

**APPROVED**  
**at a meeting of the**  
**Scientific Council**  
**NJSC «Al-Farabi KazNU».**  
**Minutes No.10 dated**  
**May 13, 2023.**

**The program of the entrance exam for applicants to the PhD**  
**for the group of educational programs**  
**D051 – «Religion and theology»**

**1. General provisions**

1. The program was drawn up in accordance with the Order of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated October 31, 2018 No. 600 “On Approval of the Model Rules for Admission to Education in Educational Organizations Implementing Educational Programs of Higher and Postgraduate Education” (hereinafter referred to as the Model Rules).

2. The entrance exam for doctoral studies consists of writing an essay, passing a test for readiness for doctoral studies (hereinafter referred to as TRDS), an exam in the profile of a group of educational programs and an interview.

<b>Block</b>	<b>Points</b>
1. Essay	10
2. Test for readiness for doctoral studies	30
3. Exam according to the profile of the group of the educational program	40
4. Interview	20
Total admission score	100/75

3. The duration of the entrance exam is 4 hours, during which the applicant writes an essay, passes a test for readiness for doctoral studies, and answers an electronic examination. The interview is conducted on the basis of the university before the entrance exam.

**2. Procedure for the entrance examination.**

1. Applicants for doctoral studies in the group of educational programs D051 – «Religion and theology» write a problematic / thematic essay. The volume of the essay is at least 250-300 words.

2. The electronic examination card consists of 3 questions.

## **Topics for exam preparation according to the profile of the group of the educational program.**

### **Discipline «Methodology of Religious Studies»**

#### **Topic 1. Features of the formation of a scientific approach to the explanation of religion.**

Subtopics: Religious studies as an independent area of knowledge, as a science with its own subject and method: methodological foundations. The Science of Religion and the History of Religion. Understanding and studying religion as the relationship of historical research methods with anthropological, ethnological, social and other methods. Functions of the science of religion. Specificity of scientific knowledge about religion. Scientific approaches to the history of the evolution of religious consciousness (E.B. Taylor, J. Fraser).

#### **Topic 2. Methods of Religious Studies Cognition.**

Subtopics: Concept of the Method of Religious Studies. Classification of methods of religious studies, their characteristics. General scientific approaches. A systematic approach as a methodology for cognizing integral objects. Actually, religious approaches. The principles of presentation, their characteristics. The significance of ideas about the methods of religious studies for a modern researcher.

#### **Topic 3. Religious Studies of Religion.**

Subtopics: Definition of Religion. Types of definitions: theological explanation (E. Troelch, R. Otto, P.A. Florensky, P.L. Berger, T. Luckmann, etc.) philosophical (B. Spinoza, I. Kant, F. Hegel, L. Feuerbach and others), sociological (M. Weber, B. Malinovsky, E. Durkheim, T. Parsons, etc.), biological and psychological (W. James, L. Levy-Bruhl, Z. Freud, E. Fromm, K. G. Jung and others), ethnological approach. Religion in the history of social and humanitarian thought: methodological aspects. The principles of scientific knowledge of religion.

#### **Topic 4. Key categories for Religious Studies Research.**

Subtopics: In religious studies general philosophical and socio-philosophical categories are used: «being», consciousness, cognition, reflection, symbol, truth, delusion, fantasy, illusion, society, material and spiritual production, culture, alienation”and others. Concepts and terms borrowed from logic, ethics, aesthetics: «sign, meaning, meaning, conscience, responsibility, mercy, compassion, beauty», etc. General scientific concepts: «system, structure, function, role, law», etc. Particularly scientific concepts: «era, law, illusion, faith, feeling, mood, suffering, communication, language, life, death», etc. Special religious concepts and terms: «religion, theology, religious cult, church, confession, temple, prayer», etc. A special place is occupied by concepts and terms: «God, angel, hell, heaven, Bodhisattva, providence, karma», etc. etc., which in science have a different meaning than in religion, their religious meaning. The class of concepts reflecting the processes of change in religion: «development and evolution, sacralization, secularization, deteologization, demythologization, modernization», etc.

