**Chapter 7 – Test Bank**

# Multiple-Choice Questions

1. Shinto often makes use of

a. purification rituals.

b. meditation techniques.

c. the name of Amida Buddha.

d. animal sacrifices.

Answer: a

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2. A Shinto ritual called \_\_\_\_\_ involves standing under a waterfall as a ritual act of purification.

a. kamidana

b. misogi

c. jinja

d. shimenawa

Answer: b

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3. The sun goddess of Shinto is

a. Izanagi.

b. Amaterasu.

c. Susanowo.

d. Inari.

Answer: b

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4. The primeval female kami who was burned by the fire God is

a. Izanami.

b. Susanowo.

c. Izanagi.

d. Tsukiyomi.

Answer: a

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5. According to the Shinto religion, which of the following terms refer to a Shinto shrine?

a. jinja

b. kamidana

c. gagaku

d. misogi

Answer: a

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6. A torii is

a. a gatelike structure that marks a Shinto sacred location.

b. a wand used by a Shinto priest for purification.

c. the name of a basin where one washes up before prayer.

d. an ornament worn around the neck as a good-luck charm.

Answer: a

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7. According to the Shinto religion, which of the following best defines the term *kami*?

a. a spirit, God, or goddess of Shinto

b. a primordial female parent God

c. the stately ceremonial music of Shinto

d. the devotion to a ruler, demanding loyalty, duty, and self-sacrifice

Answer: a

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8. The Ise Shrine is dedicated to Amaterasu, and the high priest and priestess are always members of the imperial family because

a. only the imperial family is allowed in grand shrines.

b. only the imperial family is allowed to converse with Amaterasu.

c. Amaterasu is the ancestor of the Japanese emperors.

d. Amaterasu is the patron kami of Japan.

Answer: c

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9. Emperor Meiji often celebrated which Shinto virtue in his poetry?

a. purity

b. sincerity

c. reverence

d. forgiveness

Answer: b

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10. A ritual at a Shinto shrine is

a. lighting a candle.

b. using incense.

c. bodily prostration.

d. clapping.

Answer: d

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11. In the context of Shinto religious practices, when worshipers visit a shrine for a blessing, a priest says a prayer and waves over them a branch or wand adorned with paper streamers to

a. symbolically drive out dangerous spirits.

b. gain the attention of the major kami.

c. allow the worshippers to pass under the torii.

d. purify the devotees and the surrounding areas.

Answer: d

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12. The term *Shinto* comes from two Chinese words that mean

a. the fulfillment of nature.

b. the way of the Gods.

c. bridge of light.

d. perfect life.

Answer: b

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13. The Japanese drew many cultural and technological elements from

a. India.

b. Mongolia.

c. Vietnam.

d. China.

Answer: d

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14. The primary focus of Shinto worship is directed toward

a. a single, all-powerful God or goddess.

b. Mount Fuji and other sacred natural sites.

c. the spirits of nature and ancestors.

d. creating a positive flow of energy.

Answer: c

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15. According to Shinto beliefs, human beings are

a. fundamentally good.

b. sinful and guilty.

c. distracted by ephemeral pleasures.

d. attached to individualism.

Answer: a

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16. Shinto puts great emphasis on

a. strong beliefs.

b. the beauty of ritual.

c. following the commands of a spiritual teacher.

d. regular meditation.

Answer: b

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17. Kamikaze, or “spirit wind,” refers to

a. suicide pilots.

b. high winds, like typhoons.

c. Gods who live on top of mountains.

d. the special hats of Shinto priests.

Answer: a

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18. State Shinto refers to

a. the special role of the emperor of Japan in Shinto.

b. a springtime rice-planting ceremony done for the good of the nation of Japan.

c. Shinto ceremonies carried out at the beginning of each day in schools.

d. a former system of national shrines in the Shinto religion.

