

## CHAPTER 2: CONTEXTS OF SEXUALITY: CULTURE, HISTORY, AND RELIGION

### True/False Questions

1. The essence of our species can be passed on through evolution and procreation.

Answer: True

Difficulty: Medium

Topic: Human Sexual Nature in Context

Blooms: Understand

Heading: The Sexual Triangle: Species, Culture, and Individual

2. Adolescent male Bonobo chimpanzees leave their group to find mates and to create new patriarchal groups.

Answer: False

Difficulty: Easy

Topic: Human Sexual Nature in Context

Blooms: Remember

Heading: Sexuality Among the Bonobo

3. Homosexuality was an exclusive sexual practice in ancient Greece.

Answer: False

Difficulty: Easy

Topic: Sex Since the Beginning of Time

Blooms: Understand

Heading: A Brief History of Sex and Civilizations

4. Early Islamic civilization professed values of male sexual honor, and female virginity before marriage.

Answer: True

Difficulty: Easy

Topic: Sex Since the Beginning of Time

Blooms: Remember

Heading: Islamic Civilizations

5. In the 19th century, as the first women's emancipation movement gathered momentum, children came to be deemed as sexual creatures in their own right.

Answer: False

Difficulty: Medium

Topic: Sex Since the Beginning of Time

Blooms: Remember

Heading: Western Europe from the Crusades to the 19<sup>th</sup> Century

6. Sexual cultures function today as a way of both helping people to adapt to their environments and controlling their social relationships.

Answer: True

Difficulty: Medium

Topic: Sexual Cultures and Norms

Blooms: Understand

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Heading: Sexual Norms and Sexual Socialization

7. A sexual norm remains constant across culture.

Answer: False

Difficulty: Medium

Topic: Sexual Cultures and Norms

Blooms: Understand

Heading: Sexual Norms and Sexual Socialization

8. Differences in sexual norms decrease diversity in sexual behavior.

Answer: False

Difficulty: Medium

Topic: Sexual Cultures and Norms

Blooms: Understand

Heading: Sexual Norms and Sexual Socialization

9. The practice of placing behavior in context is known as cultural relativism.

Answer: True

Difficulty: Easy

Topic: Sexual Cultures and Norms

Blooms: Remember

Heading: Sexual Norms and Sexual Socialization

10. Sexual chauvinism has a positive affect on sexual well-being.

Answer: False

Difficulty: Medium

Topic: Sexual Cultures and Norms

Blooms: Understand

Heading: Sexual Norms and Sexual Socialization

11. In sexually approving cultures, young people tend to learn about sexuality by observation, and then exploration.

Answer: True

Difficulty: Medium

Topic: Sexual Cultures and Norms

Blooms: Understand

Heading: Sex-Approving and Sex-Disapproving Cultures

12. Sexual unlearning is less common in societies that undergo rapid change.

Answer: False

Difficulty: Medium

Topic: Sexual Cultures and Norms

Blooms: Understand

Heading: Sexual Unlearning

13. A core belief of most world religions is that human sexuality is a product of human design.

Answer: False

Difficulty: Easy

Topic: Sexuality and the Great World Religions  
Blooms: Remember  
Heading: Sexuality and the Great World Religions

14. Homosexuality is not tabooed in Buddhism and the general public is often encouraged to get involved in same-sex relationships.

Answer: False

Difficulty: Easy

Topic: Sexuality and the Great World Religions

Blooms: Understand

Heading: Sex in the World Religions

15. Early Judaic law makes it clear that a husband and wife should consider sex to be a pleasurable activity.

Answer: False

Difficulty: Easy

Topic: Sexuality and the Great World Religions

Blooms: Remember

Heading: Judaism

16. In Turkey and Morocco, it is seen that the Muslim population treats men and women equally.

Answer: True

Difficulty: Easy

Topic: Sexuality and the Great World Religions

Blooms: Remember

Heading: Islam

17. The Puritan society in the U.S. enjoyed mutual sexual pleasure in their intimate relationships and marriages.

Answer: True

Difficulty: Easy

Topic: Spirituality and Sexual Behavior in the United States

Blooms: Remember

Heading: Spirituality and Sexual Behavior in the United States

18. At present, all Christian groups in the U.S. are supportive of women holding high positions such as that of the clergy.

Answer: False

Difficulty: Easy

Topic: Spirituality and Sexual Behavior in the United States

Blooms: Remember

Heading: Spirituality and Sexual Behavior in the United States

19. Encouraging people to respect sexual and gender diversity is part of the UCC's mission.

Answer: True

Difficulty: Easy

Topic: Religion and Sexual Well-Being

Blooms: Remember

Heading: Religion and Sexual Well-Being

20. Creating a social network of like-minded friends and family helps people to reconcile their beliefs with their sexual individuality and well-being.

Answer: True

Difficulty: Easy

Topic: Religion and Sexual Well-Being

Blooms: Understand

Heading: Religion and Sexual Well-Being

### Multiple Choice Questions

21. Which of the following is one of the unique traits typically associated with human sexuality?

- A. Human beings indulge in sexual activities solely for procreation.
- B. Human beings indulge in sexual activities only during certain seasons.
- C. Human beings pursue sex for fun and pleasure.
- D. Culture has no influence over human sexuality.
- E. Sexual intercourse among humans is devoid of any form of emotional bond.

Answer: C

Difficulty: Easy

Topic: Human Sexual Nature in Context

Blooms: Remember

Heading: The Sexual Triangle: Species, Culture, and Individual

22. The unique traits related to human sexuality such as indulging in sexual activity for recreation, creating rules and beliefs around sex, are mainly associated with three elements. Which of the following is one of these basic elements?

- A. Sexual chauvinism
- B. Individuality
- C. Ethnocentrism
- D. Collective narcissism
- E. Sinocentrism

Answer: B

Difficulty: Hard

Topic: Human Sexual Nature in Context

Blooms: Understand

Heading: The Sexual Triangle: Species, Culture, and Individual

23. The unique traits related to human sexuality come from the combination of three elements: our species, \_\_\_\_\_, and individuality.

- A. sexual chauvinism
- B. culture
- C. ethnocentrism
- D. collective narcissism
- E. sinocentrism

Answer: B

Difficulty: Medium

Topic: Human Sexual Nature in Context

Blooms: Understand

Heading: The Sexual Triangle: Species, Culture, and Individual

24. Which of the following is a unique trait associated with the Bonobo chimpanzees?

- A. They are not peaceable.
- B. They are matriarchal.
- C. The males are dominant.
- D. The females are sexually active once a year.
- E. They procreate once every year.