#### **Topic 5. The problem of typology of religions.**

Subtopics: The problem of typology of religions, created as a result of comparative analysis based on various characteristics. Polytheistic. Monotheistic, dead, living, written, unwritten. Typology of religions F.G.V. Hegel. Tribal, national and world religions. Comparative historical paradigm in religious studies. «Religious rites and ceremonies of all the peoples of the world» P. Picard. Comparative Religious Studies of the 18th century Comparative Religious Studies of the 19th century Comparative Religious Studies of the 20th century

#### **Topic 6. History of Religion: Formation of Methodological Approaches.**

Subtopics: History of Religion as a Section of Religious Studies. In the XVIII century. problems of the history of religion in the works of the French educator, encyclopedist C. de Brosses, French scientist and philosopher C.F. Dupuis. In the XIX century. German theologians and historians, the Tübingen school of F.K. Baur and D.F. Strauss. Also Swiss historian and jurist I. Bachofen, French historian F. de Coulanges, French writer, historian and orientalist philologist J.E. Renan, English historian, orientalist W. Robertson Smith, English historians and ethnologists E.B. Tylor, J. Fraser, German historian J. Welhausen, German

historian and philosopher A. Drews Austrian theologian, ethnographer and linguist V. Schmidt, Russian historians F.I. Shcherbatskaya, V.V. Bartold, A.B. Ranovich, R.Yu. Vipner, theologian and historian A.V. Kartashov and many others.

### **Topic 7. Sociology of religion: the formation of methodological approaches.**

Subtopics: O. Kont. Methodology of social philosophy, sociology and understanding of the place of religion in the life of society, the sources of religion. (E. Durkheim). The foundations of the sociology of religion: study of the influence of religion on the development of the economy, political systems, family, forms of institutionalization of religion, typology: choice of research methods (M. Weber). Magic, thinking, science, religion: as anthropological constants and scientific approaches. (B. Malinovsky). A meaningful definition of religion: from ontology to research methodology. (E. Taylor, E. Durkheim).

### **Topic 8. The systems approach as a methodology for the cognition of integral objects.**

Subtopics: Specificity of the systems approach. The interdisciplinary nature of the systems approach. Holistic integrative model of the object. Object of study. Dismemberment of the study. The logic of knowledge. Methodological principles, categorical-conceptual apparatus, research procedure, methods and techniques of a systematic approach. Rigid systems theory. Theory of soft systems. Self-organization theory. Application of a systematic approach to the study of religion.

### **Topic 9. The significance of ideas about the methods of religious studies for a specialist.**

Subtopics: Relationship between the methodology of religious studies and other scientific disciplines. Formation of mental operations of the individual. Analysis. Synthesis. Generalization. Classification. Cognitive activity. Thinking. Creation. Activity. Criticism. Mutual understanding, interdisciplinary program.

### **Topic 10. Methodology of theological explanation of religion.**

Subtopics: The concept of religion "from within", based on relevant religious experience. Supranaturalistic definition of religion. Historical School of Theology. «Historical way of considering» the religion of E. Troelch; the experience of Saint R. Otto; "Our life is in God and God is in us" P.A. Florensky; ontological and phenomenological definition of religion. T. Lukman's invisible religion. The experience of the transcendental - immanent, belief in someone higher than a human being. Religion is the experience of the transcendent S.N. Bulgakov. The construction of the sacred Cosmos by P.L. Berger. F. Schleiermacher «Speeches about religion to educated people who despise it.»

### **Topic 11. The influence of science on the religious perception of the world.**

Subtopics: Epistemological aspect of the study of religion. Specificity of religious consciousness. Religion. The concept of doctrine. Theurgy and theodicy. The epistemological position of faith and the cognitive attitudes of rationalism. The problem of the relationship between faith and reason "in the history of religion. Problems of dialogue between science and religion. The relationship between the scientific and religious picture of the world.

### **Topic 12. Philosophical and scientific analysis of religious studies.**

Subtopics: Religious Studies as a Type of Rationality. Religious studies and methodology. Multilevel concept of methodological analysis. Scientific research methods in religious studies. Problems of research methods of religion. Axiomatic method in religious studies. Formalization and the degree of its applicability in religious studies. The method of ascent from the abstract to the concrete. Historical and logical method. The principle of historicism in religious studies. Structural and functional approach to religion. Modeling method in religious studies. Theoretical and empirical religious studies. The construction of virtual objects in the problems of the study of religion. Computer modeling and the degree of its applicability in religious studies.

