A Brief Introduction to the New Testament 5th edition Ehrman Test Bank

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Chapter 2: The Greco-Roman World of Early Christianity

Test Bank

Type: essay/short answer question
Title: Chapter 02 Question 01
1. What is Hellenization? In what ways do you think it might have affected the spread of Christianity?
Feedback: Students should define Hellenization and discuss its spread under Alexander the Great. The spread of Greek culture and language paved the way for Christian missions: in this new cosmopolitan atmosphere, Christian missionaries moved easily throughout the empire and spread the good news via the lingua franca, Greek.

Type: essay/short answer question
Title: Chapter 02 Question 02
2. Discuss some of the ways Greco-Roman religions differ from modern religions.
Feedback: Students should discuss the following aspects of paganism: polytheism (perhaps discussing the levels of divinity within the pagan world), concern for present life, emphasis on cult, and relationship of empire and religion (church and state). In contrast, most modern religions are hierarchically organized, creedal, teach ethics, center on written authoritative texts, teach about an afterlife, and are exclusive communities.

Type: essay/short answer question
Title: Chapter 02 Question 03
3. How did most people understand the relationship of human beings to the gods in the Greco-Roman world?
Feedback: Students should explain the various tiers or levels of divinity in Greco-Roman polytheism. This is best summarized as a sort of "divine pyramid" in which the highest god is placed at the top, the other most powerful god(s) just below, and the more numerous but less powerful local deities (*daimonia*) toward the middle, followed by demigods and heroes and then human beings at the bottom. Many also worshiped household or family gods such as the Roman Penates or Lares, and each family was thought to have a special deity or "genius" who watched over the head of the household. The level of heroes or special figures might include persons such as the emperor, Hercules, or great philosophers.

Type: essay/short answer question
Title: Chapter 02 Question 04
4. Define *cultus deorum*. What did it involve and what was its purpose? In what other ways did pagans communicate with their gods?
Feedback: *Cultus deorum* literally means "care of the gods." It refers to the way pagans worshipped their gods—primarily through cultic acts, including animal sacrifices, daily offerings, and periodic festivals. Ultimately, the purpose of the *cultus deorum* was to ensure welfare and security in the present life. By showing respect for the gods, the pagan could expect to have the necessities of life (such as rain, food, health) maintained for them by the gods. Students should also discuss some of the other ways pagans communicated with their gods, including divination and oracles.

Type: multiple choice question
Title: Chapter 02 Question 01
1. What was probably the first book of the New Testament to be written?
a. Matthew
b. Romans
*c. First Thessalonians
d. Mark

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Type: multiple choice question
Title: Chapter 02 Question 02
2. Alexander the Great was originally king of what country?
a. Egypt
b. Palestine
c. India
*d. Macedonia

Type: multiple choice question
Title: Chapter 02 Question 03
3. The spread of Greek culture and language is known as _____.
a. paganism
*b. Hellenization
c. Greco-Roman world
d. daimonia

Type: multiple choice question
Title: Chapter 02 Question 04
4. When did Alexander the Great die?
a. 425 BCE
*b. 323 BCE
c. 44 BCE
d. 70 CE

Type: multiple choice question
Title: Chapter 02 Question 05
5. When was *The Life of Apollonius* written?
a. first century BCE
b. first century CE
c. second century CE
*d. third century CE

Type: multiple choice question
Title: Chapter 02 Question 06
6. Who wrote *The Life of Apollonius*?
*a. Philostratus
b. Julius Caesar
c. Alexander the Great
d. Octavian

Type: multiple choice question
Title: Chapter 02 Question 07
7. Greco-Roman religion incorporated which of the following?
a. creeds
*b. tolerance
c. sacred texts
d. ethical commitments

Type: multiple choice question
Title: Chapter 02 Question 08
8. Polytheism is the _____.
a. worship of one god
b. worship of nature
*c. worship of many gods
d. worship of the emperor

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Type: multiple choice question
Title: Chapter 02 Question 09
9. Which of the following was thought to be the most powerful of the gods?
a. Genius
b. Lares
c. Daimonia
*d. Zeus

Type: multiple choice question
Title: Chapter 02 Question 10
10. Which of the following was *not* a household deity?
a. Penates
b. Lares
*c. Daimonia
d. Genius

Type: multiple choice question
Title: Chapter 02 Question 11
11. Who among the following was *not* thought to be a demigod or divine man?
a. Alexander the Great
b. Pythagoras
c. Heracles
*d. Philostratus

