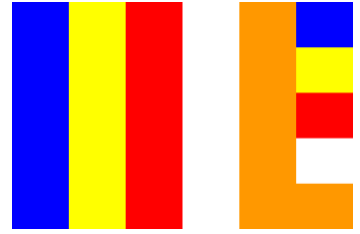




# Building Better Learners: A-Level Religious Studies Buddhism - Mr Tighe



Every fortnight, you will be given a document like this to help guide your independent study for this component of the course. Every fortnight, you will be expected to complete the following tasks:

- Read the compulsory article and make handwritten or typed notes (these will need to be printed off).
- Read one of the optional articles and make handwritten or typed notes (these will need to be printed off).  
*Pay particular attention to:*
  - Information not covered in the first article;
  - Information that provides further detail on a matter covered in the first article.
- Identify which, in your opinion, is the most difficult 20-mark question. Complete an essay plan.
- Identify which, in your opinion, is the most difficult 30-mark question. Complete an essay plan.

## Topic Title: Accounts of the Birth of the historical Buddha and the Four Sights

Year: 12

Term: 1

Fortnight: 2

Topic Code: 1A

Spec. Page: pp.31

Lesson 1A.4: The Birth & Early Life of the Buddha

Date:

Lesson 1A.5: The Four Sights

Date:

Lesson 1A.6: Hagiographical & Mythological Interpretations

Date:

Specification Content: The ways in which Buddhists read these narratives. Hagiographical and mythological interpretations of the conception dream of Maya, events surrounding the birth, the prophecy and early life. The biographical impact of the Four Sights and wider religious interpretations of their meaning in terms of dukkha (unsatisfactoriness), anicca (impermanence), anatta (insubstantiality/no-self).

Background Reading [2 pieces minimum]:

Compulsory article: Gray (Year 1 Book), pp.13-20.

Optional articles: Cush, pp.11-16; Side, pp.1-5.

These articles can be found here: [G:\EPR\A-Level Buddhism - Building Better Learners](#)

20-Mark Questions:

- Explain/Examine the key events of the Buddha's birth and early life.
- Explain/Examine the meanings of the conception dream of Maya.
- Explain/Examine the significance of the prophecy concerning the Buddha's life.
- Explain/Examine the significance of Siddhodana's response to the prophecy concerning the Buddha's life.
- Explain/Examine the relationship of the Four Sights to the three marks of existence.
- Compare different interpretations of the conception dream of Maya.
- Compare different interpretations of the birth of the Buddha.
- Compare different interpretations of the prophecy about the life of the Buddha.
- Compare different interpretations of the early life of the Buddha.

30-Mark Questions:

- 'Buddhists should not be too concerned with the events of the Buddha's life.' Evaluate this view.
- 'The events surrounding the Buddha's conception and birth should be interpreted as myth.' Evaluate this view.
- 'It does not matter that we cannot establish historical facts about the Buddha.' Evaluate this view.
- 'The Four Sights are the most significant events in the life of the Buddha.' Evaluate this view.
- 'The Four Sights are the most significant events in the development of Buddhism.' Evaluate this view.