Answer: B

Difficulty: Medium

Topic: Human Sexual Nature in Context

Blooms: Remember

Heading: Sexuality Among the Bonobo

25. In the context of sexual behavior, which of the following is true of the Bonobo chimpanzees?

- A. The Bonobo females are sexually active only once a year.
- B. The average Bonobo sexual episode typically lasts only 13 seconds.
- C. The Bonobo chimpanzees refrain from having sex during the estrus period.
- D. The Bonobo chimpanzees indulge only in anal sex.
- E. The Bonobo chimpanzees procreate twice every year.

Answer: B

Difficulty: Hard

Topic: Human Sexual Nature in Context

Blooms: Remember

Heading: Sexuality Among the Bonobo

26. Which of the following Bonobo sexual behaviors closely resembles that of humans?

- A. The Bonobo chimpanzees indulge in face-to-face intercourse.
- B. The average Bonobo sexual episode typically lasts for 15 minutes.
- C. The Bonobo chimpanzees refrain from having sex during the estrus period.
- D. The Bonobo chimpanzees indulge only in anal sex.
- E. The Bonobo chimpanzees procreate twice every year.

Answer: A

Difficulty: Hard

Topic: Human Sexual Nature in Context

Blooms: Understand

Heading: Sexuality Among the Bonobo

27. Which of the following is one of the factors that differentiate humans from Bonobos?

- A. Absence of orgasm during sexual intercourse
- B. Absence of an estrus period among females
- C. Indulgence in face-to-face genital sex
- D. Diversity of sexual behaviors
- E. Indulgence in sex for pleasure

Answer: B

Difficulty: Medium

Topic: Human Sexual Nature in Context

Blooms: Understand

Heading: Sexuality Among the Bonobo

28. In the context of Bonobo chimpanzees, their indulgence in sex is likely to be highest:

- A. when the female is in estrus.
- B. when the male wants to assert his superiority.
- C. when the female conceives.
- D. when the female menstruates.
- E. when the male wants to procreate.

Answer: A

Difficulty: Medium

Topic: Human Sexual Nature in Context

Blooms: Understand

Heading: Sexuality Among the Bonobo

29. Which of the following best defines the estrus period?

- A. It is the stage in which the fetus forms either male or female genitals depending on the chromosomal combination.
- B. It is the point at which a woman stops producing luteinizing hormone.
- C. It is the recurring time when a female ovulates and is most receptive to becoming pregnant.
- D. It is the state after ejaculation in men in which the penis becomes soft and loses its erection.
- E. It is the period after resolution in men when they are sexually active.

Answer: C

Difficulty: Easy

Topic: Human Sexual Nature in Context

Blooms: Understand

Heading: Sexuality Among the Bonobo

30. Which of the following is true of the estrus period in humans?

- A. The genitals swell up during estrus.
- B. Humans lose blood during the estrus period.
- C. The uterine lining is shed during the estrus period.
- D. The estrus period is concealed in humans.
- E. The body stops producing FSH estrus.

Answer: D

Difficulty: Medium

Topic: Human Sexual Nature in Context

Blooms: Understand

Heading: Sexuality Among the Bonobo

31. Pair bonding is best defined as:

- A. the principle that gives people a sense of group cohesion.
- B. the blend of biology and culture working together to produce sexual behavior.

- C. the shared beliefs among humans regarding death, and immortality.
- D. the unique sense of self that man has within the context of culture.
- E. the sexual and romantic association between two people.

Answer: E

Difficulty: Easy

Topic: Human Sexual Nature in Context

Blooms: Remember

Heading: Human Sexual Nature as Expressed Through Culture

32. Language and culture has:

- A. clouded our shared cultural knowledge.
- B. made human adaptation more efficient.
- C. led to the loss of a sense of finite time.
- D. decreased the practice of mating.
- E. reduced instances of pair-bonding.

Answer: B

Difficulty: Hard

Topic: Human Sexual Nature in Context

Blooms: Understand

Heading: Human Sexual Nature as Expressed Through Culture

33. \_\_\_\_\_ specifically refers to the phenomenon of females wanting to mate with the person who will provide strong genes for their offspring.

- A. Mating
- B. Nesting
- C. Inbreeding
- D. Linebreeding
- E. Reproducing

Answer: B

Difficulty: Easy

Topic: Human Sexual Nature in Context

Blooms: Remember

Heading: Human Sexual Nature as Expressed Through Culture

34. Cave paintings, carvings, statues, and tools of the age between 30,000 and 40,000 years ago provide evidence that in the ancient age:

- A. sexual activities among humans were devoid of any emotional bonding.
- B. humans indulged in sexual activities purely for the purpose of procreation.
- C. humans indulged in sexual activities only during the estrus period of the female.
- D. sexual pleasure was a prominent part of human sexual nature.
- E. culture had no influence over human sexual behavior.

Answer: D

Difficulty: Medium

Topic: Sex Since the Beginning of Time

Blooms: Remember

Heading: Prehistoric Sex and Communication

35. Prehistoric art directly connects sex with:

- A. supernatural activities.

- B. parapsychology.
- C. spirituality.
- D. pseudoscience.
- E. psychokinesis.

Answer: C

Difficulty: Easy

Topic: Sex Since the Beginning of Time

Blooms: Remember

Heading: Prehistoric Sex and Communication

36. In prehistoric India, where Hinduism had a strong hold:

- A. same-sex relationships were given more importance than heterosexual relationships.
- B. sexual activities were mainly associated with procreation and not with pleasure.
- C. importance was given to mutual sexual satisfaction for both men and women.
- D. the idea of geisha, beautiful female companions for men had originated.
- E. sex was mainly considered bad for health and so men and women were segregated.

Answer: C

Difficulty: Easy

Topic: Sex Since the Beginning of Time

Blooms: Remember

Heading: Asian Civilizations

37. In the context of Buddhism, which of the following is true?

- A. Buddhism believes that sex is bad for health and advises its followers to abstain from sex.
- B. Buddhism accepts a broad spectrum of sexual expression, so long as it is not excessive.
- C. Buddhism is strongly against same-sex relationships and considers it to be an unforgivable sin.
- D. Buddhism believes that one should indulge in sex only for the purpose of procreation and not for pleasure.
- E. Buddhism celebrates female fertility and strongly preaches the idea of a matriarchal society.

Answer: B

Difficulty: Hard

Topic: Sex Since the Beginning of Time

Blooms: Understand

Heading: Asian Civilizations

38. Which of the following sexual practices is closely associated with China's traditional culture?

- A. Sexual practices were designed to heal the body.
- B. Sexual practices were devoid of mutual pleasure.
- C. Sexual practices were for the sole purpose of procreation.
- D. Sexual practices were common only during the estrus period.
- E. Sexual practices were devoid of emotional bonding.