Type: multiple choice question
Title: Chapter 02 Question 12
12. The term “cult” means _____.
a. strange belief
b. magic
c. gods
*d. care

Type: multiple choice question
Title: Chapter 02 Question 13
13. Which of the following refers to a group of lesser gods in the Greco-Roman world?
a. augurs
b. extispicy
c. polytheism
*d. daimonia

Type: multiple choice question
Title: Chapter 02 Question 14
14. Which of the following was *not* used to determine the views of the gods?
a. extispicy
*b. penates
c. auspices
d. divination

Type: multiple choice question
Title: Chapter 02 Question 15
15. When individuals wished to know the will of a god, they visited a(n) _____.
*a. oracle
b. cult
c. daimonia

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d. lares

Type: multiple choice question
Title: Chapter 02 Question 16
16. The leaders of priestly “colleges” were _____.
a. equestrians
b. geniuses
*c. augurs
d. senators

Type: multiple choice question
Title: Chapter 02 Question 17
17. What does “gentile” mean?
a. penates
b. Jew
*c. non-Jew
d. pagan

Type: multiple choice question
Title: Chapter 02 Question 18
18. Which was not a typical feature of Greco-Roman religions?
*a. separation of church and state
b. polytheism
c. organization and hierarchy
d. cultic acts

Type: multiple choice question
Title: Chapter 02 Question 19
19. Most people in the ancient world believed that _____.
a. religion brought a happy afterlife
b. religion brought immortality
*c. religion secured life in this world
d. religion helped only moral people

Type: multiple choice question
Title: Chapter 02 Question 20
20. Who among the following was often believed to be divine?
a. senators
b. equestrians
*c. emperor
d. augurs

Type: multiple choice question
Title: Chapter 02 Question 21
21. Which term refers to the interpretation of a sacrificial animal’s entrails?
a. lares
b. oracles
*c. extispicy
d. augury

Type: multiple choice question
Title: Chapter 02 Question 22
22. In the Greco-Roman world, the religious and political realms typically _____.
*a. functioned together in hopes of securing peace and prosperity
b. remained distinct; politicians did not participate in religion

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c. remained distinct; politicians created their own religions
d. clashed; they couldn't agree on appropriate forms of worship

Type: multiple choice question
Title: Chapter 02 Question 23
23. Which of the following likely influenced the pagan persecution of Christians?
a. a general religious intolerance among pagans
*b. the Christian refusal to participate in sacrifices honoring the emperor
c. the pagan's lack of familiarity with monotheism
d. Christianity was made illegal in the first century

Type: multiple choice question
Title: Chapter 02 Question 24
24. In the ancient world, most people _____.
a. were priests
b. worshipped the same, exclusive set of gods
*c. participated in religious rituals
d. were monotheists

Type: multiple choice question
Title: Chapter 02 Question 25
25. Pagan religions typically lacked all of the following *except* _____.
a. systematic doctrine
b. an ethical system
c. sacred texts
*d. temples

Type: multiple choice question
Title: Chapter 02 Question 26
26. Understanding Greco-Roman religion is useful for the study of the New Testament because _____.
a. the Greco-Roman world foreshadows the early Christian experience
*b. New Testament authors wrote within the context of the Greco-Roman world
c. Greco-Roman prophets made predictions about Jesus
d. Jesus' ministry focused on converting pagans

Type: multiple choice question
Title: Chapter 02 Question 27
27. The term "gentile" designates _____.
*a. a non-Jew
b. a Jew
c. a disciple of Jesus
d. someone who is Hellenized.

Type: multiple choice question
Title: Chapter 02 Question 28
28. Which of the following does *not* apply to Alexander the Great?
a. He was a brilliant military strategist.
b. He controlled much of the lands surrounding the eastern Mediterranean.
*c. He was the first Roman emperor.
d. He promoted Greek culture.

Type: multiple choice question
Title: Chapter 02 Question 29
29. Polytheism _____.

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*a. was not exclusive
b. refers only to the highest level of Greco-Roman gods
c. was not the most popular form of religion in the ancient world
d. focused on the afterlife

Type: multiple choice question
Title: Chapter 02 Question 30
30. Which claim about Jesus would have been most easily understood by pagans?
a. Jesus offers salvation from sin.
b. Jesus maintains the Torah.
c. Jesus is the messiah.
*d. Jesus performed miracles.

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