

Major World Religions

Answer Key

Lesson 1: Buddhism

1. Who is the founder of Buddhism?
Siddhartha Gautama
2. When was Buddhism founded?
About 2,500 years ago (C. 528 BC)
3. Buddhism is derived from the Sanskrit *budh*, which means:
To awaken
4. Describe Siddhartha Gautama's childhood.
Was born in a palace, to Queen Maha Maya, the wife of warrior-king Suddhodana from the Himalayan foot hills. Gautama lived a sheltered existence in extravagant luxury. Father wanted to protect him so he gave him everything.
5. What four sights did Siddhartha Gautama see that influenced him to seek the cause of and an end to suffering?
 - A.) Saw an old man and realized everyone would age
 - B.) Saw a sick man and comprehended that everyone would become ill
 - C.) Saw a corpse and understood everyone will die
 - D.) Saw a monk who appeared happy and contented
6. What did Siddhartha Gautama conclude was the cause of suffering?
Was greed, selfishness, and stupidity.
7. According to Buddha, how does one end suffering?
Find happiness, people must rid themselves of these negative emotions.
8. Define *nirvana*.
A transcendent state in which there is neither suffering, desire, nor sense of self, and the subject is released from the effects of karma and the cycle of death and rebirth. It represents the final goal of Buddhism.
9. What are the four truths of Buddhism?
 - A.) Dukkha—Life is suffering
 - B.) Viparinama-dukkha—Impermanence or change
 - C.) Nirhodha—end of suffering
 - D.) Eightfold pat—will end suffering and bring enlightenment
10. What is the eightfold path?
Practical guideline to ethical and mental development with the goal of freeing the individual from attachments and delusions; and it finally leads to understanding the truth about all things and being from all desires and attachments.
11. What are the eight pathways?
 - A.) Right View
 - B.) Right Intention
 - C.) Right Speech

- D.) Right Action
- E.) Right Livelihood
- F.) Right Effort
- G.) Right Mindfulness
- H.) Right Concentration

12. What does “taking refuge in the three jewels” mean?

Taking a commitment to live one’s life by the principles embodied in the three jewels.

13. What are the three jewels of Buddhism?

- A.) Buddha
- B.) the Dharma
- C.) the Sangha

14. What are the five precepts of Buddhism?

- A.) Not killing or harming living beings
- B.) Not taking what is not given (not stealing)
- C.) Not being unfaithful in relationships
- D.) Not using wrong speech
- E.) Not taking intoxicating drink or drugs.

15. What is reincarnation?

The cycle of rebirth

16. Into what six realms may an individual be reincarnated?

- A.) Animals
- B.) Ghosts
- C.) Hell
- D.) Demigods
- E.) Gods
- F.) Men

17. What is *karma*?

Refers to the good and bad actions that one chooses in life, whether mental, verbal, or physical.

18. According to Buddhism, how do one’s present actions affect one’s future?

Karma is the universal law of cause and effect by which one’s deeds in past states of existence determine future existence.

19. Explain how one becomes a Buddhist

Simply make a commitment to live one’s life by the principles embodied in the “Three Refuges” and the “Five Precepts.”

20. What are the sacred writings of Buddhism?

The Pali Tripitake or Triple Basket, Suttapitaka Vinayapitake and Abbidhammapitaka

21. What are the two main divisions or schools of thought in Buddhism?

- A.) Theravada Buddhism
- B.) Mahayana Buddhism

22. How do the two schools of thought differ?

Theravada teaches that each individual must make his own way by following the teachings of Tripitaka and tends to be more monastic strict, and world-renouncing than Mahayana, and its approach is more philosophical than religious.

23. How does the concept of an eternally present, omnipotent God fit in the theology of Buddhism?

It has no place in Buddhism.

24. Where is Mahayana Buddhism predominant?
Zen, Vajrayana, and Pure Land and is followed in China, Vietnam, Korea and Japan.
25. Where Theravadan Buddhism predominant?
Sri Lanka and Southeast Asia.