Answer: A

Difficulty: Easy



Topic: Sex Since the Beginning of Time

Blooms: Remember

Heading: Asian Civilizations

39. Ancient Greek civilization dates from 800 B.C.E. until 197 C.E when it was incorporated into the Roman Empire. The Greeks practiced a complex form of sexuality and love that:

- A. laid emphasis on the power of women over man.
- B. considered sex in excess to be good for health.
- C. encouraged indulgence in sexual pleasure tempered with restraint.
- D. encouraged the people to indulge in sex only for the purpose of procreation.
- E. was strictly against all forms of same-sex relationships.

Answer: C

Difficulty: Medium

Topic: Sex Since the Beginning of Time

Blooms: Remember

Heading: Ancient Greece, Rome, and Christianity

40. In ancient Greece, young teens had to undergo certain rituals to achieve masculinity and honor as well as to cultivate self-discipline and leadership. Which of the following is one of the rituals associated with this process?

- A. Young men in their late teens had sexual relations with married women.
- B. Young men in their late teens had sexual relations with older males.
- C. Young men in their late teens had sexual relations with women in their late teens.
- D. Young men in their late teens had sexual relations with a geisha.
- E. Young men in their late teens had sexual relations with younger males.

Answer: B

Difficulty: Medium

Topic: Sex Since the Beginning of Time

Blooms: Remember

Heading: Ancient Greece, Rome, and Christianity

41. During the time of Emperor Augustus (63 B.C.E. to 14 C.E.), all sex with slaves and prostitutes, especially same-sex relationships, were outlawed in Rome. Which of the following is the primary reason behind this measure?

- A. To ensure that Greek traditions, including its gods and religious beliefs and sexual practices were re-established
- B. To ensure that Rome's powerful families did not become "weakened" by disputes over property from offspring of "inferiors"
- C. To ensure that people indulged in sexual activities for the sole purpose of strengthening Roman population
- D. To ensure that mutual sexual satisfaction for both men and women took on greater meaning
- E. To ensure that contraceptive measures were effectively employed so that population explosion is kept under control

Answer: B

Difficulty: Hard

Topic: Sex Since the Beginning of Time

Blooms: Understand

Heading: Ancient Greece, Rome, and Christianity

42. During the period of 500 to 1500 C.E, which of the following was strictly labeled as “sodomy” under Christianity?

- A. Sex between people of the same culture
- B. Sex between men and women
- C. Indulgence in oral sex
- D. Indulgence in conjugal sex
- E. Sex between people of same religion

Answer: C

Difficulty: Hard

Topic: Sex Since the Beginning of Time

Blooms: Understand

Heading: Ancient Greece, Rome, and Christianity

43. Why are Islam, Judaism, and Christianity referred to as the “Abrahamic” religions?

- A. Because they share a common geography and history
- B. Because they prohibit indulgence in oral sex
- C. Because they share a common deity
- D. Because they believe in many gods
- E. Because they were against polygamous relations

Answer: A

Difficulty: Hard

Topic: Sex Since the Beginning of Time

Blooms: Understand

Heading: Islamic Civilizations

44. One area related to beliefs about sexual pleasure in which the ancient Muslim East diverged from the ancient Christian West was that:

- A. Muslims encouraged the marriage between individuals of different cultures.
- B. Muslims believed that it was a husband’s duty to pleasure his wife sexually.
- C. Muslims believed that sexual pleasure should solely be centered on the man.
- D. Muslims discouraged its followers from indulging in sexual activities for pleasure.
- E. Muslims were against institutions like marriage and family and encouraged free sex.

Answer: B

Difficulty: Medium

Topic: Sex Since the Beginning of Time

Blooms: Understand

Heading: Islamic Civilizations

45. The term chivalry associated with Christian knights connected to the Crusades mainly encourages:

- A. sexual promiscuity.
- B. valor in women.
- C. purity of the body.
- D. homosexuality.
- E. solipsism.

Answer: C

Difficulty: Easy

Topic: Sex Since the Beginning of Time

Blooms: Remember

Heading: Western Europe from the Crusades to the 19<sup>th</sup> Century

46. Which of the following instances primarily challenged the Roman Catholic Church and the power of clerics in the fourteenth century?

- A. Rise of Hinduism in the East
- B. Establishment of the Holy Inquisition
- C. New discoveries in science and astronomy
- D. Popularity of Buddhism
- E. Fall of the Roman Empire

Answer: C

Difficulty: Medium

Topic: Sex Since the Beginning of Time

Blooms: Understand

Heading: Western Europe from the Crusades to the 19<sup>th</sup> Century

47. What was the primary reason behind the persecution of the Italian physicist Galileo Galilei?

- A. Galileo had propagated the evolutionary theory that contradicted the teachings of the Church.
- B. Galileo had propagated the theory that the earth rotates around the sun that contradicted the Church's view of the heavens as unchanging.
- C. Galileo had propagated the theory that man has originated from apes, which rejected the Churches' idea that God created man.
- D. Galileo had supported and encouraged the concept of homosexuality that was labeled as a sin by the Church.
- E. Galileo was a pagan and preached the idea that the sun was the most powerful force in the universe and everything else revolved around the sun.

Answer: B

Difficulty: Medium

Topic: Sex Since the Beginning of Time

Blooms: Remember

Heading: Western Europe from the Crusades to the 19<sup>th</sup> Century

48. Which of the following was an important event of the 19<sup>th</sup> century?

- A. Mechanisms to control disease, including sexual "diseases" were established in the U.S.
- B. All forms of prostitution were legalized by the U.S government.
- C. The legal constraints on homosexuality were lifted in the U.S.
- D. Gay marriages were made legal in the U.S.
- E. Religious institutions were restricted from opposing inter-caste marriages in the U.S.

Answer: A

Difficulty: Easy

Topic: Sex Since the Beginning of Time

Blooms: Remember

## Heading: Western Europe from the Crusades to the 19<sup>th</sup> Century

49. In the context of the Victorian Era, which of the following is true?

- A. In the Victorian age, children were encouraged to explore and assert their sexual identity.
- B. In the Victorian age, women were free to indulge in sex for pleasure apart from the purpose of procreation.
- C. In the Victorian age, the genders were highly polarized and this was expressed in male and female sexuality.
- D. In the Victorian era, women were expected to be sexually aggressive, and expressive of their “sex drives.”
- E. In the Victorian age, all forms of prostitutions and homosexuality were made legal.

Answer: C

Difficulty: Medium

Topic: Sex Since the Beginning of Time

Blooms: Remember

Heading: The Victorian Era and Sexual Identity

50. In the late 19th century it was observed that men increasingly went to pubs, joined secret male societies or Christian purity movements in droves, seeking the solidarity of other men and a sense of a haven away from their home. Which of the following is the primary reason behind this trend?

