

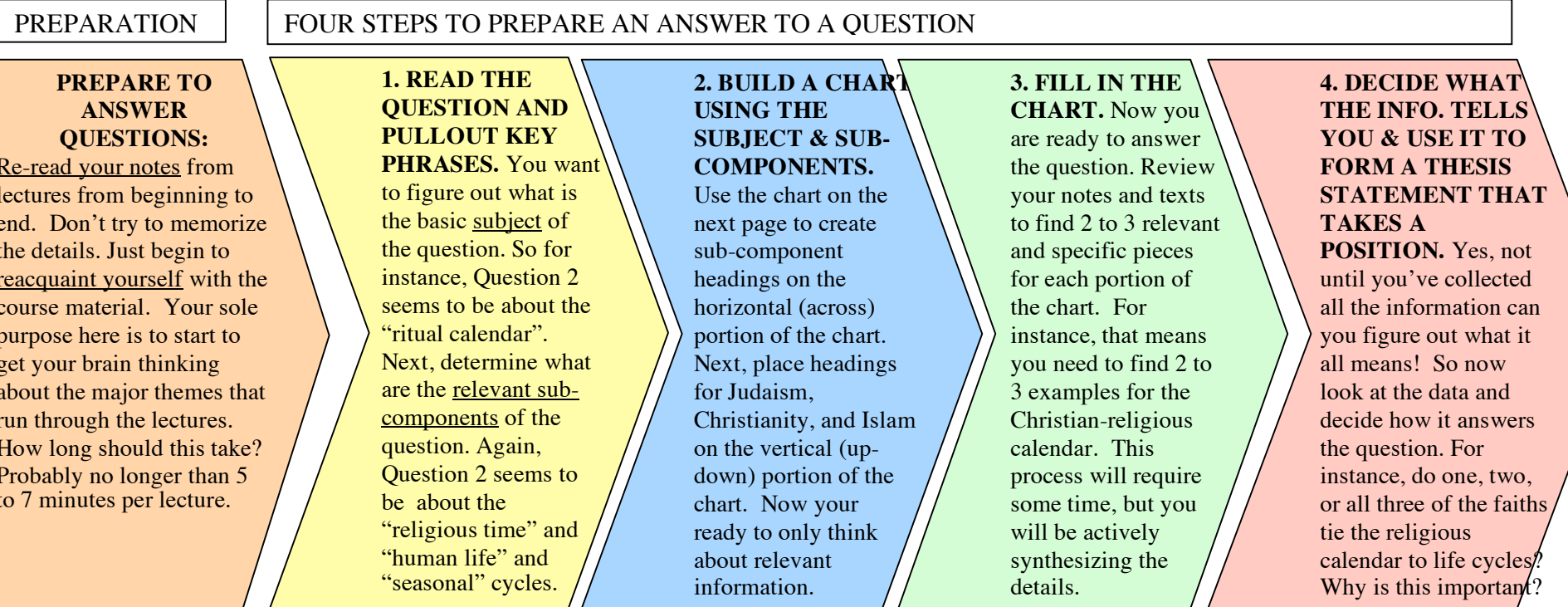
RS 304: Judaism, Christianity, Islam: An Introduction
COMPARISON REVIEW CHART FOR THE SECOND EXAM -- Prepared by Roger L. Martinez

HOW TO PREPARE FOR THE EXAM AND HOW YOU SHOULD USE THIS CHART:

One of the most important and useful ways to prepare for any test is organizing your thoughts. Often, when we study for exams, we tend to concentrate solely on memorizing all the details of lectures and books. Yes, learning the details is absolutely necessary for preparing for an exam, but it is also the bare minimum. This might sound intimidating – how in the world are you go to memorize every last detail from the lectures and texts? And then, on top of that, how can you hope to integrate all the information in a manner that addresses the question? Well, it is a challenging task, but also very achievable if you prepare in a smart, efficient, and effective manner. One of the best ways to ensure success is to organize your thoughts as you study. Avoid the pitfall of first attempting to memorize all the details, and then returning to the study questions at the end of the studying process.

So how do you “organize” your thoughts as you study? Think about answering each study question as a process of very deliberate steps. If you skip steps, then you might run off the track and waste precious time and brain-space on issues that are irrelevant to your goal of answering the question in the most concise, but detailed manner possible. Below, you will find one process that might help you organize your thoughts as you prepare answers for each question.

ONE STUDY PROCESS THAT MIGHT HELP YOU:



**ORGANIZING YOUR THOUGHTS TO WRITE A GOOD ESSAY:
SAMPLE FOR QUESTION #2**

Essay Topic/Question (Write it in here): The ritual life of a community is attuned to a religious calendar and to the human life cycle. What are the key moments in the religious calendars of Jews, Christians and Muslims? Why are these moments important? To what extent does each tradition organize its yearly cycles around the seasons? To what extent does each tradition organize ritual around the life cycle?

What is your thesis/argument?

(Take a position. Try to answer “why” or “how.” List your basic points.) **Address the question in your thesis: -Are the moments important? -Are the moments organized around cycles?**

Religions	RELEVANT SUB COMPONENT ONE (1) “RELIGIOUS CALENDAR”	RELEVANT SUB-COMPONENT TWO (2) “HUMAN LIFE CYCLE”	RELEVANT SUB-COMPONENT THREE (3) “SEASONAL CYCLE”
Judaism	Report how Judaism uses or does not use a “religious calendar”. Be specific.	Report how Judaism attaches or does not attach the religious calendar to the human life cycle. What are the “moments”? Cite at least 2 specific examples.	Report how Judaism attaches or does not attach the religious calendar to the seasonal cycle. What are the “moments”? Cite at least 2 specific examples.
Christianity	Same task as above for Christianity...		
Islam	Same task as above for Islam...		

**ORGANIZING YOUR THOUGHTS TO WRITE A GOOD ESSAY:
BLANK TEMPLATE**

Essay Topic/Question (Write it in here):

What is your thesis/argument?

(Take a position. Try to answer “why” or “how.” List your basic points.) **Address the question in your thesis.**

Religions	RELEVANT SUB COMPONENT ONE (1)	RELEVANT SUB-COMPONENT TWO (2)	RELEVANT SUB-COMPONENT THREE (3)
Judaism			
Christianity			
Islam			