correctly associated Moses with the parting of the Red Sea; Only 30% got Paul and the Road to Damascus; 13% placed the Serpent in the Garden of Gethsemane.

FINAL GRADES:

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>
Catholic	50%	52%
Atheist/Agnostic	31%	26%
Hindu/Buddhist/Sikh	34.5%	32%
Jewish	38%	39%
Protestant	48%	44%