- A. The rise of women’s demands for equality that threatened masculinity
- B. The repressive measures taken on homosexuals by the federal government
- C. The increasing visibility of heterosexuals that threatened masculinity
- D. The emergence of the Boys Scouts that was not supported by the women population
- E. The desire to break free of the notions that required men to be sexually aggressive

Answer: A

Difficulty: Hard

Topic: Sex Since the Beginning of Time

Blooms: Understand

Heading: The Victorian Era and Sexual Identity

51. In the 1930s and 1940s, massive migrations due to the Great Depression and then war impacted heavily on gender roles. Which of the following is one of the most prominent changes typically associated with this age?

- A. Women were more in favor of homosexual relations than heterosexual liaisons.
- B. Women held jobs previously considered being exclusive to men, such as that of factory workers.
- C. Women were restricted from expressing sexual pleasure, and were even considered abnormal if they enjoyed sex.
- D. Men were increasingly encouraged to be sexually aggressive, and express their innate “sex drives.”
- E. Men increasingly joined Christian purity movements in droves, seeking the solidarity of other men.

Answer: B

Difficulty: Medium

Topic: Sex Since the Beginning of Time

Blooms: Understand

Heading: 20<sup>th</sup>-Century Sexuality

52. Sexual culture is best defined as:

- A. the standard of sexual behavior expected of a particular person in a specific role.
- B. the system that trains people from infancy to adulthood to follow a particular sexual conduct.
- C. the self-identification by an individual as heterosexual, bisexual, or homosexual.
- D. the inner sense of deep belief in an ultimate reality that is held by every individual.
- E. the specific expectations for sexual behavior that various cultures have built into their roles and institutions.

Answer: E

Difficulty: Medium

Topic: Sexual Cultures and Norms

Blooms: Understand

Heading: Sexual Norms and Sexual Socialization

53. A(n) \_\_\_\_\_ is best defined as the standard of sexual behavior expected of people in a particular role, relationship, and situation.

- A. ethical sexuality
- B. sexual norm
- C. sexual appetite
- D. sexual selection
- E. moral sexuality

Answer: B

Difficulty: Easy

Topic: Sexual Cultures and Norms

Blooms: Remember

Heading: Sexual Norms and Sexual Socialization

54. People's expectations form the ideal blueprint of a sexual culture and are put into practice through \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. sexual norms
- B. sexual fantasies
- C. sexual chauvinism
- D. sexual identities
- E. sexual unlearning

Answer: A

Difficulty: Hard

Topic: Sexual Cultures and Norms

Blooms: Understand

Heading: Sexual Norms and Sexual Socialization

55. Sexual socialization is best defined as:

- A. the process that encourages one to come in terms with one's sexual identity.
- B. the process of training people from infancy to adulthood to inculcate a standard sexual behavior.
- C. the process of setting standards of sexual behavior expected of people in a particular role, relationship, and situation.

- D. the process of studying sexual behavior by placing it in context.
- E. the process that leads to the establishment of the belief that one's sexual culture is superior to others.

Answer: B

Difficulty: Easy

Topic: Sexual Cultures and Norms

Blooms: Understand

Heading: Sexual Norms and Sexual Socialization

56. Which of the following is the major factor behind the presence of diversity in sexual behavior across culture?

- A. Existence of cultural chauvinism
- B. Practice of sexual relativism
- C. Different sexual norms
- D. Presence of sexual chauvinism
- E. Polygamous relations

Answer: C

Difficulty: Hard

Topic: Sexual Cultures and Norms

Blooms: Understand

Heading: Sexual Norms and Sexual Socialization

57. The tendency of judging another groups behavior to be inferior when compared against the standards of the group one belongs to is referred to as:

- A. cultural relativism.
- B. egalitarian behavior.
- C. cultural chauvinism.
- D. sexual culture.
- E. sexual norm.

Answer: C

Difficulty: Easy

Topic: Sexual Cultures and Norms

Blooms: Remember

Heading: Sexual Norms and Sexual Socialization

58. Which of the following is an example of an instance of cultural chauvinism?

- A. A parent kisses a child on the head
- B. Two individuals indulge in oral sex
- C. A man supports polygamy
- D. A man looks down upon cultures permitting homosexuality
- E. Two individuals of the same sex tie the wedding knot

Answer: D

Difficulty: Hard

Topic: Sexual Cultures and Norms

Blooms: Understand

Heading: Sexual Norms and Sexual Socialization

59. The belief that one's sexual culture is superior to others is specifically referred to as:

- A. cultural relativism.
- B. egalitarian behavior.
- C. sexual chauvinism.
- D. sexual culture.
- E. sexual norm.

Answer: C

Difficulty: Easy

Topic: Sexual Cultures and Norms

Blooms: Remember

Heading: Sexual Norms and Sexual Socialization

60. Which of the following is a practice that one should adhere to so as to avoid being disrespectful toward other sexual cultures?

- A. One should engage in the sexual norms or practices of other sexual cultures.
- B. One should not disagree with any aspects of the other sexual cultures.
- C. One should adapt their own personal sexual style and beliefs to situations where others are very different.
- D. One should assume a person has certain sexual norms if they belong to a specific ethnic group.
- E. One should know everything there is about different sexual cultures throughout the world.

Answer: C

Difficulty: Medium

Topic: Sexual Cultures and Norms

Blooms: Understand

Heading: Sexual Norms and Sexual Socialization

61. In sexually approving cultures, young people are most likely to learn about sexuality:

- A. by the process of sexual unlearning.
- B. from religious texts.
- C. in secret houses built for initiation into adulthood.
- D. by observing, and then exploring.
- E. from religious ministers.

Answer: D

Difficulty: Medium

Topic: Sexual Cultures and Norms

Blooms: Understand

Heading: Sex-Approving and Sex-Disapproving Cultures

62. In the context of sexual socializing, one striking difference between sexually approving cultures and sexually disapproving cultures is that in the latter:

- A. instances of sexual unlearning are more common.
- B. instances of learning about sexuality by observation are more common.
- C. instances of sexual chauvinism are less common.
- D. instances of cultural chauvinism are less common.
- E. polygamous relations are non-existent.

Answer: A

Difficulty: Hard

Topic: Sexual Cultures and Norms

Blooms: Understand

Heading: Sex-Approving and Sex-Disapproving Cultures

63. Sexual unlearning is best defined as the pattern of sexual socialization:

- A. in which an individual is taught that certain behaviors to which he/she has naturally been accustomed to is considered to be abnormal in his/her culture.
- B. in which an individual learns that one should engage in the sexual norms or practices of other sexual cultures in order to show their respect for that culture.
- C. in which an individual is encouraged to come in terms with one's sexual identity, that of being a homosexual or a heterosexual.
- D. in which the individuals of a group are taught to believe that one's sexual culture is superior to others.
- E. in which the individuals of a sexually approving culture learn about sexuality by observation, and then exploration.

