Sociology of Religion Questions

1. What does the author mean when they say, “it is important to examine religion objectively in its social and cultural context.”? Why is this important?
2. Explain the functionalist perspective on religion and give an example.
3. Explain the conflict perspective on religion and give an example.
4. Explain the symbolic interaction perspective on religion and give an example.

U.S. Religious Landscape Survey

1. What is the population being studied in this survey?
2. What is the sample population?
3. How did the sociologists study their sample population?
4. What are some categories they place respondents into besides religious affiliation?
5. What is meant by the phrase, “Religious Marketplace”?
6. What is does the author mean when they say that religious affiliation in the U.S. is both very diverse and extremely fluid? Give a specific example to support each of these claims.
7. What religions are predicted to become more/less popular in the United States? What is the reasoning for these predictions?
8. How might this study be used to support for functionalist theory?
9. How might this study be used to support conflict theory?