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UGC NET Paper 2

Comparative Study of Religions (062)
Complete revision notes — all 10 units

10 units | Tables & formulas | Key revision points

01 Study of Religion
02 Hinduism
03 Buddhism and Jainism
04 Sikhism
05 Judaism
06 Christianity
07 Islam
08 Zoroastrianism and Other Religions
09 Comparative Themes
10 Religion and Society Today

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How to use these notes

- Read one unit at a time, then test yourself with its key revision points.
- Make your own short notes on topics you find difficult.
- Units follow the main areas of the official syllabus — the exact unit list can change between sessions.
- Always check the latest syllabus and notices on the official UGC NET portal: **ugcnet.nta.ac.in**.

UNIT 01

Study of Religion

Approaches and methods in the study of religion.

- **Max Müller** — father of comparative religion: 'He who knows one, knows none.'
- Approaches: historical, phenomenological (van der Leeuw, Mircea Eliade — sacred and profane), sociological (Durkheim, Weber), psychological (Freud, Jung, William James).
- Rudolf Otto — the 'numinous' (*The Idea of the Holy*).

★ Key revision points

- Father of comparative religion = Max Müller.
- Sacred and profane = Eliade (also Durkheim).
- Numinous = Rudolf Otto.
- *Varieties of Religious Experience* = William James.

UNIT 02

Hinduism

Scriptures, philosophies and practices.

- Scriptures: shruti (Vedas) and smriti (epics, Puranas, Dharmashastras); Bhagavad Gita.
- Concepts: Brahman, Atman, karma, samsara, moksha; purusharthas.
- Traditions: Shaiva, Vaishnava, Shakta, Smarta.

★ Key revision points

- Shruti = Vedas.
- Four purusharthas.
- Moksha = liberation.
- Gita is part of the Mahabharata.

UNIT 03

Buddhism and Jainism

Core teachings and comparison.

	Buddhism	Jainism
Founder / reformer	Buddha	Mahavira (24th Tirthankara)
Self	Anatta (no self)	Jiva (eternal soul)
Path	Eightfold Path	Triratna and five vows
Texts	Tripitaka	Agamas

★ Key revision points

- Anatta vs jiva.
- Tripitaka vs Agamas.
- Both reject Vedic ritual authority.
- Both emphasise ahimsa.

UNIT 04

Sikhism

Gurus, scripture and institutions.

- Guru Nanak (1469–1539) founder; ten Gurus.
- *Adi Granth* compiled by Guru Arjan (1604); Guru Gobind Singh founded the Khalsa (1699) and declared the Granth the eternal Guru.
- Concepts: Ik Onkar, seva, langar, the five Ks.

★ Key revision points

- Adi Granth: 1604, Guru Arjan.
- Khalsa: 1699.
- Ten Sikh Gurus.
- Langar = community kitchen.

UNIT 05

Judaism

Scriptures, beliefs and festivals.

- Abraham (covenant), Moses (Torah at Mount Sinai).
- Scriptures: Tanakh (Torah, Nevi'im, Ketuvim); Talmud.
- Festivals: Passover, Yom Kippur, Hanukkah; synagogue; Sabbath.

★ Key revision points

- Torah = first five books.
- Tanakh = Hebrew Bible.
- Yom Kippur = Day of Atonement.
- Covenant with Abraham.

UNIT 06

Christianity

Life of Jesus, scriptures, doctrines and churches.

- Bible: Old and New Testaments (four Gospels).
- Doctrines: Trinity, incarnation, resurrection.
- Great Schism (1054): Catholic and Orthodox; Reformation (Martin Luther, 1517).
- Christianity in India: St Thomas tradition; Syrian Christians of Kerala.

★ Key revision points

- Great Schism: 1054.
- Reformation: Luther, 1517.
- Four Gospels.
- Trinity = Father, Son, Holy Spirit.

UNIT 07

Islam

Beliefs, practices and branches.

- Quran; Prophet Muhammad; Hijra (622 CE).
- Five pillars: shahada, salat, zakat, sawm, hajj.
- Sunni and Shia; Sufism.

★ Key revision points

- Five pillars of Islam.
- Hijra: 622 CE.
- Sunni and Shia branches.
- Sufism = mystical Islam.

UNIT 08

Zoroastrianism and Other Religions

Zoroastrianism, Bahá'í faith and indigenous religions.

- Zoroastrianism: Zarathustra; Avesta; Ahura Mazda; dualism of good and evil; Parsis in India.
- Bahá'í faith: Bahá'u'lláh; unity of religions.
- Indigenous and tribal religions; animism, totemism.

★ Key revision points

- Avesta = Zoroastrian scripture.
- Ahura Mazda = supreme god.
- Parsis follow Zoroastrianism.
- Bahá'í: unity of religions.

UNIT 09

Comparative Themes

Concepts of God, salvation, ethics and ritual across religions.

- Monotheism, polytheism, monism, pantheism, atheism.
- Salvation: moksha, nirvana, kaivalya, heaven.
- Golden rule across traditions; ritual and pilgrimage.

★ Key revision points

- Kaivalya = Jain liberation.
- Nirvana = Buddhist liberation.
- Monism = one reality.
- Golden rule appears widely.

UNIT 10

Religion and Society Today

Secularism, interfaith dialogue and religious freedom.

- Indian secularism: equal respect for all religions; Articles 25–28.
- Interfaith dialogue: Parliament of the World's Religions (Chicago, 1893 — Vivekananda).
- Religious pluralism (John Hick).

★ Key revision points

- Articles 25–28: religious freedom.
- Parliament of Religions: 1893.
- Pluralism = John Hick.
- Indian secularism: equal respect.

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