Answer: A

Difficulty: Medium

Topic: Sexual Cultures and Norms

Blooms: Understand

Heading: Sexual Unlearning

64. During our childhood, we are not prohibited from running around nude. However as we grow up, we are taught that it is considered abnormal to be nude in public. This type of sexual socializing is specifically referred to as:

- A. sexual chauvinism.
- B. sexual unlearning.
- C. cultural relativism.
- D. sexual relativism.
- E. cultural selection.

Answer: B

Difficulty: Hard

Topic: Sexual Cultures and Norms

Blooms: Apply

Heading: Sexual Unlearning

65. Sexual unlearning is likely to be most common in societies that are:

- A. sex-positive.
- B. static.
- C. sex-negative.
- D. stable.
- E. sex-approving.

Answer: C

Difficulty: Medium

Topic: Sexual Cultures and Norms

Blooms: Understand

Heading: Sexual Unlearning

66. The religious practice of worshipping many gods is referred to as:

- A. monotheism.



- B. polytheism.
- C. atheism.
- D. adevism.
- E. empiricism.

Answer: B

Difficulty: Easy

Topic: Sexuality and the Great World Religions

Blooms: Remember

Heading: Sex, Religion, and Reality

67. \_\_\_\_\_ are followers of a polytheistic religion.

- A. Protestants
- B. Muslims
- C. Hindus
- D. Roman Catholics
- E. Anglicans

Answer: C

Difficulty: Easy

Topic: Sexuality and the Great World Religions

Blooms: Understand

Heading: Sex, Religion, and Reality

68. The belief in one God is referred to as:

- A. monotheism.
- B. polytheism.
- C. atheism.
- D. adevism.
- E. empiricism.

Answer: A

Difficulty: Easy

Topic: Sexuality and the Great World Religions

Blooms: Remember

Heading: Sex, Religion, and Reality

69. Judaism and Islam are examples of:

- A. polytheistic religions.
- B. atheistic religions.
- C. monotheistic religions.
- D. Vedic religions.
- E. ancient Semitic religions.

Answer: C

Difficulty: Easy

Topic: Sexuality and the Great World Religions

Blooms: Understand

Heading: Sex, Religion, and Reality

70. In general, compared to monotheistic religions, polytheistic religions are:

- A. more sex-approving.
- B. more approving of worshipping one deity.

- C. more sex-negative.
- D. more approving of sexual chauvinism.
- E. more sex-disapproving.

Answer: A

Difficulty: Medium

Topic: Sexuality and the Great World Religions

Blooms: Understand

Heading: Sex, Religion, and Reality

71. In general, compared to polytheistic religions, monotheistic religions are:

- A. more sex-approving.
- B. more approving of worshipping multiple deities.
- C. less sex-negative.
- D. less approving of sexual chauvinism.
- E. less sex-approving.

Answer: E

Difficulty: Medium

Topic: Sexuality and the Great World Religions

Blooms: Understand

Heading: Sex, Religion, and Reality

72. Whether a religion is polytheistic or monotheistic:

- A. has no influence over people's sense of reality as a community.
- B. influences people's attitude toward sex to some extent.
- C. has little relation as to the number of deities the followers worship.
- D. has no effect on the sexual socializing process of a community.
- E. has a strong influence on the estrus period.

Answer: B

Difficulty: Medium

Topic: Sexuality and the Great World Religions

Blooms: Understand

Heading: Sex, Religion, and Reality

73. Religious identity is best defined as:

- A. the self-identification and subsequent acceptance of one's existence as a heterosexual, bisexual, or homosexual.
- B. the social expression of an individual's faith in the context of one's community and nation.
- C. the social expression of the strong belief that one's sexual culture is superior to others.
- D. the act of embracing the morally upright and socially strict beliefs and practices of the Puritans.
- E. the social expression of the strong belief in the superiority of one's cultural norms.

Answer: B

Difficulty: Medium

Topic: Sexuality and the Great World Religions

Blooms: Understand

Heading: Sex, Religion, and Reality

74. In the context of religious identity, which of the following is typically true?

- A. It is isolated from the political affairs of a nation.
- B. It has little relation to the sexual culture one belongs.
- C. It has no influence over people's sense of reality as a community.
- D. It influences how people raise their families.
- E. It has no role in the way people view their sexual identity.

Answer: D

Difficulty: Medium

Topic: Sexuality and the Great World Religions

Blooms: Understand

Heading: Sex, Religion, and Reality

75. In the context of present day societies practicing Hinduism, which of the following is true?

- A. It encourages the open discussion of matters related to sex.
- B. It strongly disapproves pre-marital sex.
- C. It condemns the indulgence in sex for recreation.
- D. It strongly prohibits the use of contraception.
- E. It prohibits people from getting divorced.

Answer: B

Difficulty: Medium

Topic: Sexuality and the Great World Religions

Blooms: Remember

Heading: Sex in the World Religions

76. In the context of Buddhism, which of the following is true?

- A. It discourages the discussion of matters related to sex.
- B. It approves pre-marital sex unlike Hinduism.
- C. It does not support abortion as it disrupts harmony.
- D. It strongly prohibits the use of contraception.
- E. It prohibits people from getting divorced.

Answer: C

Difficulty: Medium

Topic: Sexuality and the Great World Religions

Blooms: Remember

Heading: Sex in the World Religions

77. In the context of Judaism, which of the following is true?

- A. It believes that masturbation is healthy.
- B. It approves pre-marital sex unlike Islam
- C. It prohibits abortion irrespective of the circumstances.
- D. It accepts the use of contraception.
- E. It prohibits people from getting divorced.

Answer: D

Difficulty: Medium

Topic: Sexuality and the Great World Religions

Blooms: Remember

Heading: Sex in the World Religions

78. In the context of Islam, which of the following is true?

- A. It encourages the discussion of matters related to sex.
- B. It approves of pre-marital sex unlike Hinduism.
- C. It does not accept abortion or contraception.
- D. It does not allow divorce under any circumstance.
- E. It approves of homosexuality and considers it healthy.

Answer: C

Difficulty: Medium

Topic: Sexuality and the Great World Religions

Blooms: Remember

Heading: Sex in the World Religions

79. In the context of present day societies practicing Christianity, which of the following is true?

- A. All Christian communities prohibit the discussion of matters related to sex.
- B. All Christian communities consider pre-marital sex to be a sin.
- C. Catholics support abortion but Protestants are against abortion
- D. Catholics do not tolerate divorce but Protestants are more supportive.
- E. All Christian communities forbid adulterous relations.

