

Name: _____ Date: _____

Document Based Essay Question: Hinduism and Buddhism

This question is based on the accompanying documents. The question is designed to test your ability to work with historical documents. Some of these documents have been edited for the purposes of this question. As you analyze the documents, take into account the source of each document and any point of view that may be presented in the document.

Historical Context:

Throughout history, belief systems have influenced social, economic, and political developments in many regions. Although different, these belief systems often have similarities and, in some cases grow out of one another. Two such examples are Hinduism and Buddhism.

Task(s): *Using the information from the documents and your knowledge of global history, answer the questions that follow each document in Part A. Your answers to the questions will help you write the Part B essay in which you will be asked to:*

- *Describe the key beliefs and practices of both Hinduism and Buddhism.*
- *Discuss the differences, similarities and relationship between the two faiths.*

PART A: DOCUMENTS

Directions: Analyze the documents and answer the short-answer questions that follow each document on a separate sheet of paper:

Document 1: Achieving Moksha is the Goal of Life

To Hindus every person has an essential self or atman. Some view it as the same as Brahman and other as a form of Brahman. The ultimate goal of existence, Hindus believe, is achieving moksha, or union with Brahman. To do that, individuals must free themselves from selfish desires that separate them from Brahman. Most people cannot achieve moksha in one lifetime, but Hindus believe in reincarnation, or the rebirth of the soul in another bodily form. Reincarnation allows people to continue world toward moksha through several lifetimes.

--Adapted from Prentice Hall World history, Ellis and Esler

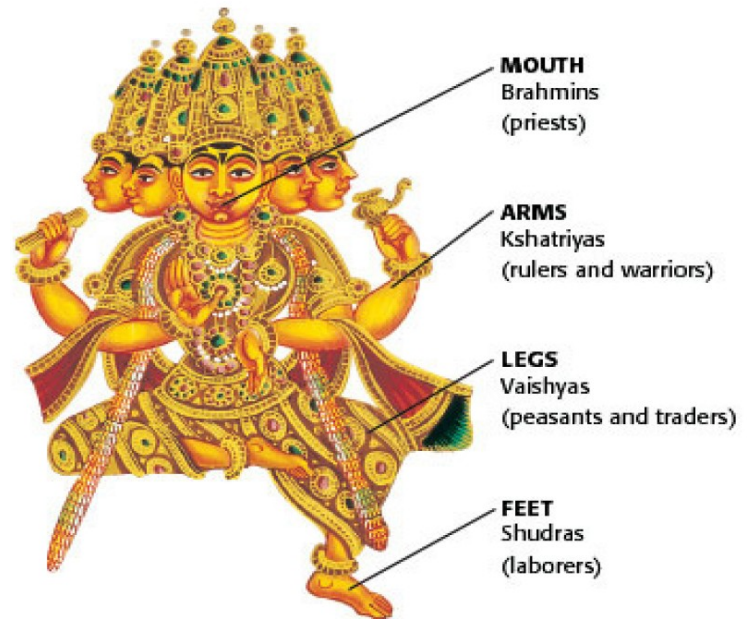
Document 1 Question: According to this excerpt, what is the purpose of reincarnation?

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Document 2: The following depicts the origins of the Hindu Caste system. The four major castes emerged from Purusha (the first human being). Purusha is identified with the creator god Brahma.

The Brahmins: The priestly class, born from the mouth of Brahma.
The Kshatriyas: Warriors and rulers, senators, presidents, majors, born from the chest of Brahma
The Vaisyas: Farmers, merchants, lawyers, doctors.
The Sudras: Unskilled workers. Born from the feet of Brahma.
Other sub-castes: Up to 3,000 sub-castes, with the untouchables at the bottom.



Document 2 Question: According to this diagram, who were the largest group in Indian society?

Document 3: The four truths are presented within the Buddha's first discourse, Setting in Motion the Wheel of the Dharma. An English translation is as follows:

1. "This is the noble truth of [suffering]: birth is [suffering], aging is [suffering], illness is [suffering], death is [suffering]; sorrow, lamentation, pain, grief and despair are [suffering]; union with what is displeasing is [suffering]; separation from what is pleasing is [suffering]; not to get what one wants is [suffering]; in brief, the five aggregates subject to clinging are [suffering]."
2. "This is the noble truth of the origin of [suffering]: it is this craving which leads to renewed existence, accompanied by delight and lust, seeking delight here and there, that is, craving for [physical] pleasures, craving for existence, craving for extermination."
3. "This is the noble truth of the cessation of [suffering]: it is the remainderless fading away and cessation of that same craving, the giving up and relinquishing of it, freedom from it, nonreliance on it."
4. "This is the noble truth of the way leading to the cessation of [suffering]: it is the Noble Eightfold Path; that is, right view, right intention, right speech, right action, right livelihood, right effort, right mindfulness and right concentration."

