

**Dr. Leanna Wolfe**  
**Anthropology 121**

**Quiz #3**  
*Ch. 4 Ritual*

1. T/F The term *ritual* can refer to any repetitive sequence of acts or events.
2. T/F *Religious ritual* involves the manipulation of religious symbols.
3. Why do people carry out religious rituals?
4. What conditions might require a situational or crisis ritual?
5. A periodic ritual is one that is:  
a. performed because of the will or desire of a deity b. associated with critical events in the life of an individual c. celebrated on a ritual calendar d. involved with an altered state of consciousness
6. Examples of prescribed, periodic rituals include all of the following *except*:  
a. Diwali b. Quinceañeras c. Passover d. Ramadan
7. A technological ritual is one that is involved with:  
a. controlling an aspect of nature such as bringing rain b. moving people into new social categories or statuses c. curing illness and death d. causing the death of an individual
8. Protective rituals are often found in situations:  
a. involving soul loss b. that involve the quest for food  
c. that are dangerous and unpredictable d. that involve a person's change in status
9. The Navaho "Blessing Way" is performed, in part, to reestablish harmony with the universe so that an ill person might be cured of the illness. This is an example of a(n):  
a. technological ritual b. ideological ritual c. therapy ritual d. revitalization ritual
10. Rituals that reinforce community standards of behavior and cohesiveness are:  
a. rites of passage b. social rites of intensification c. revitalization rituals d. salvation rituals
11. Death rituals:  
a. restore social order b. reveal secrets c. create status and boundaries
12. What are the three stages in rites of passage?  
1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \_\_\_\_\_

13. The liminal stage can: (select those that apply)  
a. include rebellious rites b. the experience of a community amongst equals c. include beatings and other violent behaviors d. counter the existent social order e. be avoided
14. People who share the same experiences forge strong bonds. Describe what is meant by *communitas*? How does *communitas* function to create stability in society?
15. Examples of rites of passage in American society would *not* include a:  
a. wedding ceremony b. funeral c. high school graduation d. Easter sunrise service
16. What seems to be the symbolic purpose of older Melanesian men instructing younger males to ingest their semen?
17. What is female genital infibulation? When religious benefits does it confer?
18. What does the concept tabu refer to?
19. T/F Many societies have prohibitions against eating particular foods. An example would be *kashrut*, the Jewish laws regarding what foods can and cannot be eaten and how they must be prepared.
20. What sorts of restrictions do menstrual tabus impose?

### *Is God An Accident?*

1. What did Stephen Jay Gould mean in contending that religion and science are “non-overlapping magisteria?”
2. T/F 96% of Americans believe in God.
3. T/F Atheism is more common in America than it is in Europe.
4. T/F Marx considered religion to be an opiate for oppressed people.
5. What did Freud consider the three-fold task for religious beliefs?

6. T/F There are cultures in the world that do not believe in an all-wise and just God.
7. T/F Religion may have emerged not to serve a purpose, but by accident.
8. Why have the reactions of babies been studied to assess distinctions between physical and psychological?
9. T/F We see people as separate from their bodies.
10. T/F It is possible for a body to not have a soul.
11. Why does the notion of a soul without a body make sense to us?
12. T/F We see purpose, intention and design even when they are not there.
13. T/F Darwin's discovery of the theory of natural selection challenged the notion of divine design.
14. Do you believe in an afterlife?
15. Where do supernatural ideas come from?

*The Evolution of the God Gene*

1. How have excavations in the Oaxaca Valley of Mexico demonstrated an evolution of religious behaviors?
2. T/F Religious behavior was favored by natural selection.
3. T/F Rituals can resolve quarrels and patch up the social fabric.
4. T/F Amongst foraging bands, religion would have functioned like an invisible government.
5. What is the relationship between altruism and religion?
6. In what ways can religion be seen as a means of generating social cohesion?
7. T/F According to the God Gene theory, humans have a genetic predisposition to spiritual belief.

8. What is self-transcendence? Where do you think you would measure on a self-transcendence scale?

### *The Adaptive Value of Religious Ritual*

1. What are some of the behaviors, activities and dress people engage in in the name of religion?
2. Humans have engaged in ritual behavior for at least \_\_\_\_ years.  
a. 3,000 b. 10,000 c. 50,000 d. 100,000 e. 1.5 million
3. T/F Scientific rationalism triumphed over religion by the late 20<sup>th</sup> century.
4. T/F It is unusual for a human culture to engage in costly rituals.
5. T/F Spiritual beliefs are indicative of a primitive mind.
6. T/F The primary adaptive benefit of religion is to facilitate cooperation in a group.
7. What are some of the ritualistic behaviors that animals engage in?
8. T/F It's rare for animals send out dishonest signals.
9. What does sending out a costly signal convey?
10. T/F Groups that engage in highly distinct dress and practices tend to have the highest rates of attendance at their prayer services.
11. T/F Fewer American Catholics attend mass today than 40 years ago.
12. How did religious constraints enhance the economic productivity of highly religious kibbutzim?
13. T/F Amongst kibbutzim males engage in fewer public rituals than females.
14. Do more difficult classes have lower attrition rates than easy classes?

### *Prayer and Healing*

1. T/F Patients who were prayed for by strangers showed a statistically significant level of recovery compared to those who were not.
2. What differences were found between patients who knew they were being prayed for and those who did not?
3. T/F Women attempting to achieve pregnancy through IVF had double the success rate compared to those who were not prayed for?
4. What are the research problems faced by in measuring spiritual experiences with scientific methodologies?
5. If God is omniscient and omnipotent, should he be reminded that someone needs his assistance?

### *Secrets of Psychics*

1. Are there psychics that you would trust? Why? Why not?
2. Who was Uri Geller? What powers did he claim to have?
3. What powers did James Randi discover the Russian psychics have?
4. How does psychic surgery work?
5. How did Peter Popoff (faith healer) access his divine powers?
6. Why did the students who were given “their” astrology charts all believe they were quite accurate?
7. What happened when the palm reader decided to tell his subjects the opposite of what he saw?