Answer: E

Difficulty: Medium

Topic: Sexuality and the Great World Religions

Blooms: Remember

Heading: Sex in the World Religions

80. Hindu tradition is exceptional in its acceptance of:

- A. pleasure and sexuality.
- B. pre-marital sex.
- C. homosexuality.
- D. abortion and contraception.
- E. matriarchal society.

Answer: A

Difficulty: Hard

Topic: Sexuality and the Great World Religions

Blooms: Remember

Heading: Sex in the World Religions

81. Hindu philosophy is based on the view that:

- A. it is natural for women to ask for a divorce when husbands indulge in adultery.
- B. it is natural for people to indulge in homosexuality.
- C. it is natural for women to lose their virginity before marriage.
- D. it is natural for people to want pleasure.
- E. it is natural for women to opt for abortion.

Answer: D

Difficulty: Medium

Topic: Sexuality and the Great World Religions

Blooms: Remember

Heading: Sex in the World Religions

82. In the context of Hinduism, which of the following is one of the guidelines related to sex?

- A. Ultimate pleasure without any restraint is valued.
- B. Sex is a taboo and not discussed openly in the home.
- C. Women are not expected to be virgins when they marry.
- D. Same-sex sexual desire is considered immoral.
- E. Women are encouraged to tolerate adultery to save their marriage.

Answer: E

Difficulty: Easy

Topic: Sexuality and the Great World Religions

Blooms: Remember

Heading: Sex in the World Religions

83. In general, Buddhism:

- A. approves of non-vegetarianism.
- B. approves of pre-marital sex.
- C. prohibits abortion.
- D. encourages mutual pleasure between spouses.
- E. does not tolerate homosexuality.

Answer: D

Difficulty: Medium

Topic: Sexuality and the Great World Religions

Blooms: Remember

Heading: Sex in the World Religions

84. According to the Torah, Judaism's most holy text:

- A. the sole purpose of sex is procreation.
- B. one ought to indulge in sex for pleasure.
- C. pre-marital sex is acceptable.
- D. masturbation is a healthy practice.
- E. homosexual relations should be encouraged.

Answer: A

Difficulty: Easy

Topic: Sexuality and the Great World Religions

Blooms: Remember

Heading: Sex in the World Religions

85. Liberal Jewish traditions differ from Orthodox Jewish traditions in:

- A. its stringent dietary rules.
- B. its greater acceptance of sexual pleasure.
- C. its abhorrence of same-sex relationships.
- D. its practice of abstinence from contraceptives.
- E. its acceptance of a matriarchal society.

Answer: B

Difficulty: Hard

Topic: Sexuality and the Great World Religions

Blooms: Understand

Heading: Sex in the World Religions

86. The Quran, which Muslims regard as their blueprint for behavior, including sexual behavior, tells that:

- A. in certain circumstances women can indulge in pre-marital sex.
- B. spouses should pleasure each other during sexual intercourse.
- C. men should tolerate adultery in their wife in order to save the marriage.
- D. women should not have the right to inherit property from their family.
- E. homosexuality is a healthy practice and should be encouraged.

Answer: B

Difficulty: Easy

Topic: Sexuality and the Great World Religions

Blooms: Understand

Heading: Sex in the World Religions

87. Which of the following factors has played the major role in keeping U.S. society conservative about sexuality?

- A. The popularity of the morally upright and socially strict beliefs and practices of Puritanism
- B. The spread of Hinduism, a polytheistic religion in the greater part of the world during the nineteenth century
- C. The sex-negative ideas that the majority of people in the American society were exposed to given their adherence polytheistic religions
- D. The catholic population of the U.S that encouraged the followers to inculcate sexual chauvinism
- E. The men in the Victorian age who were expected to be sexually submissive and to control their innate “sex drives”

Answer: A

Difficulty: Medium

Topic: Spirituality and Sexual Behavior in the United States

Blooms: Understand

Heading: Spirituality and Sexual Behavior in the United States

88. Which of the following is a symbolic boundary that divides the culture and Christian groups dramatically in the U.S.?

- A. Christian group’s approval of bisexual relationships
- B. U.S. public opinion that disapproves of women holding high positions
- C. Christian groups promoting gays and lesbians serving as clergy
- D. U.S. public opinion in support of same-sex marriage
- E. Christian groups approving abortion and use of contraceptive

Answer: D

Difficulty: Hard

Topic: Spirituality and Sexual Behavior in the United States

Blooms: Understand

Heading: Spirituality and Sexual Behavior in the United States

89. Which of the following groups in the U.S. is most likely to admit that they have had same-sex relations?

- A. Teenagers who are 17-to 19 years of age and practice atheism openly
- B. People in their early twenties who attend religious services more than once a week
- C. Women who are 18-21 years of age belonging to a sex-disapproving culture

D. Puritan men in the age group of 18-21 who have a prominent sexual chauvinistic attitude

E. Puritan women in their early twenties who have a prominent cultural chauvinistic attitude

Answer: A

Difficulty: Hard

Topic: Spirituality and Sexual Behavior in the United States

Blooms: Understand

Heading: Spirituality and Sexual Behavior in the United States

90. Which of the following was an immediate outcome of the verdict of the Rowe versus Wade case?

A. It was established that a woman's right to privacy extends to her personal decision to have an abortion.

B. The Federal government laid a total ban on all commercials related to contraceptives.

C. The Federal government banned the distribution of educational information about abortion.

D. It was established that churches hold the right to tell women what to do when it comes to having health care for contraception.

E. The Protestant sect laid a ban on the use of contraceptive pills or other measures of preventing pregnancy.

Answer: A

Difficulty: Medium

Topic: Spirituality and Sexual Behavior in the United States

Blooms: Remember

Heading: Spirituality and Sexual Behavior in the United States

91. Which of the following still remains almost universally condemned among all Christian groups?

A. Abortion

B. Homosexuality

C. Adultery

D. Contraception

E. Premarital sex

Answer: C

Difficulty: Easy

Topic: Spirituality and Sexual Behavior in the United States

Blooms: Remember

Heading: Spirituality and Sexual Behavior in the United States

92. Which of the following is the primary purpose of the United Church of Christ (UCC)?

A. To help society increase its positive acceptance of sexuality

B. To help regional churches to control instances of abortions

C. To encourage the society to cultivate sexual chauvinism

D. To discourage people from indulging in homosexual relationships

E. To discourage people from indulging in premarital sex

Answer: A

Difficulty: Easy

Topic: Religion and Sexual Well-Being

Blooms: Remember

Heading: Religion and Sexual Well-Being

93. Radical inclusion is best defined as a new sexual and cultural norm that specifically says:

A. everyone has a right to be a member of a religious community, regardless of their color, gender, sexual identity, or anything else.

