

Study Guide
The Elementary Forms of Religious Life

There will be approximately 30 questions on the exam from Durkheim's book. Focus your attention on the following topics:

1. the nature and role of sociology as a science
2. why base a theory of religion on primitive societies
3. the nature of religious ideas
4. the origins of objective consciousness
5. human nature
6. the essential feature of religion everywhere, and arguments against alternative concepts of the essence of religion
7. the nature of magic, and its relationship to religion
8. the idea of the soul
9. the totem as symbol, and its social functions
10. the nature of clan social organization
11. the source of moral authority and how people in society conceptualize it
12. the nature of religious force
13. Durkheim's interpretation of the Eucharist
14. the nature of individuality
15. different types of rites
16. relations between the sacred and the profane
17. Durkheim's interpretation of the rite of sacrifice
18. sympathetic magic
19. relations between society and its individuals
20. the nature of sacred force
21. the origins of categories of thought
22. the advance of reason and objectivity