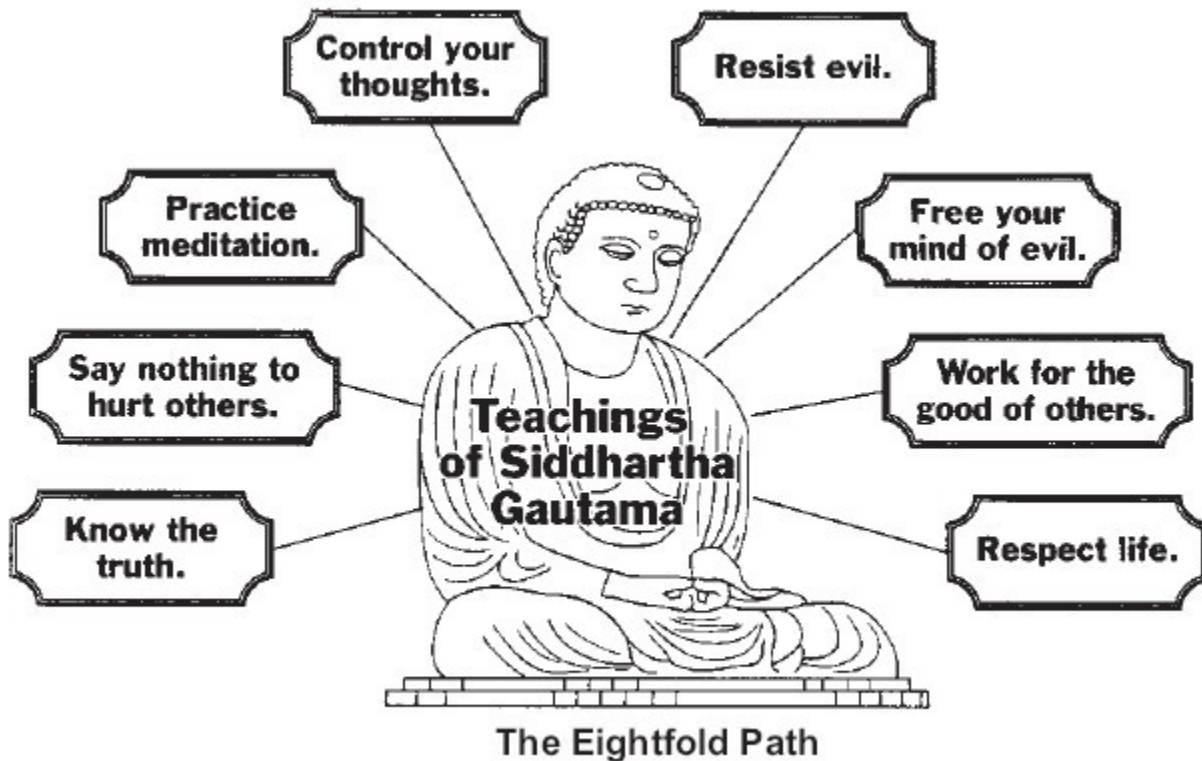
--Adapted from Dhammacakkappavattana Sutta, translated by Thanissaro Bhikkhu

Document 3 Question: According to the Siddhartha Gautama (the Buddha), what is the origin of people's suffering?

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Document 4: The Eightfold Path



Source: *The Human Experience*, Glencoe

Document 4 Question: According to Siddhartha Gautama [the Buddha] what is an important part of the eightfold path.

PART B: ESSAY

*Directions: Write a well-organized essay that includes an introduction, several paragraphs, and a conclusion. Use evidence from **all four documents** in your essay. Support your response with relevant facts, examples, and details. Include additional outside information.*

Historical Context:

Throughout history, belief systems have influenced social, economic, and political developments in many regions. Although different, these belief systems often have similarities and, in some cases grow out of one another. Two such examples are Hinduism and Buddhism.

Task(s): Using the information from the documents and your knowledge of global history, write an essay in which you:

- **Describe the key beliefs and practices of both Hinduism and Buddhism.**
- **Discuss the differences, similarities and relationship between the two belief systems.**

Guidelines:

In your essay, be sure to

- Develop all aspects of the task
- Incorporate information from all four documents
- Incorporate relevant outside information
- Support the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details
- Use a logical and clear plan of organization, including an introduction and a conclusion that are beyond a restatement of the theme

Scoring Rubric:

Name: _____

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TAD-DO-DO: Task; Analysis & Description; Details; Organization; Documents; Outside Information

Level	Task	Analysis & Description	Details	Organization	Documents	Outside Information
5	Develops all aspects of task in depth (evenly)	More Analytical than Descriptive	More than sufficient details to support theme	Good Organization (more than basic intro and/or conclusion present)	All required documents referenced	Substantial
4	Develops all aspects of task in depth (unevenly)	Descriptive and Analytical (evenly)	Sufficient details to support theme	Good Organization (more than basic intro and/or conclusion present)	All required documents referenced	Sufficient
3	Minimal development (all of the task) or some of the task in depth	More Descriptive than Analytical	Some details to support theme; Minor inaccuracies	Satisfactory Organization (basic intro and/or conclusion present)	Some information referenced (beyond copied information)	Limited
2	Minimal development (some of the task)	Mostly Descriptive (little analysis)	Few details to support theme; some inaccuracies	Poor Organization (no intro and/or conclusion)	Some information referenced (primarily copied information)	Little to none
1	Minimal development (some of the task)	Descriptive (no analysis)	Almost no details to support theme; inaccurate	No Organization (no intro and/or conclusion)	Vague/unclear references (primarily copied information)	None