Lesson 2: Christianity

1. Whose life and teaching form the basis of Christianity?
Jesus Christ
2. Jesus was born of a virgin named Mary in Bethlehem of Judeah.
3. At what age did Jesus begin His ministry?
Twelve year old lad
4. What is the first great commandment?
"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind."
5. What is the second great commandment?
"Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."
6. Complete the following statements.
A.) Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven
B.) Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth
C.) Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy
D.) Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called children of God
E.) Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God
7. The miracles Jesus performed testified to His:
Divine nature
8. How many people witnessed Jesus 'personal appearances after the Resurrection?
500 people
9. How many people were filled with the Holy Ghost in the upper room on the Day of Pentecost?
120
10. In the early church following the Day of Pentecost, where did the congregations meet?
In homes
11. Who served as bishop of Crete?
Titus
12. Which Roman emperor gave the people the freedom to choose their religion?
Emperor Constantine
13. What is the Nicene Creed?
Trinitarian creed of the western church
14. Name three martyrs during the Middle Ages.
A.) John Wycliffe
B.) Jan Hus
C.) Girolamo Savonarola
15. What did Martin Luther hope to do in posting his ninety-five theses on the door of the Wittenberg church?
Called for reformation within the Catholic church.
16. Who was John Calvin?
A French theologian who pastored in Geneva, Switzerland.

17. How many Apostolic believers are presently in the world?
24 million worldwide
18. What does the Bible teach about the nature of God?
That He is one.
19. Define *sacrament*. List three examples.
A religious ceremony or ritual regarded as imparting divine grace. Baptism, communion and matrimony.
20. Define *Christian canon*.
An exclusive list of books written during the formative period of the Jewish or Christian faiths.
21. How many books are in the Old Testament: 39
How many books are in the New Testament: 27
22. What is the Apocrypha?
The Roman Catholic Church, as well as Greek, Russian, and Eastern Orthodox churches include the Apocrypha as canonical. Most Protestant churches reject the Apocrypha citing it lacks divine inspiration.
23. What does the Bible teach regarding the salvation of humanity?
The death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ provide the means that all humanity can be saved through the grace of God.
24. What is the scriptural mode of baptism?
Acts 2:38
25. How do believers appropriate the grace of God?
That grace by obeying the gospel through repentance of sin, baptism by immersion in the name of Jesus Christ, and receiving the indwelling of the Holy Spirit evidence by speaking in other tongues.

Lesson 3: Hinduism

1. What is the world's oldest religion still in existence?
Hinduism
2. Who founded Hinduism?
There is no single founder of Hinduism as Hinduism was not founded as a religion.
3. Define *reincarnation*.
The continual cycle of birth, death, and rebirth.
4. Define *moksha*.
Is the liberation from samsara, the continual cycle of repeated death and rebirth.
5. What is *dharma*?
The practice of virtue.
6. How many people worldwide are followers of Hinduism?
Seven hundred fifty million to one billion people primarily in India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka
7. List five moral ideals taught in Hinduism.
 - A.) Non-violence
 - B.) Truthfulness
 - C.) Friendship
 - D.) Compassion
 - E.) Fortitude

8. List the four main branches of Hinduism.
 - A.) Shaivism
 - B.) Vaishnavism
 - C.) Shaktism
 - D.) Smartism
9. What is the basis of the divisions within Hinduism?
Based on the main god or goddess worshiped within the sect.
10. Who is Brahman?
He occupies the highest place as the creator and is the Absolute, the supreme being that sustains the universe.
11. List six Hindu gods or goddesses.
 - A.) Brahma
 - B.) Vishnu
 - C.) Shiva
 - D.) Sarawati
 - E.) Lakshmi
 - F.) Parvati
12. How many Hindu gods and goddesses exist?
There can really be as many Hindu gods as there are devotees to suit the moods, feelings, emotions, and social background of the devotees.
13. Which gods form the Hindu "Trinity"?
 - A.) Brahma
 - B.) Vishnu
 - C.) Shiva
14. What is the Tridevi?
It is a "triple goddess." It is the divine mother and rides on a lion. It is the reincarnation of Shiva's first wife.
15. Who forms the Tridevi?
Durga and Kali and is often shown together with Saraswati and Lakshmi.
16. List the four goals of every Hindu and define the goals.
 - A.) Dharma
 - B.) Artha
 - C.) Kama
 - D.) Moksha
17. What determines one's present status in life and also what his future existence will be?
How one acts and reacts in this present life – and has acted in previous existence- determines his future existence.
18. What is Atman?
One of the most basic concepts in Hinduism, the universal self, identical with the eternal core of the personality that after death either transmigrates to a new life or attains release (moksha) from the bonds of existence
19. A Hindu may be reborn into one of six realms. What are these realms?
 - A.) Realm of demigods
 - B.) Realm of gods
 - C.) Realm of men
 - D.) Realm of animals
 - E.) Realm of ghosts
 - F.) Realm of hell