Answer: d

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19. The Nihongi is

a. a painting of a pine tree, a frequent background for Noh plays.

b. a special dance used in Noh plays.

c. the second chronicle of Japanese myths and history.

d. the name of an important branch of Shinto.

Answer: c

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20. Confucianism and Buddhism helped generate the warrior code of loyalty, duty, and honor called

a. kamikaze.

b. bushido.

c. harai.

d. ozoni.

Answer: b

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21. The emperor of Japan renounced his divine status when

a. Buddhism first entered Japan.

b. Christianity first entered Japan.

c. Japan began to modernize.

d. World War II ended.

Answer: d

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22. Tenrikyo, which grew out of Shinto, has created a city near

a. Tokyo.

b. Kobe.

c. Osaka.

d. Nara.

Answer: d

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23. The founder of Tenrikyo was

a. Kamo Mabuchi.

b. Motoori Norinaga.

c. Deguchi Nao.

d. Nakayama Miki.

Answer: d

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24. Omoto is a new religion that emphasizes the value of

a. art.

b. business.

c. study.

d. technology.

Answer: a

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25. Omoto, in order to encourage international understanding, gives a special place to the study and use of

a. Latin.

b. Chinese.

c. Spanish.

d. Esperanto.

Answer: d

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26. Shinto and Buddhism

a. developed separately in Japan.

b. began to blend in the nineteenth century.

c. began to blend soon after the introduction of Buddhism.

d. were forced to separate from each other before 1200 CE.

Answer: c

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27. The Japanese people

a. have always enthusiastically adopted foreign cultures.

b. adopted the culture of Vietnam for about five hundred years.

c. apparently descended from several immigrant groups that came from the northwest.

d. rejected the culture of China.

Answer: c

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28. When he returned from visiting his deceased wife, Izanagi had to

a. mourn Izanami’s death for one year.

b. purify Izanami’s burial site with fire.

c. get the attention of the other kami by clapping.

d. cleanse himself in water.

Answer: d

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29. The Shinto creation myth may have

a. united the beliefs of several tribes.

b. originated in Okinawa.

c. been a retelling of an ancient myth from India.

d. borrowed from the Near East.

Answer: a

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30. Shinto and Confucianism had which particular feature in common?

a. the love of art and imagery

b. the veneration of ancestors

c. the idealization of the simple life of the farmer

d. the appreciation for ritual dance

Answer: b

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31. The emperor of Japan came to be considered a father figure for the whole country. This

a. arose from Shinto’s love of ritual.

b. was a necessity after the attempted Mongol invasion of Japan.

c. seems to show the influence of Confucianism.

d. came from the Buddhist ideal of the loving bodhisattva.

Answer: c

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32. Shinto

a. has helped the Japanese maintain a sense of their unique identity.

b. has been quite warlike throughout its long history.

c. is a religion with organization and strong structure.

d. developed a statement of belief and a set of commandments after 1400 CE.

Answer: a

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33. In Shinto practice, daily worship occurs in the home, where a small Shinto shrine called the \_\_\_\_\_is maintained, usually on a high shelf.

a. kamidana

b. shimenawa

c. gagaku

d. kadomatsu

Answer: a

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34. Izanami and Izanagi created Japan when they stirred the ocean with

a. the sandal from Izanami’s right foot.

b. a white camellia flower.

c. a branch of the sakaki tree.

d. a jeweled spear.

Answer: d

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35. Izanagi searched for Izanami

a. on the Floating Bridge of Heaven.

b. in the underworld.

c. in a cave near Ise.

d. in the ocean east of Japan.

Answer: b

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36. The basis for the Japanese writing system came from

a. Vietnam.

b. Malaysia.

c. China.

d. India.

Answer: c

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37. In Shinto practice, on New Year’s Eve, families gather to eat a special soup made of vegetables and mochi, which is called

a. sake.

b. ozoni.

c. shimenawa.

d. gagaku.

