

### AP World Unit 3 Test Study Guide

#### **Hinduism:**

- What are the origins of Hinduism?
  - Hinduism emerged as a combination of many diverse, ancient traditions. Its roots are in the Indus Valley civilization and in the Aryan pastoralists who eventually settled in India.
- Who are the principal gods of Hinduism?
  - Brahma, the creator; Vishnu, the preserver; and Shiva, the destroyer
- What is the origin of the caste system?
  - The caste system was first introduced in the Rigveda , the oldest of the four Vedas. The Aryans who developed this system thought of separation by occupation, justified by religion. According to the story, the castes were formed from the sacrifice of a mythical creature, Purusha (who may have just been an un-sacrificed human). His head made the Brahmin priests, his arms the Kshatriya warriors, his thighs the Vaishya merchants, and his feet the Shudra lower working class.
- What are karma and dharma? How are they related?
  - Dharma is a person's set of religious and ethical duties, while karma is what the person actually does, and how each of his actions affects his atman, or soul. Following one's dharma purifies the atman, while going against one's dharma pollutes the atman.
- What do epics such as the Mahabharata and the Ramayana tell us about Hinduism and its past?
  - These epics may not necessarily tell true stories, but they provide insight into Indian life during the time they took place. The Mahabharata presents moral conflicts and reflects on the meaning of life and death. It teaches the importance of dharma. The Ramayana's core theme is dharma, and how it is different for each person. Both stories demonstrate considerable assimilation in India.
- What is the ultimate goal for a Hindu devotee?
  - moksha, or union of the soul with the spirit of the universe
- What are the Vedas? Why are they significant?
  - There are four Vedas, religious texts written by Aryan pastoralists. They discuss the creation of the world and the significance of life. They also introduced the caste system as a means of ordering relationships among multiethnic immigrant groups. Additionally, they celebrate the arts, such as dance, music, and acting, as methods of worship.
- What are samsara and moksha? How are they related?
  - Samsara is the cycle of reincarnation, and moksha is the release from this cycle and union with the brahman, or universal spirit.

- Why did Hinduism stay primarily within the Indian subcontinent?
  - There are several reasons for this: Hindus don't actively attract or seek converts; and the Indian subcontinent is mostly isolated by the mountain borders to the north and the ocean to the south.
- How was Hinduism related to politics?
  - One of the duties of the Indian government back then was to reinforce the caste system- it ensured that higher castes had more privileges. For example, only the upper castes could receive a formal education. Moreover, this led to the Brahmin priests gaining much influence- they were rewarded with land, court subsidies, and temple bequests. Wealthy landowners and rulers often patronized temples as a validation of power. Brahmins were also placed in newly conquered areas to incorporate the people into Hinduism.
- How has Hinduism evolved over time?
  - Hinduism is practiced differently everywhere. Since it is a collection of different ideas and traditions, different people follow the ones they want to.

### **Buddhism:**

- Where and why did Buddhism spread?
  - Buddhism started in India but spread to China and Southeast Asia and rooted itself there. It spread primarily through trade interactions and active missionaries.
- What is the Eightfold Path?
  - The Eightfold Path describes how a Buddhist can achieve enlightenment, or nirvana.
- What were some ways Buddhism evolved based on where it was?
  - Different peoples adopted and changed Buddhism to better suit their local traditions. One such form was the Theravada branch in Southeast Asia. Its opponent was the Mahayana branch, which believed in three aspects of the Buddha, and felt they could carry more people to nirvana.
- How was Buddhism connected to politics?
  - Buddhism reached its prime in India when the emperor Asoka converted, but lost its influence when he died. In China, the Wei dynasty both patronized and regulated Buddhist shrines. They liked the foreign religion because they were also outsiders. Many later Chinese emperors also endorsed Buddhism. However, one Tang emperor, Wuzong, feared the power of monasteries, so he destroyed their sacred texts, statues, and shrines.
- What are the origins of Buddhism?
  - The founder of Buddhism was Siddhartha Gautama, an Indian prince. He lived an isolated life of luxury, but wanted to see the outside world, where he only found suffering. He spent many years meditating until he found the answer- nirvana. He became the Buddha ("the Enlightened One") and began to spread his teachings.

