

1. How many Muslims are in the world?
2. What countries contain the largest concentrations of Muslims?
3. What is the difference between a Kurd and a Berber?
4. What are the similarities between Islam and Christianity?
5. What are the differences between Islam and Christianity?
6. What is the difference between a Sunni and a Shi'ite?
7. What are the five tenets of Islam?
8. Who is Muhammad?
9. What does "Islam" mean?
10. Name one major event in the history of Islam before the 19th century.
11. Explain Geertz's definition of religion.
12. Explain the cyclical structure of Geertz's definition of religion.
13. Compare Geertz's with Asad's definition of religion.
14. Identify the author of this quote and explain its significance:
 "What is involved in the problem of evil is not the adequacy of our symbolic resources to govern our affective life, but the adequacy of our symbolic resources to provide a workable set of ethical criteria, normative guides to govern our action."
15. Identify the author of this quote and explain its significance: "From being a concrete set of practical rules attached to specific processes of power and knowledge, religion has come to be abstracted and universalized."
16. According to Geertz, what are the two stage operations when it comes to the anthropological study of religion?
17. What does Geertz suggest is the importance of religion?
18. What question does Asad feel Geertz fails to answer when he makes the claim that religious symbols produce two kind of dispositions, mood and motivation?
19. How does Asad rebut Geertz claim on the two stage operations in the study of religion?
20. For Asad religion is not cross-culturally constant. Explain. How does this perspective differ from the way Geertz views religions in cultures?
21. For Geertz, what makes a symbol religious?
22. How do Geertz and Asad differ in their perspectives of religion in a historical context? Which author views religion as a stagnant force and which views it as adaptive?
23. When Eickelman states that Islamic reform had not been pressed enough over the times, and that the (Islamic) reform movement as we know it was pressed by Western scholars, how would this view agree with or disagree with either Assad or Geertz?
24. Eickelman mentions that some feel that the reform movement within Islam came after Western influence. How would Assad explain the motives for reform within Islam, based on this point of view?
25. Explain a few of the major differences between the process of becoming a Christian saint with that of a Muslim marabout, or "pious one", as mentioned by Eickelman.
26. How does Eickelman compare Middle Eastern Judaism to Islam?
27. How did the divide between Sunni and Shi'a Muslim groups come about?
28. In the Chapter "Origins of Islam" by Tariq Ali, what evidence is given to support the theory that Islam was materialistic or driven by politics?
29. Describe a heretic of Islam as described in "the joys of heresy" by Tariq Ali.
30. In Tariq Ali's "Women vs. Eternal Masculinity" does it seem that Ali is for or against the equality of women?
31. In the "Joys of Heresy" chapter from Tariq Ali, explain the significance of the hadith and what it says about religion?
32. Name one of the heretics mentioned in the chapter from Tariq Ali and explain their significance.
33. With the collapse of the Ottoman Empire and the Enlightenment, what was the consequence for women in early Islam? What does Ali say this reveals about men?

34. Describe the satanic verses. What does Tariq Ali think of them?
35. What is Tariq Ali's feeling towards the heretics? Describe one of the heretics he talks about and explain their views.
36. What are Tariq Ali's views towards the inequality that exists between men and women in the Muslim world? Does he see women as oppressed?
37. How does Tariq Ali, in relation to Asad, describe the basis of the Islamic religion?
38. What are the five pillars of Islam?
39. Choose one of the five pillars. What is its significance?
40. What does the shahadah declare?
41. According to Sardar and Davies, explain the concept of tawhid and its connection to the Islamic worldview.
42. According to Sardar and Davies, explain the importance of the hadith from the perspective of Muslims.
43. Is the perspective of Sardar and Davies more like Asad or Geertz? Support your answer with evidence from the text.
44. Give three facts about the life of Muhammad.
45. According to Sardar and Davies how was the Qur'an created?
46. According to Sardar and Davies, what are the significant differences between the structure and text of the Bible and the Qur'an?
47. According to Sardar and Davies, what was the main explanation on how Islam spread to Southeast Asia?
48. Pick one of the schools of thought in Islam and explain what teachings they emphasized.
49. Choose one of the Rightly Guided Caliphs and explain what they did during their time as a Caliph.
50. Who is considered the first person to embrace Islam? Why?
51. Explain why the hajj is significant as a tradition in Islam.