

Comparative Religions Project

INSTRUCTIONS: produce a summary of evidence concerning six of the world's major belief systems. This project will help you develop a good study resource to review for the AP Exam.

1. Prepare an information sheet for Judaism, Confucianism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Christianity and Islam. Include answers to the following questions on each information sheet. (Some answers questions may not apply to all religions)
 - a. What is the point of origin?
 - b. How did the religion/philosophy spread?
 - c. Where is this tradition most influential today?
 - d. How many followers are there worldwide?
 - e. Is this a monotheistic or polytheistic tradition?
 - f. Who is/are the main/major deity(ies)?
 - g. Who founded this faith? When?
 - h. What do the followers call their scriptures or holy book(s)?
 - i. How is the religious leadership organized?
 - j. What are the basic beliefs of the religion/philosophy?
 - k. What sects of the religion/philosophy have developed over time?

2. Cultural diffusion is about encounters and interactions among people. Select two of the traditions that you have researched and examine the ways in which these religions have encountered and interacted with each other. Your essay should describe the initial encounter, the nature of the interaction and the ways in which the relationship changed over time. Present your ideas in an essay of no more than 1 page. **You may not compare Judaism to Christianity.**

3. Your textbook and the companion website are useful for general information, but you will need to consult additional resources. You do not have to cite them.

4. At the end, you should complete the chart and also write at least one paragraph comparing how two religions have interacted in some way. This could have resulted in a negative or positive influence on the world. It could have also created a new religion or cultural custom.

Bonus:

Complete part 1 for one of the following belief systems:

Taoism, Jainism, Shinto, Sikhism, Baha'i, Zoroastrianism

	Judaism	Confucian	Hinduism	Buddhism	Christianity	Islam
Point of origin?						
How did it spread?						
Where influential today?						
# followers worldwide?						
Mono/ Poly-theistic?						
Major deity(ies)?						
Founder? When?						
Name holy scriptures?						
Leadership organized?						
Basic beliefs?						
Sects created over time?						

[Use this map to draw boundaries and paths of the six major religions.](#)