20. What are margas?
Major paths to moksha are known as margas. The way of knowledge or insight.
21. What is yoga?
Is a Sanskrit word literally meaning “yoke,” and as the English yoke, it implies a burden or discipline.
22. What is mantra?
A sacred utterance (syllable, word, or verse) that is considered to possess mystical or spiritual efficacy.
23. What are murtis?
Images of the gods and goddesses
24. What are the primary holy writings of the Hindus?
Are the four Vedes (means wisdom). The Rig Veda, Atharva Veda, the Sama Veda, and the Yajur Veda.
25. Describe Hindu worship.
Involves murtis (images of the gods and goddesses), prayers and chanting mantras, and yantras (diagrams of the universe).

Lesson 4: Islam

1. What does *Islam* mean?
Meaning ‘peace’ and ‘submission’
2. Who is the founder of Islam?
Mohammed
3. Describe the founder’s revelation of one god.
In the month of Ramadan, Mohammed had his first revelation from God.
4. When and where was Islam founded?
Islam began as the way of life, or din (means religion) which God intended for his creation from the start.
5. How do Muslims view Jesus Christ?
God sent Him as a prophet along with Musa (Moses).
6. What is the difference between Sunnis and Shi’as?
Little separates these two as far as doctrine and practice, their bitter political divisions continue to result in deadly sectarian violence. However, Shi’a Muslims exalt imams, whom they regard as a line of inspired teachers.
7. What led to the rapid spread of Islam throughout the Middle East and North Africa?
Muslim military forced many to convert.
8. What were Mohammed’s instructions concerning non-Muslims?
Bluntly offering them death as an alternative, or by making their lives so miserable that the conquered convert to Islam under the strain. Forced conversions!
9. What is the holy book of Islam?
Qur’an,
10. What are the five pillars of Islam?
 - A.) Shahadah
 - B.) Salat
 - C.) Sawm
 - D.) Zakat
 - E.) Haji

11. How does Islamic monotheism differ from monotheism as taught by Apostolics?
Apostolics view is that God is one, their view of the nature of God differs from Muslims.
12. Define *salvation* as taught by Islam.
Muslim can never be assured of future salvation since it is based on his works. Only Allah can determine if the good deeds surpass the bad.
13. How do the doctrines of *original sin* and *the fall of man* fit into Islam?
Islam has no room for this concept, or need of a savior.
14. What is Ramadan?
A month where all Muslims fast from dawn until sundown, abstaining from food, drink, and sexual relations with their spouses.
15. According to the Qur'an, what will happen on Judgment day?
Allah will judge the deeds of every individual.
16. When are Muslims assured of eternal salvation?
Muslim can never be assured of future salvation since it is based on his works.
17. What is the Muslim place of worship?
Mosques
18. What is jihad?
The basic meaning is "to struggle" or "to strive." Greater jihad is the warfare against sin and all that is against God and the teaching of the Quran.
19. What are the four forms of jihad?
A.) Jihad of the Tongue
B.) Jihad of the Hand
C.) Jihad of the Heart
D.) Jihad of the Sword
20. When, where, and how do Muslims pray?
Prayers are said at dawn, mid-day, late-afternoon, sunset and nightfall. It is preferable to worship together in a mosque, a Muslim may pray almost anywhere, such as fields, offices, factories and universities. A devout Muslim carries a prayer mat with him to insure he prays on a clean spot. The center of the mat is a compass set toward Mecca, so the worshiper will know the right direction to face as he prays.
21. What does Islam teach concerning the nature of man?
Humanity is born in a state of innocence and has an innate ability to know the true God.
22. What is the universal Muslim greeting? What does it mean?
Salaam alaykum – Peace be with you.
23. Can the Qur'an be translated? Why?
Only the Arabic Qur'an expresses without fault the Word of God. It can only be paraphrased or interpreted and the reason why calligraphy is so important to Islam.
24. Contrast the nature of the God of the Bible with the God of Islam.
The grace of God is available for everyone who believes and accepts Jesus Christ as their Savior. For them entrance into Paradise following death is earned only by good works.
25. How does Islam define *sin*?
It has no room for concept of original sin. For a Muslim the purpose of life is to live in a way that is pleasing to Allah so that one may gain Paradise.

