

GCSE

GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Route A Component 3 - Buddhism

A Study of a world faith Revision Checklist



Study of a World Faith

Buddhism

Beliefs and Teachings	Covered in class or as homework	I'm not sure	I'm getting there	I've got it 😊	Links to other topics	Key words linked to this topic	Possible sources of wisdom and authority
<p><i>The Buddha:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stories of his early life: pre-birth, birth, prophecy, palace • The Four Sights: old age, sickness, death, the holy man • His Enlightenment following renunciation and meditation 							
<p><i>The Dhamma/Dharma:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dependent origination/conditionality (prati-tyasamutpada) • Three Marks of Existence (lakshanas); • Suffering/unsatisfactoriness (dukkha) • Impermanence (anicca) • No fixed self, essence or soul (anatta) - The Story of Nagasena and the Chariot (The Milindapanha) 							

<p><i>The Four Noble Truths:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suffering (dukkha); types and causes of suffering; • Three Poisons (ignorance, greed, hatred): Dhammapada 1, 5 • Interpretations of nirvana, samsara and enlightenment; Theravada and Mahayana • The Eightfold Path (magga) to nirvana • The Three-fold Way: ethics, meditation and wisdom 							
<p><i>Human personality:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theravada – Five Aggregates (ever-changing (s)khandas): Dhammapada 113 • Mahayana - sunyata • Tathagatagarbha (Buddha-nature - all have potential to achieve enlightenment) 							
<p><i>Human destiny and ethical teaching:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arhat ideals (Theravada) • Bodhisattva Ideals (Mahayana) e.g. Manjushri; Buddhahood: the potential of all to be enlightened and become a buddha • Pure Land (Bodhisattva Amida) • Karma and rebirth: achieving positive karma, and avoiding samsara and rebirth through compassion (karuna); loving kindness (metta); five precepts (panchasilas): Dhammapada 183 • Mahayana: the development of the Six Perfections (paramitas) or virtues which must be cultivated to realise one's Buddha nature 							

Practices	Covered in class or as homework	I'm not sure	I'm getting there	I've got it 😊	Links to other topics	Key words linked to this topic	Possible sources of wisdom and authority
<p><i>Buddhist places of worship in Britain and elsewhere:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The importance of features and functions of temples and viharas; statues, shrines, stupa and meditation area. • Mahayana and Theravada Buddhist temples in Britain compared to those in countries where Buddhism is widely practised. • Offerings: food, light, flowers, incense, offerings of food to monks (dana) 							
<p><i>Meditation:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The significance of meditation; Dhammapada 282, Surangama Sutra • Mindfulness of breathing (samatha meditation) • Loving kindness (mettabhavana meditation) • Insight meditation (vipassana meditation) • The importance and role of Buddhas and Bodhisattvas; example of Gautama Buddha (enlightenment through meditation). • Buddhas and bodhisattvas as the focus of devotion and meditation 							

<p><i>Devotional practices:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The role and significance of chanting; chanting the Triratna (importance of Three Jewels): Dhammapada 190 • Use of malas to count mantras or breaths in meditation (Japanese and Tibetan forms of Buddhism) • Role of mantra recitation to evoke enlightenment • Significance of puja – in devotional ritual in different Buddhist contexts; veneration rather than worship. • Use of mudras to identify with buddhas and bodhisattvas 							
<p><i>Death and mourning:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The significance of ceremonies and rituals associated with death and mourning as practised in Theravada communities: transferring to rebirth. Cremation practices and almsgiving • Mahayana practices: Japan: cremated ashes are buried. Importance of name. • Tibet: chanting and sky burials, offerings to monks; The Tibetan Book of the Dead 							

Festivals and retreats: practices in Britain and elsewhere:

- The origins and meaning of festivals and retreats such as Theravada Wesak; celebration of birth of Buddha. Theravada tradition: also celebration of enlightenment and death
- Kathina; celebration of the end of Vassa
- Parinirvana Day: Mahayana tradition – marks the Buddha's death and passing into final nirvana