B. everyone has a right to express their sexual identity regardless of their color, religion or anything else.

C. everyone has a right to choose their own life partners even outside their religious communities.

D. every woman has the right to opt for abortion, regardless of her color or religion.

E. everyone has a right to vote, regardless of his or her color, gender, sexual identity, or anything else.

Answer: A

Difficulty: Easy

Topic: Religion and Sexual Well-Being

Blooms: Remember

Heading: Religion and Sexual Well-Being

Fill in the Blank Questions

94. The unique traits associated with human sexuality mainly come from the combination of three elements: \_\_\_\_\_, culture, and individuality.

Answer: species

Difficulty: Easy

Topic: Human Sexual Nature in Context

Blooms: Remember

Heading: The Sexual Triangle: Species, Culture, and Individual

95. Culture gives people a sense of group cohesion, shared meaning and identity, and also establishes standards for acceptable behavior, called \_\_\_\_\_.

Answer: norms

Difficulty: Easy

Topic: Human Sexual Nature in Context

Blooms: Remember

Heading: Human Sexual Nature as Expressed Through Culture

96. \_\_\_\_\_, that gained much popularity in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, was based on the cultural idea that a man and woman are not just sex partners but also social and intellectual companions and equals for life.

Answer: Companionate marriage

Difficulty: Easy

Topic: Human Sexual Nature in Context

Blooms: Remember

Heading: 20<sup>th</sup>-Century Sexuality



97. \_\_\_\_\_ is best defined as the self-identification by an individual as heterosexual, bisexual, or homosexual.

Answer: Sexual identity

Difficulty: Easy

Topic: Sex Since the Beginning of Time

Blooms: Remember

Heading: Sex-Approving and Sex-Disapproving Cultures

98. The practice, which allows a man to have multiple wives at the same time, is referred to as \_\_\_\_\_.

Answer: polygamy

Difficulty: Easy

Topic: Sexual Cultures and Norms

Blooms: Remember

Heading: Sexual Norms and Sexual Socialization

99. Of all the forms of sexual chauvinism, one of the most severe is when someone is labeled \_\_\_\_\_ meaning that their behavior is dysfunctional compared to the people who uphold the culture's norms

Answer: abnormal

Difficulty: Easy

Topic: Sexual Cultures and Norms

Blooms: Remember

Heading: Sexual Norms and Sexual Socialization

100. In general, \_\_\_\_\_, compared to monotheistic religions, are more likely to be sex-approving than sex-disapproving.

Answer: polytheistic religions

Difficulty: Easy

Topic: Sexuality and the Great World Religions

Blooms: Understand

Heading: Sex, Religion, and Reality

101. \_\_\_\_\_ means sharing practices of worship with others and belonging to a faith-based group, both of which create shared social experiences.

Answer: Organized religion

Difficulty: Easy

Topic: Sexuality and the Great World Religions

Blooms: Remember

Heading: Sex, Religion, and Reality

102. \_\_\_\_\_ the morally upright and socially strict beliefs and practices of the Puritans, was a factor in how American society has framed the discussion about such topics as nudity, premarital sex, extramarital sex, virginity, and pornography.

Answer: Puritanism

Difficulty: Easy

Topic: Spirituality and Sexual Behavior in the United States

Blooms: Remember

Heading: Spirituality and Sexual Behavior in the United States

103. \_\_\_\_\_ is a new sexual and cultural norm, propagated by the UCC that says everyone has a right to be a member of a religious community, regardless of their color, gender, sexual identity, or anything else.

Answer: Radical inclusion

Difficulty: Easy

Topic: Religion and Sexual Well-Being

Blooms: Remember

Heading: Religion and Sexual Well-Being

### Essay Questions

104. Mention a few sexual traits unique to humans. Do these traits have a common origin?

Answer: Sexuality is a common denominator among all humans and the human sexual experience has unique aspects. For example, no other species pursues sex for fun and pleasure, as well as for procreation. Humans are also unique in the whole universe in creating rules and beliefs around sex that have become the foundation of culture, individuality, and religion. Emotional bonding, which may occur when people look into each other's faces during sexual intercourse, leading to lifelong adult relationships, is yet another distinctive aspect of human sexuality.

These unique traits come from the combination of three elements: our species, culture, and individuality. The three elements intersect with each other as a result of millions of years of evolution of our species, hundreds of generations of the development of culture, and the uniqueness of each individual.

Difficulty: Medium

Topic: Human Sexual Nature in Context

Blooms: Understand

Heading: The Sexual Triangle: Species, Culture, and Individual

105. Is there any similarity between human sexuality and that of the Bonobo chimpanzees? Give reasons to support your answer.

Answer: Yes, there are quite a few similarities between human sexuality and that of the Bonobo chimpanzees.

Chimpanzees are the species most like humans, sharing more than 98% of our genes, and scientists believe that the sexual behavior of the Bonobo chimps is most like human sexual behavior. Unlike other lower primate species, the female Bonobo is sexually active and attractive to mates year round. Like in humans, sexual pleasure is a larger motivator for sex among the Bonobo than is procreation. Sexuality among the Bonobo creates intense social bonding and greater diversity of sexual behaviors compared to other species. Some other similarity between humans and Bonobos are: Bonobo females appear to have emotional and physiological responses that closely resemble human orgasm; Bonobo sexual behaviors include the only nonhuman examples of face-to-face genital sex, tongue kissing, and oral sex known in the wild; They also engage in manual sex, rubbing genitals, grinning and squealing as if in delight, and sexual behavior between individuals of the same sex is common.

Difficulty: Hard

Topic: Human Sexual Nature in Context

Blooms: Understand

## Heading: Ancient Greece, Rome, and Christianity

106. Elaborate on the ancient Greek sexual culture.

Answer: Ancient Greek civilization dates from 800 B.C.E. until 197 C.E. when it was incorporated into the Roman Empire. The Greeks practiced a complex form of sexuality and love that included sexual pleasure but tempered it with restraint. Their sexual culture was ideally democratic, but male power was a significant element of their tradition. Too much sex was considered bad for health, but in general, sex was a natural, positive function of human life in Ancient Greece. The Greeks believed in many gods, a concept they borrowed from Ancient Egypt, a civilization dating back to about 3100 B.C.E. Greek religion included the important idea that the gods, including their ruler Zeus, were believed to be highly sexual and engaged in all kinds of sexual exploits. Zeus could take human or animal form, he engaged in sexual interactions with women and boys, and he produced human offspring.

