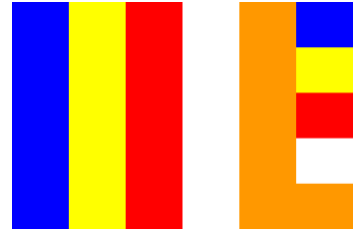




Building Better Learners: A-Level Religious Studies Buddhism - Mr Tighe



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: Buddhist Traditions in Japan

Year: 13

Term: 3

Fortnight: 3

Topic Code: 3A

Spec. Page: pp.35

Lesson 3A.1: Zen Buddhism

Date:

Lesson 3A.2: Pure Land Buddhism

Date:

Lesson 3A.3: Nichiren Buddhism

Date:

Specification Content: The development of key Buddhist traditions in Japan - Zen, Pure Land and Nichiren, with particular reference to the central practices of koan (paradoxical statement used as a practice in Zen traditions), nembutsu (going for refuge in Amida/Amitabha Buddha in Pure Land traditions), and daimoku (mantra used in Nichiren traditions).

Background Reading [2 pieces minimum]:

Compulsory article: Gray (Year 2 Book), pp.64-70.

Optional articles: Cush, pp.135-153; Side, pp.189-193.

These articles can be found here: <G:\EPR\A-Level Buddhism - Building Better Learners>.

20-Mark Questions:

- Explain/examine the distinctive features of Zen Buddhism.
- Explain/examine the distinctive features of Pure Land Buddhism.
- Explain/examine the distinctive features of Nichiren Buddhism.
- Explain/examine the role of koan in Zen Buddhism.
- Explain/examine the role of nembutsu in Pure Land Buddhism.
- Explain/examine the role of daimoku in Nichiren Buddhism.
- Compare the practices of Zen, Pure Land, and Nichiren Buddhism.

30-Mark Questions:

- 'Japanese Buddhism is a particularly unique form of Buddhism.' Evaluate this view.
- 'Japanese Buddhism represents a radical departure from traditional Buddhism.' Evaluate this view.
- 'There is little that connects Japanese Buddhism to the rest of Buddhism.' Evaluate this view.
- 'There is so much that unites Zen, Pure Land, and Nichiren Buddhism.' Evaluate this view.
- 'Zen, Pure Land, and Nichiren Buddhism have little in common with one another.' Evaluate this view.
- 'Koan, nembutsu, and daimoku are far removed from conventional Buddhist teaching.' Evaluate this view.
- 'Koan, nembutsu, and daimoku give expression to important Buddhist teachings.' Evaluate this view.