**Chapter 4 Reading Guide**

1. What are some of the differences between these newly developing cultural traditions according to the introduction?
2. How do the cultural traditions created in the Classical era contrast with those that existed previously?
3. List at least one argument historians give as to why all of these religions/cultural traditions devolved around the same time.

**I. China and the Search for Order**

1. Explain what caused the emergence of new Chinese thinkers and cultural traditions that attempted to promote tranquility and harmony in China. (i.e.- why did China need them? What was happening in China at the time?)

**A. The Legalist Answer**

1. What is the solution to China’s problems according to Legalism?
2. What was the relationship between people and the state according to legalists?

**B. The Confucian Answer**

1. According to Confucius, how could China solve its problem of disorder and allow peace and harmony to prevail?
2. How were people supposed to morally better themselves in order to promote harmony in China?
3. How did Confucianism leave a lasting impact on Chinese politics?
4. Define “**ancestor veneration**”
5. Define the Confucian virtue of “**filial piety**”
6. How did Confucianism reinforce patriarchy in China? (Hint: look back at your chapter 1 reading guide if you’ve forgotten what patriarchy means.)
7. Confucian virtue argued that only “superior men” qualified to take the civil service exams that would allow them to work for the Chinese government- a very prestigious occupation. According to Confucius, who were “superior men?”
8. Define “**social mobility**” and explain the positive affect Confucianism had for men of lower social classes.
9. What was the Confucian expectation for those who were superior in society?
10. Why is Confucianism more often described as a philosophy rather than a religion?

**C. The Daoist Answer**

1. According to Daoism, what is the solution to China’s problems of disorder?
2. Practically, what did Daoist living look like?
3. Explain the concept of yin and yang.

**II. Cultural Traditions of Classical India**

1. What are some similarities and differences between Hinduism and other world religions/philosophies that were developing at this time?
   1. Similarities:
   2. Differences:

**A. South Asian Religion: From Ritual Sacrifice to Philosophical Speculation**

1. What were the **Vedas**?
2. What were the **Upanishads** and how were they different form the Vedas?
3. Explain the idea of “**Brahman**”
4. What is “**moksha**?”
5. According to Hindu belief, how does one go about achieving moksha?
6. Explain how Hinduism supported inequality in all of the following:
   1. Social classes
   2. Gender relations
7. In what ways did Hinduism also sometimes empower women?

**B. The Buddhist Challenge**

1. According the Buddha, what is the “disease” of life?
2. How does one go about “curing” this “disease?”
3. Describe Nirvana
4. How was Buddhism similar to and different from Hinduism?
   1. Similarities:
   2. Differences:
5. Explain why Buddhism appealed more to women than Hinduism.
6. Explain how Buddhism changed over time (Hint: focus on the change from Theravada to the newly created Mahayana sect of Buddhism.)

**C. Hinduism as a Religion of Duty and Devotion**

1. Why did Buddhism die out in India, the place of it’s origin?
2. What are some changes to Hindu beliefs about achieving moksha that occurred in response to its competitor, Buddhism?

**III. Toward Monotheism: The Search for God in the Middle East**

1. Define “**monotheism**” and explain how it is different than polytheism.
2. Define “**universal religion**”

**A. Zoroastrianism**

1. What beliefs of Zoroastrianism subsequently found a place in Judaism and Christianity?

**B. Judaism**

1. What was distinctive about the Jewish religious tradition?

**IV. The Cultural Tradition of Classical Greece: The Search for a Rational Order**

1. What are the distinctive features of the Greek intellectual tradition?

**A. The Greek Way of Knowing**

1. What were the defining characteristics of the Greek cultural tradition?
2. List some of the famous thinkers who used Greek philosophy to discover important concepts about the world.

**B. The Greek Legacy**

1. Describe the Greek legacy on both the Western world and the Islamic world.

**V. The Birth of Christianity… with Buddhist Comparisons**

**A. The Lives of the Founders**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Jesus** | **Both** | **Buddha** |
| **Personal Lives** |  |  |  |
| **Teachings** |  |  |  |

**B. The Spread of New Religions**

1. Describe Christianity’s stance on the role of women.
2. How did Christianity gain followers?
3. Define “**syncretism**”
4. Describe some changes in Christianity as it spread.
5. Why did the Roman empire dislike and persecute Christianity?
6. When did persecution of Christianity in Rome end, and why did it end?
7. Compare/Contrast the spread of Buddhism and Christianity
   1. Similarities
   2. Differences

**C. Institutions, Controversies, and Divisions**

1. What were some of the differences that emerged in Christian beliefs that caused conflict between churches across Eurasia and North Africa?
2. What caused the first official split of Christianity into two sects (branches)- The Roman Catholic Church and the Eastern Orthodox Church?

**VI. Reflections: Religions and Historians**

1. List the 3 difficulties, explained in this section, that historians face when they attempt to analyze the causes, features, and effects of belief systems throughout history.