Not surprisingly, then, the Greeks accepted same-sex relations, but because all Greeks had to marry, homosexuality was not an exclusive sexual practice for them. Young men in their late teens had sexual relations with older males to achieve masculinity and honor as well as to cultivate self-discipline and leadership. Married men could have extra-marital relationships with younger males who were in their late teens. Typically, these relationships involved sex, love, and mentoring to make the youths into proud free citizens.

Difficulty: Medium

Topic: Sex Since the Beginning of Time

Blooms: Understand

Heading: Ancient Greece, Rome, and Christianity

107. Why is the Victorian age, considered to be the most prudish age, seen as the beginning of the modern period?

Answer: The Victorian era is known to be prudish. During the Victorian era, the accepted view was that sex should be private, hidden from and emotionally suppressed in children, and never mentioned in polite society. The genders were highly polarized and this was expressed in male and female sexuality. However, toward the end of the 19th century, as the first women's emancipation movement gathered momentum, women began to search for a more holistic, meaningful sense of sexual well-being that would also include pleasure and a larger role in society.

Children, once deemed to be sexual creatures in their own right, were now regarded as entirely sexually innocent and in need of protection to keep them that way. Men were expected to be sexually aggressive, to have manual jobs, and to express what people called very natural and innate "sex drives. Such modern attitudes motivated potential conflicts for human sexual nature. For example, women and children had to deny all sexuality, and men's sexuality was believed to be a conflict between good and evil, a struggle between the pure or good side, and the lustful, animal-like sexual side.

From the new forms of sexuality created in the 19th century, including notions of sexual degeneration that were condemned, rose new positive ideas. The most important new concept was sexual identity, defined as the self-identification by an individual as heterosexual, bisexual, or homosexual, which came into existence during this period. The concept of homosexuality as a distinctive sexual orientation of individuals attracted to others of the same gender emerged first, followed by the

invention of the concept of heterosexuality as an identity. Also during the Victorian era, a new norm redefined the concepts of production and consumption: the heterosexual couple. Prior to this time, marriage was largely a political contract, and husband and wife lived with the extended family of the man, typically in small villages. The idea of a long-term romantic sexual partnership in marriage began taking shape as society industrialized and people moved to the cities. New concepts of companionship and gender equality for women also emerged at this time. Romantic love between couples and the concept of individual choice in sex and marriage became popular. In other words, sexuality was being modernized. Thus the Victorian era in a way laid the foundation of the modern period.

Difficulty: Hard

Topic: Sex Since the Beginning of Time

Blooms: Understand

Heading: The Victorian Era and Sexual Identity

108. What is a sexual norm? Explain with an example.

Answer: A sexual norm is the standard of sexual behavior expected of people in a particular role, relationship, and situation. Within a particular culture, there can be many different sexual norms for different types of people, such as males versus females, and children versus adults. An example would be the sexual norm governing who can kiss or hold hands in public, who is allowed to date, who is allowed to have premarital sex, and who is forbidden to have sex of any kind.

Difficulty: Medium

Topic: Sexual Cultures and Norms

Blooms: Understand

Heading: Sexual Norms and Sexual Socialization

109. Explain sexual chauvinism with an appropriate example.

Answer: Sexual chauvinism is the belief that one's sexual culture is superior to others. For example, in some cultures, adolescents may be allowed to indulge in premarital sex. Sexual chauvinism occurs when individuals of this culture looks down upon another culture which prohibits premarital sex.

Difficulty: Medium

Topic: Sexual Cultures and Norms

Blooms: Understand

Heading: Sexual Norms and Sexual Socialization

110. Give an example of how religious beliefs influences sexual behavior.

Answer: Let us take the case of Buddhism. Buddhism advocates intense self-effort toward greater consciousness, and is generally tolerant of many forms of sexuality. It combines qualities of being practical, scientific, psychological, and egalitarian that are reflected in its sexual norms. In the Buddhist faith, sex is viewed positively, in moderation, like everything else in life. Mutual pleasures between spouses are expected. Pre-marital sex is discouraged because it falls outside the context of doing no harm to the self or others, including the possibility of unintended pregnancy. It can also create false promises to others and represents loss of self-control. Divorce is regarded as a secular matter and is not prohibited, but because divorce disrupts families, people are expected to marry for life.

Difficulty: Medium

Topic: Sexuality and the Great World Religions

Blooms: Understand

Heading: Sex in the World Religions

111. Elaborate on how Judaism has adapted to changing times.

Answer: Early Judaism was tolerant in some ways, but it considered certain forms of sexual behavior, including homosexuality, wrong and tabooed. As Judaism adapted to changing times, some of its earlier norms also changed. For example, one branch of Judaism has become more accepting of diverse sexual techniques, such as oral sex, and also of equality for women.

As the Jewish tradition has evolved, differences in religious practices have created two main branches: Orthodox and Reform or Liberal. The former group conforms to the Torah more strictly than the Reform group. The latter group has implemented reforms, including less stringent dietary rules, recognition of women as Rabbis, and greater acceptance of sexual pleasure. Also, some Reform Jewish congregations welcome all people regardless of sexual orientation.

Difficulty: Hard

Topic: Sexuality and the Great World Religions

Blooms: Understand

Heading: Judaism

112. How has sex become a symbolic boundary that divides people in the United States?

Answer: Sex has become a symbolic boundary that divides people in the United States based on what their religion regards as “good” versus “bad” sexual attitudes and behaviors. One such symbolic boundary that divides the culture and Christian groups dramatically is the concept of homosexuality. When it comes to homosexuality, many Christian groups continue to disapprove or even condemn gay and lesbian people, though U.S. public opinion has dramatically increased support for issues such as same-sex marriage, and it is no longer illegal, as it once was, to engage in adult same-sex relationships.

Difficulty: Hard

Topic: Spirituality and Sexual Behavior in the United States

Blooms: Understand

Heading: Spirituality and Sexual Behavior in the United States

113. Discuss how the United Church of Christ is contributing toward the sexual well-being of the society.

Answer: The United Church of Christ (UCC) has taken the lead in how to discuss with church members what it means to be sexual and attain sexual well-being in the context of their faith. In fact, the UCC clearly states that respecting sexual and gender diversity is part of its mission to help society increase its positive acceptance of sexuality. This church is one that rejects sexual chauvinism and promotes what they call “radical inclusion.” Radical inclusion is a new sexual and cultural norm that says everyone has a right to be a member of a religious community, regardless of their color, gender, sexual identity, or anything else.

Difficulty: Medium

Topic: Spirituality and Sexual Behavior in the United States

Blooms: Understand

Heading: Spirituality and Sexual Behavior in the United States