### **Topic 13. The current state of religious studies.**

Subtopics: Modern Western Schools of Religious Studies. Comparative approach to the study of religion. History and current state of national religious studies. Subject area of modern philosophy of religion, the truth and rationality of religious beliefs, features of the religious language. Methodological problems in modern religious studies. Historical and evolutionary approaches in the history of religious studies.

Comparative Historical Methods of Researching Religion. Structural and functional research method in religious studies.

#### **Topic 14. Kazakhstani Religious Studies.**

Subtopics: Kazakhstani Religious Studies: Problems and Prospects. Kazakhstani Religious Studies in Search of Its Actualization: A Practical Dimension. Kazakhstani Religious Studies in the Light of Modern Epistemology. «Towards the Metatheory of Religious Studies». Realism as a methodological principle of Russian and Kazakh religious studies. On the history of Russian religious studies: the problematic field of religious studies in the 1920s-1930s. The role of the departments of scientific atheism in the formation and development of religious studies in Kazakhstan. Dissent in modern Kazakhstani religious studies: a cognitive dimension. Development issues of modern Kazakhstani religious studies. The development of religious psychology in modern Kazakhstan. About two paradigms of modern religious studies in Kazakhstan. Religion in the structure of everyday life in modern Kazakhstan. Problems of the sociology of religion in Kazakhstani religious studies. Religious studies without borders. Islamic studies in Kazakhstan in the second half of the XX - early XXI centuries. Qumran: on the issue of community identification. The development of the methodology of religious studies as an extremely urgent task of Kazakhstani religious studies.

### **Discipline «Modern problems of religious studies»**

#### **Topic 1. Formation of a religious paradigm.**

Subtopic: Preconditions for the Scientific Study of Religion. Accumulation of empirical and theoretical material about religion. Revision of the theological interpretation of religion. Theology and Religious Studies. Formation of religious studies as a branch of scientific knowledge. Basic approaches to the definition of the concept of religion. Changes in religion as a cultural phenomenon. Religious studies: subject, range of problems and their specificity.

#### **Topic 2. Methodological problems of modern religious studies.**

Subtopics: Revision of the methods of early religious studies at the beginning of the 20th century. F. Max Müller on the most important methodological principles of religious studies. F. Max Müller on the Comparative Method in Religious Studies. From evolutionism to diffuse and the theory of pramontheism. Religious studies analysis of the classification of religion. Methodology of the classical phenomenology of religion. Formation of the hermeneutic method in the study of religion.

#### **Topic 3. Religious studies of the second half of the 20th century in search of a new paradigm.**

Subtopics: Main trends in religious studies of the second half of the 20th century. The crisis of the classical phenomenology of religion. Neophenomenology of religion. Modern problems of the history of religion. Structuralism and Religious Studies. Ecology of religion.

#### **Topic 4. Religious concepts on the essential characteristics of religion.**

Subtopics: Philosophical concepts on the essential characteristics of religion. The Pragmatism and Radical Empiricism of William James. R. Otto on the numinous essence of religion. M. Eliade about hierophanie as a religious phenomenon. Psychoanalytic paradigm of the phenomenon of religion. Z. Freud about religion as a sublimation of the unconscious and as a collective neurosis. K.G. Jung on the archetypal content of the psyche as the basis of religion. E. Fromm on the nature and essence of religion.

#### **Topic 5. The current state of religious studies.**

Subtopics: Problems and Prospects for the Development of Contemporary Religious Studies. Stages of the formation of religious studies. Determination of the subject and scientific status of religious studies. Metareligiology as a history and theory of religious studies. Cognitive Religion. Comparative Religion. Relationship between religion and theology. Confessional Religious Studies. Theoretical and empirical religious studies. Features of religious studies in the system of modern humanitarian knowledge. Theoretical problems of religious studies.

## **Topic 6. The current state of religious studies in Kazakhstan.**

Subtopics: Features of the formation of religious studies in Kazakhstani society. The main stages of the development of religious studies in modern Kazakhstan. The main directions of research in religious studies. The main trends in the development of modern Kazakhstani religious studies. Traditions of Kazakhstani Religious Studies. Religious studies at the present stage.

