Belief and Conduct

Trace the development and ethical ideas of world religions.

WH.2.1 "Review the development and fundamental beliefs and features of major world religions and philosophies, including Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, and examine the origins of monotheism..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline when or where each tradition developed, circle its beliefs or practices, and number two statements that connect belief to ethical conduct.

Ideas Across Centuries

(1) Across Asia, religious ideas developed through exchange and debate, not all at once. Hindu traditions grew over many centuries in South Asia, drawing on texts such as the Vedas. Many Hindus understand dharma as duty or right conduct and karma as the effects of actions. Buddhism began in South Asia with Siddhartha Gautama around the fifth century BCE. His teachings identify suffering and offer the Eightfold Path as a way to end it. Both traditions connect conduct with consequences, but Buddhism does not center on a creator god.

(2) In ancient Israel, belief in one God developed over centuries and became central to Judaism. Jewish teachings in the Torah include commandments about justice and care for others. Christianity arose in the first century CE among Jews in Roman-ruled Judea. Christians believe Jesus is the Messiah and teach love of God and neighbor. Islam began in seventh-century Arabia, after the classical period. Muslims believe God revealed the Quran to Muhammad and emphasize charity and justice. These three traditions share monotheism but differ in their teachings about Jesus.

(3) The dates matter: Sikhism began in South Asia in the late fifteenth century, long after the classical civilizations in this unit. Guru Nanak taught devotion to one God and rejected social divisions based on caste; Sikh practices include community meals open to all. Many Western moral and ethical traditions drew on Jewish and Christian ideas about justice and care for neighbors. This influence does not mean Western ideas had only one source. Across these religions, similar ethical concerns can appear alongside different histories and beliefs.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How do Hinduism and Buddhism connect conduct with consequences, and what belief distinguishes Buddhism in the passage?

2. How are Judaism, Christianity, and Islam linked by belief, and how do their origins differ?

3. Why do Islam and Sikhism need date notes in a study of 1000 BCE to 600 CE?

4. What influence did Jewish and Christian ideas have on Western ethics, and what limit does the passage place on that claim?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence museum label comparing Sikhism with one tradition from the classical period. Include when each developed, a teaching or practice from each, and a careful claim about a shared ethical concern or an important difference.

Belief and Conduct

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline when or where each tradition developed, circle its beliefs or practices, and number two statements that connect belief to ethical conduct. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do Hinduism and Buddhism connect conduct with consequences, and what belief distinguishes Buddhism in the passage?	**Hindu traditions teach karma, the effects of actions, while Buddhism offers the Eightfold Path as a way to end suffering. Buddhism does not center on a creator god.**
2	How are Judaism, Christianity, and Islam linked by belief, and how do their origins differ?	**All three share belief in one God. Judaism developed in ancient Israel, Christianity arose among Jews in first-century Judea, and Islam began in seventh-century Arabia.**
3	Why do Islam and Sikhism need date notes in a study of 1000 BCE to 600 CE?	**Islam began in the seventh century CE, and Sikhism began in the late fifteenth century. Both began after 600 CE.**
4	What influence did Jewish and Christian ideas have on Western ethics, and what limit does the passage place on that claim?	**Jewish and Christian ideas about justice and care for neighbors influenced Western ethics, but Western ideas had other sources too.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Judaism developed in ancient Israel, while Sikhism began in South Asia in the late fifteenth century. Jewish teachings in the Torah include care for others. Sikh community meals are open to all. Both traditions show concern for how people treat others, although they developed in different times and places.

Accept comparisons grounded in the passage that distinguish a shared ethical concern from an identical belief. Students should place Sikhism after the classical period.