

Beliefs Shape Society

Trace how shared beliefs influenced unity, social order, and gender roles.

6.4c "Belief systems and religions often are used to unify groups of people, and may affect social order and gender roles."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one phrase that shows how a belief system could unify people. Circle two phrases that show social order, then number two phrases that show effects on gender roles.

Shared Beliefs, Different Roles

- ① In ancient South and East Asia, belief systems gave people shared stories, values, and rituals. Shared practices could help people feel connected to a larger community. In Hindu traditions, many people joined festivals, visited temples, and honored deities in local ways. In China, Confucian teachings stressed respect for family, ancestors, and rulers. These practices did not make every person think alike, but they gave many communities common rules for relationships and public life as well.
- ② Beliefs could also support social order, meaning a pattern for how people were expected to live together. Some Hindu texts described dharma, or duties, linked to a person's social group and stage of life. These ideas could support a ranked social structure, although real lives differed by place and time. Confucian teachings likewise emphasized ordered relationships, such as respect from children toward parents and subjects toward rulers. Leaders used these ideas to argue that stable families and government depended on proper behavior.
- ③ Gender roles were affected too, but teachings and daily practice were not always the same. In many Confucian communities, men held greater authority in government and family decisions, while women were often expected to manage household work and obey senior relatives. Buddhism offered another example. The Buddha's community included monks and nuns, so women could enter religious life. Yet in many Buddhist traditions, nuns had fewer privileges and were ranked below monks. Thus, belief systems could create both shared membership and unequal roles.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

- 1** Identify one shared practice from Hindu traditions and one shared value from Confucian teachings that could help unify a community.

- 2** How could the Hindu idea of dharma affect social order? Use evidence from the passage.

- 3** Compare the effects on gender roles in Confucian communities and Buddhist traditions described in the passage.

- 4** What evidence shows that belief teachings did not control every person's life in exactly the same way?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Create a fictional community rule or ceremony influenced by one belief system in the passage. In 4 or 5 sentences, explain how it unifies people and how it could affect social order or gender roles. Include one benefit and one possible unequal effect.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline one phrase that shows how a belief system could unify people. Circle two phrases that show social order, then number two phrases that show effects on gender roles. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Identify one shared practice from Hindu traditions and one shared value from Confucian teachings that could help unify a community.	Hindu traditions included festivals, temple visits, and honoring deities. Confucian teachings stressed respect for family, ancestors, and rulers.
2	How could the Hindu idea of dharma affect social order? Use evidence from the passage.	Dharma linked duties to a person's social group and stage of life, which could support a ranked social structure.
3	Compare the effects on gender roles in Confucian communities and Buddhist traditions described in the passage.	In many Confucian communities, men had greater authority while women were often expected to manage household work and obey senior relatives. In Buddhism, women could become nuns, but nuns often had fewer privileges and were ranked below monks.
4	What evidence shows that belief teachings did not control every person's life in exactly the same way?	The passage says real lives differed by place and time, and that teachings and daily practice were not always the same.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In a fictional village influenced by Confucian ideas, families hold a monthly ancestor ceremony. The ceremony unifies neighbors because each family shares a respectful practice. It supports social order by asking children to care for older relatives. It could be unequal if only men are allowed to lead the ceremony, giving women less authority.

Accept accurate evidence-based answers that connect a belief or practice to unity, social order, or gender roles. For the open task, accept varied fictional examples if they include a clear unifying effect, one benefit, and one possible unequal effect.