### **Discipline «State legislation on religion»**

#### **Topic 1. State legislation on religion.**

Subtopics: Religion and its influence on the origin of law and state. Typology of legal systems. Problems of freedom of conscience and religion. The beginning of religious reforms in the Republic of Kazakhstan in 1985-1990. Socio-economic and socio-political situation in the USSR. Political reforms in the Soviet Union. The Communist Party about religion, atheistic education, freedom of conscience and state-confessional relations. Council for Religious Affairs under the Council of Ministers of the USSR and its bodies in the union republics. All-Union legislation on freedom of conscience and religious associations and the practice of its implementation in the republics of the Soviet Union. «Religious question» in the program goals and objectives of the course of perestroika and glasnost. Religious situation in the RK. Republican normative legal acts regulating the position and activities of religious associations. The system of organization and implementation of state control over the observance of legislation on freedom of conscience by religious associations. The initial stage of the formation of an independent religious policy in the Republic of Kazakhstan in the context of perestroika and publicity. Religious life of Kazakhstan: difficulties, problems of revival. Statistical data on the dynamics of quantitative parameters of the main confessions in Kazakhstan.

#### **Topic 2. Political and legal aspect of solving the religious issue in the Republic of Kazakhstan.**

Subtopics: Transformation of State Policy in the Sphere of Religion. The constituent elements of the state policy in the religious sphere. Stages of development of the political and legal aspect of solving the religious issue in the Republic of Kazakhstan. Law «On Freedom of Conscience and Religious Associations», adopted on January 15, 1992. Constitution of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Law «On Public Associations» 1996. State structure as the Secretariat of the Council for Relations with Religious Associations. Center for the Study of Islamic Law at the Kazakh State Academy of Law (2000, Center for Islamic Studies at the Institute of Oriental Studies named after R. B. Suleimenov of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan (2003).

#### **Topic 3. Legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan on freedom of conscience and on religious associations.**

Subtopics: The Law «On Freedom of Conscience and on Religious Associations» (1992) on the concept and constituent parts of Kazakhstani legislation on freedom of conscience, freedom of religion and on religious associations. State and religion State and religious associations. Religious associations and citizens of the Republic of Kazakhstan, foreigners and stateless persons, regardless of their attitude to religion, are equal before the law. State (local) government bodies and religious organizations. State supervision and control over the observance of legislation on freedom of conscience: legal framework and implementation mechanism. Religious expertise. The authorized body ensures the conduct of a religious examination. Religious activity in the Republic of Kazakhstan.

#### **Topic 4. Constitution of the Republic of Kazakhstan.**

Subtopic: Constitution of the Republic of Kazakhstan (1995) on freedom of conscience and freedom of religion Constitutional construction in the 90s. XX century and the development of principles and provisions on freedom of conscience and freedom of religion. The secular nature of the state, the separation of religious associations from the state. Equality of human and civil rights and freedoms, regardless of attitude to religion. Equality of religions and religious associations before the law and the state. Human and civil rights in the field of freedom of conscience and religion: general and specific. The concept of secularity and secularity of the state. Principles of secularity Legal regulation of the problem of freedom of conscience and religion in modern foreign secular states. The main models of the relationship between the state and religious associations in European countries. The secular nature of the state education system, public service. The right to alternative service in the Armed Forces of the

Republic of Kazakhstan. Delineation of powers and subjects of jurisdiction in the sphere of freedom of conscience between federal and regional authorities.

### **Topic 5. Law «Legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan on Religious Activity and Religious Associations».**

Subtopics: Law «Legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan on Religious Activity and Religious Associations»: structure, main provisions and practical implementation. Circumstances and conditions in which the law was developed. Discussions in Kazakhstani society and abroad around the conceptual foundations and fundamental provisions and norms of the draft law. Discussion and adoption of the law in the Government. Objectives and subject of regulation of the Law «On Religious Activities and Religious Associations». Legal regulation of the problem of freedom of conscience and religion in the Republic of Kazakhstan. State and religious associations: principles of relationships. The main content of the chapters of the law: «Religious associations», «Rights and conditions for the activities of religious organizations», «Supervision and control over the implementation of legislation on freedom of conscience, freedom of religion and religious associations.» Religious associations in the Republic of Kazakhstan and the procedure for their registration. The main regulatory legal acts of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Akimats, Departments for Religious Affairs ensuring the implementation of the law. The procedure and conditions for the re-registration of religious associations in accordance with the requirements of the law.