- What are the Four Noble Truths?
  - Siddhartha Gautama taught the Four Noble Truths of suffering, in which he explained the definition, cause, and elimination of sorrow.
- What kinds of people were attracted by Buddhism?
  - Initially, the lower castes of India were attracted by Buddhism, and later outsider emperors of China were attracted by Buddhism. These people liked the simplicity of the religion, in addition to its message that anybody could achieve enlightenment.
- What is the ultimate goal for a Buddhist?
  - Nirvana- a state of blissful nothingness
- What is the significance of a bodhisattva?
  - Bodhisattvas were “beings of wisdom” who were on the verge of achieving nirvana, but stayed behind to help others. Mahayana Buddhists felt their branch was superior because they had more bodhisattvas.
- How did Buddhism spring from Hinduism? (How did Hinduism incorporate Buddhism?)
  - Siddhartha Gautama was originally a Hindu before he created Buddhism. His religion can be considered a reform movement of Hinduism, because he incorporated some key ideas of Hinduism, but rejected the caste system and promoted spiritual activity. Hinduism and Buddhism share the ideas of maya, samsara, moksha, and dharma, although for Buddhists, dharma was simply proper behavior, unrelated to caste. In Hinduism, some people consider the Buddha to be the ninth reincarnation of Vishnu.

### **Judaism:**

- What were gender roles like under Judaism?
  - The Torah granted women fewer rights and obligations than men. Women were mostly only responsible for nursing and childcare. They were considered ritually unclean if they were on their period. Jewish scriptures credit few women with heroism, but among these few are Sarah, Deborah, Ruth, and Esther. Also, Judaism initially rejected homosexuality and considered marriage as the norm with an emphasis on bearing children.
- What is the diaspora?
  - Foreign conquerors exiled Jews from Israel to encourage assimilation, which led to the diaspora, of the Jews’ dispersion the other lands. Some of the people assimilated into other cultures, while others retained their own identities. When Cyrus allowed them to return to Israel, some went back to rebuild their national like while others stayed behind to reinstitute Judaism elsewhere, particularly in Babylonia.
- How has Judaism evolved over time?
  - Originally, Judaism was centered in Israel, but once conquerors took over, they dispersed and formed minorities wherever they went. After conflict with the romans and the Christians, they faced prejudice which has lasted even until today.

- How did Roman persecution of Jewish people impact their treatment throughout history?
  - The Roman Empire had a great deal of influence, so once they started persecuting Jewish people, the overall treatment of Jews went downhill, continuing even today.
- What are the Ten Commandments?
  - The Ten Commandments were given to Moses by God after he led his people out of slavery in Egypt. They dictate proper, moral behavior, and are an example of divine intervention in mortal life.
- What was the covenant between God and the Hebrew people?
  - God formed a covenant with Abraham and his descendants, who became the Jewish people. In exchange for an area of land and protection, Abraham and the Jews would forever revere and worship God.
- What is the holy text of Judaism and what does it teach?
  - The Torah teaches about the creation of the world and the early history of Judaism. It is filled with instances of miracles, or divine interventions. It also contains core beliefs of Judaism, including a single, caring God, whose power affects destinies of both individuals and of nations; a community rooted in a divinely chosen family; a “promised” geographical homeland; a legal system; and a sacred calendar.

### **Christianity:**

- What did Christians and Jews disagree about?
  - Judaism emphasized monotheistic belief, so they felt that viewing Jesus as the son of god contradicted that belief. Further rifts occurred when the Jewish people refused to worship Roman emperors.
- What is the holy text of Christianity?
  - The Bible
- How did Christians regard women?
  - Christianity was very attractive to women because it offered more freedom than other civilizations (ex. Rome and Greece) did. They were welcomed warmly at first, but lost influence as Jesus’ disciples institutionalized the church. Women were meant to be chaste, or at least monogamous. Paul of Tarsus, a key ‘spreader’ of Christianity, subordinated women at home and in church.
- Who did Christianity most appeal to?
  - Christianity most appealed to the poor, and to people who were generally regarded as inferior, because of its message of equality and salvation for all.
- What did Jesus teach his followers?
  - Jesus talked about ethical life, moral teachings, and predictions of the future in his preaching. He spoke of an imminent day of divine judgment of the world, promised eternal life and happiness to the poor as long as they kept faith in God, and stressed a future in heaven after death. He performed exorcisms and miracles such as feeding a

bunch of people and curing the blind, which made his followers believe that he was the divine son of God.