Answer: b

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38. The stately ceremonial music of the Shinto religion is known as

a. kadomatsu.

b. jinja.

c. shimenawa.

d. gagaku.

Answer: d

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39. The goddess Amaterasu was lured from a cave, where she was hiding, by

a. the music of a flute.

b. the smell of food being cooked.

c. the sound of flags being blown by the wind.

d. dancing nearby.

Answer: d

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40. According to Omoto, all art is religious because Omoto

a. resides in any place in nature that is awe-inspiring.

b. places little emphasis on doctrines and ethical demands.

c. focuses on heavenly reason teaching.

d. sees in the creation of art the essence of religious manifestation.

Answer: d

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41. The Church of World Messianity (Sekaikyusei-kyo) is an offshoot of

a. Tenrikyo.

b. Omoto.

c. Honmichi.

d. Soka Gakkai.

Answer: b

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42. The islands of Japan, according to the Shinto creation story, are a sort of this-worldly heaven because

a. the Gods made them.

b. humans share the islands with divine beings.

c. the deity of the wind has promised to protect all who live there.

d. Amaterasu is buried there.

Answer: b

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43. Part of the accommodation between Shinto and Buddhism included

a. separate shrines in different regions of the country.

b. shared priests between the two religions.

c. an agreement not to use Chinese art and architecture.

d. a division of focus, with Buddhism being associated with philosophy, death, and afterlife, while Shinto was called on for agriculture and fertility.

Answer: d

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44. During the Meiji Restoration, Shinto became tied to growing nationalism through

a. an emphasis on the divine origins of the emperor.

b. large state-sponsored shines.

c. a renewed emphasis on traditional martial arts.

d. the assimilation of Western educational and governmental models.

Answer: a

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45. In 1868, Mutsuhito imported European and American experts to build up the governmental, military, and educational systems according to Western models that marked a turning point in

Japanese history known as the

a. Shinto Scholarly Revival.

b. Japanese Spirit.

c. Meiji Restoration.

d. Mootori Age.

Answer: c

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46. Kami are associated with natural places, the ancestors, and

a. Buddhist saints.

b. animal spirits.

c. famous samurai.

d. Confucian scholars.

Answer: b

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47. A special New Year’s ritual in Shinto is

a. the setting off of firecrackers.

b. the dragon dance.

c. rice pounding.

d. the veneration of those who died in war.

Answer: c

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48. In Shinto practice, during New Year’s celebrations, rice is pounded into a soft dough called

a. omikoshi.

b. miko.

c. mochi.

d. ozoni.

Answer: c

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49. In Shinto practice, Shrine dance eventually evolved into the stately \_\_\_\_\_ dance dramas that tell the stories of people and their contacts with the spirits.

a. Izanagi

b. Kojiki

c. Nihongi

d. Noh

Answer: d

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# Essay Topics

50. Explain the derivation of the term *Shinto.* What does the name tell us about its relationship with China and Buddhism? Please explain.

51. How did Amaterasu come into being? What role did she play in Japanese history?

52. Describe how areas of influence are typically divided between Shinto and Buddhism in Japan. How might this be evident at a Japanese temple complex?

53. Explain the emergence of State Shinto in the context of the Meiji Restoration.

54. Explain the basic Shinto notion of kami*.* Describe and name the most important kami.

55. According to basic Shinto belief, how are ancestors understood?

56. Describe the basic rituals associated with visiting a Shinto shrine. What is the importance of these rituals to the practitioners of Shinto?

57. List at least three ceremonies that are typically performed by Shinto priests.

58. Summarize New Year’s rituals associated with Shinto.

59. What roles does the emperor of Japan play in Shinto ritual?

60. Describe a torii. What is its function? Where is it found?

61. Describe the key beliefs of Tenrikyo.

62. Describe the key beliefs of Omoto-kyo.

63. Describe at least four ways in which Shinto beliefs and practices are relevant to the problems of the modern world.