Lesson 5: Judaism

1. Who is the founder of Judaism?
Abraham
2. Describe the founder's call.
God's covenant with Abraham is cited in Genesis 12:1-3. "And I will make thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing; and I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee; and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed."
3. Define *monotheism*.
Absolute monotheism: "Hear O Israel the Lord our God is one Lord."
4. Describe the Jewish concept of salvation.
Salvation is seen on a national level instead of individual.
5. What are the sacred writings of Judaism?
Twenty-four books of the Masoretic Text or Tanakh form the Jewish canon.
6. What is the Abrahamic Covenant?
Jehovah God's covenant with Abraham, as cited in Genesis 12:1-3 is the foundation of Judaism the world's most ancient monotheistic religion.
7. Identify:
 - A.) Isaac: Abraham's son
 - B.) Joseph: Was sold into slavery but became king
 - C.) Moses: God gave him the Law, which governed every aspect of Israelite life.
 - D.) Samuel: Israel became a nation under the prophet Samuel
 - E.) David: Psalm-writing shepherd boy who killed Goliath.
8. List seven of Maimonides' core tenets of Judaism.
 - A.) God exists.
 - B.) God is one and unique.
 - C.) God is incorporeal.
 - D.) God is eternal.
 - E.) Prayer is to be directed to God alone and to no other.
 - F.) The words of the prophets are true.
 - G.) Moses' prophecies are true, and Moses was the greatest of the prophets.
9. Define *Messiah*.
He will be a descendant of King David who will liberate Israel from foreign rule, reestablish the Davidic kingdom, build the Third Temple, and usher in a reign of peace.
10. What is the Torah?
The Jewish canon consisting of 24 books of Masoretic Text.
11. What are the *Talmud* and *Midrash*?
The Talmud is the "Oral Torah," a collection of rabbinical writings that interpret, explain, and apply the "Written Torah" scriptures to daily life. Midrash is a large body of rabbinical material derived primarily from sermons.
12. Describe Jewish worship.
Worship centers around the recitation of prayers.

13. What are the “seven feasts of the Lord”?
- A.) Sabbath
 - B.) Passover
 - C.) Feast of Unleavened Bread
 - D.) Feast of First Fruits
 - E.) Feast of Weeks
 - F.) Feast of Trumpets (Rosh Hashanah)
 - G.) Feast of Tabernacle
14. What are the differences between Reform, Conservative, and Orthodox Judaism?
- Reform is the response to the Enlightenment and holds that the commandments of the Torah are no longer binding and rejects many Jewish customs, emphasizing instead on the moral and ethical teaching of the prophets. Conservative was formed in the US and fused the distinct groups of Reform Jews and Orthodox Jews. Conservative Jews generally hold that Jewish laws should be retained unless there is good reason to reject them. Orthodox hold that the Torah was written by God and dictated to Moses, and that the laws within it are binding and unchanging.
15. What is Shabbat and how does it influence Jewish life?
- Conservative congregations recite the Musaf on Shabbat. Shabbat is observed from a few minutes before sunset on Friday evening until the appearance of three stars in the sky on Saturday night.
16. Who allowed the Jews to return to Jerusalem? When?
- Cyrus the Great, king of Persia. In 538 BC.
17. Besides monotheistic, how do Jewish people describe God?
- God is, God is one- indivisible, without parts, God is incorporeal – a spirit without a body, God is eternal, God is omnipotent, God is omniscient, God is the Creator of everything, and God is holy and just.
18. According to Orthodox Judaism, how many commandments are listed in the Torah?
- 613 commandments given by God in the Torah.
19. What is halakhah?
- It’s a set of rules and practices and when properly observed increases the spirituality in a person’s life, because it turns the most trivial, mundane acts, such as eating and getting dressed, into acts of religious significance.
20. What is Yom Kippur?
- Is the most solemn day of the Jewish year and is the final day of judgment for the year.
21. What is secular Jew?
- Forms the largest group of Jews today. They do not adhere to any Jewish sect, rarely attend synagogue, and are not observant of most Jewish customs.
22. What role did the Tabernacle play in ancient Jewish worship?
- In ancient days, the worship involved sacrifices at the Tabernacle and later the Temple in Jerusalem. After the destruction of the Temple, the traditional worship was impossible.
23. What is *seder*?
- a Jewish ritual service and ceremonial dinner for the first night or first two nights of Passover.
24. What is the importance of Passover?
- It is a ritual that recounts events that occurred during the original Passover in Egypt.

25. What does the Feast of Pentecost symbolize for Apostolics?

It symbolizes the birth of the church and God writing the Law in the hearts of His people through the infilling of the Holy Ghost.