

Essays [2 @ 40%/each] (These are general themes and topics to focus on – the questions on the test may be more specific. Be sure to find points from both text books.)

1. Describe the relationship of tradition, scripture, and interpretation in religious studies generally. How did the process unfold for each of our three faiths? Be prepared to recognize examples of interpretation from different contexts, times, and/or places from each faith, and to explain some of the reasons why the interpretations took the shapes they did.
2. All three faiths are monotheistic, yet they each have some distinctive ways of expressing their belief in the one God. Discuss their shared notions of monotheism, as well as presenting some key points of difference between them all.
3. How and why should we study religion? What are some of the challenges and opportunities of studying diversity and difference between and within these faiths? Be ready to provide some examples for each faith.