- How and why did Christianity gain so many followers?
  - Followers of Christianity believe that their religion reached so many people because of divine assistance. Historians give other reasons for its success: there was an “inflexible and intolerant” zeal from Jewish roots; promise of resurrection and future life for believers; assertion of miraculous accomplishments; austere morals; an alternative community to the imperial structure; and a local, universal church.
- What are the origins of Christianity?
  - Jesus was born to Joseph and Mary in Bethlehem. By age 30, he became a powerful preacher and spread his teachings, gaining followers along the way. However, the Roman and Jewish authorities didn’t like him much so they had him crucified, after which he is said to have come back from the dead, thus proving his divinity. He was revered as the Messiah.
- How did Christianity evolve from Judaism?
  - Much like Buddhism to Hinduism, these two religions share similar beliefs and origins. Christianity incorporates the Jewish Torah into their religion as the Old Testament, and the two share the Ten Commandments. Moreover, Jesus was raised as a Jew but eventually created his own religion.

## Islam

- What are the origins of Islam?
  - Muhammad was born in 570 CE. He became a merchant, and was a very meditative person. One day, he heard the voice of the angel Gabriel, who revealed the messages of God, which were later compiled into the Quran- the absolute, uncorrupted word of God.
- What are the Five Pillars of Islam?
  - The Quran details five ritual expressions that define orthodox beliefs and practice:
    1. “There is no god but God and Muhammad is his Prophet.”
    2. Praying 5 times daily while facing Mecca
    3. Giving alms to the poor (2.5% of your wealth)
    4. Fasting each day during the month of Ramadan
    5. The hajj
- What is the significance of the hajj?
  - The hajj is one of the Five Pillars of Islam. It is a pilgrimage to Mecca that every Muslim must make at least once in his/her lifetime.
- What is the holy text of Islam and what does it provide?
  - The holy text of Islam is the Quran. It provides the most recent and final teachings of God, including the Five Pillars.

- What is the shari'a?
  - Islamic law
- What were gender relations under Islam?
  - Islam followed the general pattern of patriarchy. Men were given public power and responsibility, and women were to be obedient, satisfy men's sexual desire, and bear children. They had to keep their bodies covered. However, the shari'a gave married women some additional benefits. Marriage required the consent of the bride, the dowry went directly to the bride rather than to her family, and a husband was obligated to serve his wives and children.
- How did Islam gain followers?
  - Muhammad spoke his message in Mecca and later in Medina. He gained many followers in these cities, who sought to convert others to Islam. They gained many converts by conquering other areas.
- What is dar al-Islam?
  - dar al-Islam translates to "world of Islam". It initially meant any place where Islam was the primary religion, but eventually came to comprise any land where Islam could be practiced freely. When Muhammad fled to Medina, he created dar al-Islam as a form of government- it dictated business ethics and family laws such as marriage, divorce, and inheritance.
- What was the caliphate?
  - After Muhammad's death, Muslims were afraid that their community would break apart, so they began to elect a caliph, or the spiritual head of their community.
- What is the difference between Shi'a and Sunni Muslims?
  - The Sunni majority felt that the caliph should be a political leader, while Shi'as felt that caliph should represent religious principles over imperial goals. This division has caused civil war even today.
- What is dhimmi status?
  - Dhimmi status was granted to other "peoples of the book" (Jews and Christians) living in Muslim territory. It allowed them to practice their religion openly, although there were some restrictions. They had to wear distinct clothing and pay special taxes, and they couldn't build new religious structures or change existing ones.

### **Confucianism:**

- Offered solutions to the problems in China
- Encouraged ancestral worship rather than the worship of a specific deity
- Foundation of Chinese government
- Patriarchal relationships with family at the center of Chinese society
- Key belief: filial piety and the 5 relationships

**Daoism (Taoism):**

- Founded by Laozi
- Key belief: societal harmony by living according to the natural laws of the universe
- Emphasized respect for nature

**Zoroastrianism:**

- Founded by Zoroaster
- Monotheistic; mostly contained within the Persian empire
- Taught the significance of good versus evil, possibly inspiring other similar concepts such as heaven v. hell

**Timeline:**

- 2000 BCE (approx.) – Hinduism
- 586 BCE – Judaism
- 500 BCE – Buddhism
- 479 BCE – Confucianism
- 1<sup>st</sup> century CE – Christianity
- 610 CE – Islam