

Belief and Belonging

How belief systems shaped unity, social order, and gender roles

9.2b "Belief systems were often used to unify groups of people, and affected social order and gender roles."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three examples of shared belief unifying people. Circle three other details showing effects on social order or gender roles.

Shared Beliefs, Organized Societies

- ① Han rulers promoted Confucian ideas about filial piety, respect for parents and ancestors, and duties within relationships. These teachings connected family responsibilities with loyalty to rulers. Study of Confucian texts helped prepare officials and gave educated administrators shared ideas. This social order was hierarchical: senior men generally held family authority, and women often faced expectations of obedience and household service. Practice varied, and ideals did not describe every person's life.
- ② Hindu traditions linked communities through rituals and ideas of dharma, including duties associated with life stage and social position. Some teachings supported varna categories and different duties for men and women, though practice varied. Buddhism's monastic community, or sangha, admitted people from several social backgrounds. Yet traditional monastic rules generally placed nuns below monks. A community could therefore challenge some social divisions while preserving others.
- ③ Jewish communities maintained shared identity through Torah, Sabbath, dietary practices, and festivals. Christian churches united believers through common teachings and worship, while many reserved formal leadership for men. Islam linked believers in the ummah through one God, prayer, Ramadan fasting, and pilgrimage for those able. Islamic law defined women's property and inheritance rights while assigning different family duties to men and women. These examples concern different aspects of social life; they do not mean other traditions lacked such rules. Interpretations varied across time and place.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did Han rulers use Confucian ideas to help unify and govern their empire? Use two details from the passage.

2 What is one way Buddhism challenged social divisions, and one way it preserved a hierarchy?

3 Name one practice or teaching that unified Jewish communities and one practice or teaching that unified Muslim communities.

4 What examples does the passage give of gender roles in Christian churches and Islamic law?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Imagine that a new city adopts a shared belief code. Write three or four sentences explaining one practice that could unify residents and two ways the code could shape social order or gender roles. Include one sentence showing that people may interpret or follow the code differently.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline three examples of shared belief unifying people. Circle three other details showing effects on social order or gender roles. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Han rulers use Confucian ideas to help unify and govern their empire? Use two details from the passage.	They promoted shared values that connected family duties to loyalty to the emperor, and they used study of Confucian texts to create a common language among educated officials.
2	What is one way Buddhism challenged social divisions, and one way it preserved a hierarchy?	The sangha welcomed people from several social backgrounds, but Buddhist nuns generally ranked below monks under monastic rules.
3	Name one practice or teaching that unified Jewish communities and one practice or teaching that unified Muslim communities.	Jewish communities shared the Torah, Sabbath observance, dietary laws, and festivals. Muslims were united through belief in one God, daily prayer, fasting during Ramadan, and pilgrimage for those able to go.
4	What examples does the passage give of gender roles in Christian churches and Islamic law?	Many Christian churches reserved formal leadership for men. Islamic law defined women's property and inheritance rights and different family duties for men and women. These are examples, not exclusive differences between traditions.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In the city of Luma, residents meet each month to recite a promise to protect neighbors, which gives people a shared practice. The code asks older council members to settle disputes, creating an age-based social order. It states that women and men may own property and speak at meetings, shaping gender expectations around public life. Some households might follow the code's family duties differently, so the code would not shape every home in the same way.

Accept any accurate passage-based details for the short answers. For Part 3, accept a clear unifying practice, two explained effects on social order or gender roles, and a realistic statement that interpretation or practice can differ.