

Answers Beyond Life

Compare how belief systems explain beginnings, ethical living, and death.

9.2a "Belief systems developed beliefs and practices to address questions of origin, the requirements to live a good life, and the nature of the afterlife."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each statement that names where a belief system began. Circle beliefs or practices about living a good life, then number each statement about death or the afterlife.

Questions That Shape Communities

- ① Belief systems offered ways to understand life and guide choices. Hindu traditions developed in South Asia from Vedic practices and later teachings. Buddhism arose in northeastern India through Siddhartha Gautama's teachings. Judaism emerged among ancient Israelites in Southwest Asia; Christianity began in Roman Judea around Jesus. Islam began in Arabia; Muslims believe Muhammad received revelations preserved in the Qur'an. Confucian and Daoist traditions developed in China.
- ② These traditions connected beliefs to conduct. Confucianism emphasized education, respectful relationships, and duties in family and government. Daoism valued harmony with the Dao, or Way, and often simplicity. Buddhism taught the Four Noble Truths and Eightfold Path, including ethical action and mental discipline to address suffering. Jewish, Christian, and Islamic traditions emphasized devotion to one God and responsibilities such as justice, charity, and care for others.
- ③ Beliefs about death also answered questions that cannot be settled by observation alone. Many Hindu traditions teach that karma affects rebirth and that liberation, moksha, ends this cycle. Buddhists also teach rebirth, while nirvana is freedom from suffering and the cycle of rebirth. Christianity and Islam teach resurrection and judgment, though their teachings describe the afterlife in distinct ways. Judaism includes varied ideas about the world to come, rather than one single view. Confucianism emphasized ethical life and ancestor respect, while Daoist traditions included varied views of death and spiritual transformation.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Where did Buddhism begin, and where did Islam begin?

2 Compare Confucianism and Daoism. What did each tradition teach about how people should live?

3 How did Buddhism connect a good life with the problem of suffering?

4 What do Christianity and Islam share in their teachings about death, and how does the passage describe Judaism differently?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Compare two belief systems in four or five sentences. State where each began and use passage details to compare teachings about ethical life or death and the afterlife.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each statement that names where a belief system began. Circle beliefs or practices about living a good life, then number each statement about death or the afterlife. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Where did Buddhism begin, and where did Islam begin?	Buddhism began in northeastern India. Islam began in Arabia.
2	Compare Confucianism and Daoism. What did each tradition teach about how people should live?	Confucianism emphasized education, respectful relationships, and duties in family and government. Daoism urged harmony with the Dao and valued simplicity and balance.
3	How did Buddhism connect a good life with the problem of suffering?	Buddhism taught the Four Noble Truths and the Eightfold Path, which included ethical action and mental discipline, as a path related to ending suffering.
4	What do Christianity and Islam share in their teachings about death, and how does the passage describe Judaism differently?	Christianity and Islam both teach resurrection and judgment. Judaism has varied ideas about the world to come rather than one single view.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Buddhism began in northeastern India, while Islam began in Arabia. Both traditions connect belief to choices people make. Buddhism directs followers toward ethical action and mental discipline on the Eightfold Path. Islam stresses devotion to one God, justice, charity, and care for others. Buddhism teaches rebirth and nirvana, while Islam teaches resurrection and judgment.

Accept accurate comparisons that name two origins and use specific passage evidence about ethical living, death, or the afterlife. Students may compare either a similarity or a difference, as long as the comparison is accurate.