# Part 7: Belief Systems

## Discussion Questions (Collated from the text)

1. Describe the main rituals practiced by the Nacirema. What do these rituals reveal about the core beliefs of the culture?
2. What are the social and psychological functions of Nacirema body rituals?
3. What body rituals exist in your culture, and what functions do they serve?
4. Define and distinguish between the three forms of magic: ritual, taboo, and fetish.
5. What is the role of magic in sports?
6. Why are rituals, taboos, and fetishes so prevalent among pitching and hitting, but not in fielding?
7. Share your experiences with magic in sports and other performances.
8. What does the phrase “there is no peace in the house” have to do with witchcraft accusations?
9. Discuss the role structural violence plays in witchcraft accusations.
10. Who was Cramptom’s key informant within Gambaga (and beyond), and what assistance did this individual provide in terms of Crampton’s understanding and analysis?
11. How does the reality of witch camps contrast with how they are presented in the media?
12. Discuss the different formats that interventions into cases of witchcraft accusations take from a human rights perspective as compared to those that take a culturally sensitive approach.
13. How does Bielo use “entertainment” in his analysis? Why is entertainment so powerful and important in advancing the Ark Encounter’s agenda?
14. Trace the roots of modern creationism. What were the social conditions of the time that contributed to its rise?
15. What is the link between cultural capital and the dominance of the non-creationist public? Where do we see evidence of the cultural capital of non-creationists in the public arena?