

BSOM- 163

FOUR-YEAR UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMME
BACHELOR OF ARTS
(Minor Course)

ASSIGNMENT
January 2026 Session

COURSE CODE: BSOM-163
RELIGION AND SOCIETY



SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY
Maidan Garhi, New Delhi-110068

Dear Student,

As we have informed you in the Programme Guide, evaluation at IGNOU consists of two parts: i) continuous evaluation through assignments, and ii) term-end examination. In the final result, assignments of a course carry 30% weightage while 70% weightage is given for term-end examination.

This Assignment booklet has TMAs for the **FYUP Minor** course **BSOM-163: Religion and Society** which is a **four** credit course. The booklet has two TMA Sections whose total marks add up to 100 and carry a weightage of 30 %.

Section I has Descriptive Category Questions (DCQs). These are meant for writing essay type answers, with an introduction and a conclusion. These are intended to test your ability to describe your understanding/knowledge about the topic in a systematic, to-the-point and coherent manner.

Section II has Middle Category Questions (MCQs) and Short Category Questions (SCQs). These MCQs require you to first analyse the topic in terms of arguments and explanations and then write the answers in a concise manner. They are meant to test your ability to distinguish, compare and contrast, or clear understanding of the concepts and processes. The SCQs are meant to improve your skill of recall in brief the relevant/precise information about persons, writing, events, or clear understanding of concepts and processes.

Before you attempt the assignments, please read the instructions carefully provided in the Programme Guide. It is important that you write the answers to all the TMA questions in your own words. Your answers should be within the approximate range of the word-limit set for a particular section. Remember, writing answers to assignment questions will improve your writing skills and prepare you for the term-end examination.

As mentioned in the Programme Guide, you need to submit all the assignments within the stipulated time for being eligible to appear in the term-end examination.

Submission of Assignment:

Cycle	Last date of submission	Place of submission
January 2026	30 th September 2026	Coordinator of the Study Centre

You must obtain a receipt from the Study Centre for the assignments submitted and retain it. If possible, keep a xerox copy of the assignments with you.

The Study Centre will have to return the assignments to you after they are evaluated. Please insist on this. The Study Centre has to send the marks to the Student Evaluation Division at IGNOU, New Delhi.

We expect you to answer each question as per guidelines for each category as mentioned in the assignment. You will find it useful to keep the following points in mind:

1) **Planning:** Read the assignments carefully, go through the Units on which they are based. Make some points regarding each question and then rearrange them in a logical order.

2) **Organisation:** Be a little selective and analytic before drawing up a rough outline of your answer. Give adequate attention to your introduction and conclusion.

Make sure that your answer:

a) is logical and coherent;

b) has clear connections between sentences and paragraphs, and

c) is written correctly giving adequate consideration to your expression, style and presentation.

3) **Presentation:** Once you are satisfied with your answer, you can write down the final version for submission, writing each answer neatly and underlining the points you wish to emphasize. Make sure that the answer is within the stipulated word limit.

Wish you all the best !

Discipline of Sociology
SOSS, IGNOU, New Delhi

BSOM-163 : RELIGION AND SOCIETY

Tutor Marked Assignment

Course Code: BSOM –163

Assignment Code: ASST /TMA /2026

Total Marks: 100

Section I

Answer the following Descriptive Category questions in about 500 words each. Each question carries 20 marks.

20 x2=40

1. Discuss the development of sociology of religion.
2. Explain the functionalist theories of religion.

Section II

Answer the following Middle Category questions in about 250 words each. Each question carries 10 marks.

10x3 = 30

3. Examine the relationship between religion and magic.
4. Explain the concept of 'positivism'.
5. Discuss the interlinkages between protestantism and economic development.

6. Answer the following Short Category questions in about 125 words each. Each question carries 5 marks.

5 x 6 = 30

- (a) Define caste.
- (b) Differentiate between Sunni and Shia sects.
- (c) What is Nirankari movement?
- (d) What is civil religion?
- (e) What does secularism mean?
- (f) Differentiate between Hinayana and Mahayana.