### **3. List of references.**

#### **Main:**

1. Radugin A.A. Introduction to religious studies: theory, history and modern religions: a course of lectures. - M.: Center, 2000. - 240p.
2. Yablokov I.N. Religious studies as a field of knowledge // Bulletin of the Russian Community of Religious Studies Teachers. 1: 12-25. 2008.
3. Yablokov I.N. Religious studies: a textbook for universities / IN Yablokov; edited by I. N. Yablokov. - 2nd ed., Rev. and add. - Moscow: Yurayt Publishing House, 2019. -- 371 p.
4. Yablokov I.N. Sociology of Religion: Theoretical Aspects: Monograph. – M.: MAKSS Press, 2014. – 260 p.
5. Yablokov I.N. Philosophy of religion. Actual problems: Monograph. - M.: Publishing House of the RAGS, 2007. - 248 p.
6. Religious Studies. Encyclopedic Dictionary. - M.: Academic project, 2006. - 1256s.
7. Garadzha V.I. Sociology of religion. M., INFRA-M, 2005 - 348s.
8. Pivovarov D.V. Philosophy of Religion. Yekaterinburg, Business book, 2006 - 640s .
9. Krasnikov A.N. Methodological problems of religious studies: Textbook. - M.: Academic project, 2007. - 239p.
10. Eriksen, Thomas Hilland. What is anthropology? / Proc. allowance, transl. from English. – M.: VSHE, 2014. – 238 p.
11. Baytenova N.Zh., Ormanalieva A.D., Rysbekova Sh.S., Beisenov B.Y., tb. Dintana. A., Kazakh University, 2019 - 477b.
12. Baytenova N.Zh., Ormanalieva A.D., Rysbekova Sh.S., Beisenov B.N., tb. Dintana. Encyclopedias 1-2 vol. A., Kazakh University, 2018 - 495b., 439b.
13. Khizmetli S. Orta Asia Turk Respublikaalaryndagy ziyandy agymdar zhane missionerlik. A., 2006
14. Baytenova N.Zh., Syrgakbaeva A.S., Abzhalov S.U., Dzhekebaeva M.A. The context of the context of the day-philosophy is reflection. A., Kazakh University, 2020 - 201b.
15. Ormanalieva A.D., Utebaeva D.S., Oskenuly E. Missionerlik Adisteri: ohu uraly. 2019.- 178 p.
16. Baytenova N.Zh., Demeuova A.A. Religion as a Sociocultural Phenomenon: Religious Discourse, A., 2015.
17. Utebaeva D.S., Kantarbaeva J.O., Aldjanova N.K., Duisenbaeva A.K., Nazarbek K., Asanova S., Karibaeva A.N. Religion and youth in the Internet space: collective monograph – A., Kazakh University, 2021. – 146p.

**Additional:**

1. The Constitution of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated December 18, 1995 No.
2. Kazakhstan republics «Dini Kyzmet zhane dini birlestikter turaly» (On religious activity and religious associations) Zak, 11 Kazan 2011zh., No. 483-1V QRZ.
3. Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated October 11, 2011 No. 483-IV «On religious activity and religious associations» (with amendments and additions as of December 11, 2016).
4. Volodina N.V. Features of the relationship between the state and religious associations in European countries for overcoming conflicts on a confessional basis. // Legal initiative. 2013.3.
5. Podoprigora R.A. State and religious organizations (administrative and legal issues). Almaty: Publishing house «Arkaim». 2002, // Electronic version: [https://online.zakon.kz/Document/? Doc\\_id = 35392260 # pos = 1733; -45](https://online.zakon.kz/Document/?Doc_id=35392260#pos=1733;-45).
6. Zelenkova M.Yu. State-confessional relations: the legal aspect. - M., 2004.
7. Baytenova N.Zh., Ormanalieva A.D., Rysbekova Sh.S., Beisenov B.K., tb. Kazirgi Kazakstanday dintanu: kalyptasuy Men Damu Zholdary. A., Kazakh University, 2014 - 138b.