

STEPHEN PROTHERO'S "RELIGIOUS LITERACY QUIZ" [Part I]

(Adapted from Stephen Prothero, *Religious Literacy* (N.Y.: HarperOne, 2008))

1. Name the four Gospels. List as many as you can. (1 point each)
2. Where, according to the Bible, was Jesus born? (1 point)
3. President George W. Bush spoke at his first inaugural address of the Jericho road. What Bible story was he invoking? (1 point)
4. What are the first five books of the Hebrew Bible or the Christian Old Testament? (1 point each)
5. What is the Golden Rule? (1 point)
6. "God helps those who help themselves." Is this in the Bible? If so, where? (2)
7. "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of God": Does this appear in the Bible? If so, where? (2 points)
8. What are the seven sacraments of Catholicism? List as many as you can. (7 pts)
9. The First Amendment says two things about religion, each in its own "clause." What are the two religion clauses of the First Amendment? (1 point each)

SUBTOTAL: 25 points

Add up your total points and then multiply by 4 to get your score on a standard 100-point scale. An A is in the 90's. A B is in the 80's. A C is in the 70's. A passing grade is 60 points or more.

(Most of Stephen Prothero's college introductory religion course students failed this quiz. Most students could not list the four Gospels; only half of American adults can name even one of the four Gospels. Only one out of eight students could name the first five books of the Hebrew Bible or Old Testament; most Americans cannot name the first book of the Bible. Only one in six students knew both of the First Amendment's religion clauses. A Gallup poll in this new millennium found that born-again Christians are only marginally better informed about the Bible than other students.)

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10. Name the Ten Commandments. List as many as you can (10 points)

11. Match the Bible characters with the stories in which they appear by drawing a line from one to the other. Some characters may be matched with more than one story or vice versa. (7 points)

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 Gethsemene

12. Name the Four Noble Truths of Buddhism. List as many as you can. (4 points)

13. What is Ramadan? In what religion is it celebrated? (2 points)

14. Name a sacred text of Hinduism. (1 point)

15. What is the name of the holy book of Islam? (1 point)

SUBTOTAL: 25 points

Add up your total points from both Part I and Part II and then multiply by 2 to get your score on a standard 100-point scale. An A is in the 90's. A B is in the 80's. A C is in the 70's. A passing grade is 60 points or more.

(Most of Stephen Prothero's college introductory religion course students failed this whole quiz - including Parts I and II, that I have artificially separated out of the original 50 point survey. Although almost everyone was able to associate "Adam and Eve" correctly, and nearly nine out of ten knew the name of the holy book of Islam, only one in four could name a single Hindu scripture, and only one student alone could list Buddhism's Four Noble Truths. In naming the Ten Commandments, his students averaged four; national surveys have shown that most Americans cannot name as many as five. The students fared poorly on matching Bible heroes with Bible stories, shuffling and reshuffling the most basic elements of the most influential Bible narratives like so many cards at a poker table.)