**Detailed Introduction for IBSL World Religions Students**

1. The official requirements for IBSL World Religions can be summarized as follows:
2. For 'Paper 1' you must be able to answer 5 different question about 5 different religions. You must choose at least 1 religion from each group A, B, and C

Group A: Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism

Group B: Judaism, Christianity, Islam

Group C: Taoism, Jainism, Baha'i Faith

You can answer any 5 different religions you want; however, my class will only prepare you to answer 1) Hinduism, 2) Buddhism, 3) Judaism, 4) Christianity, and 5) Taoism

The Paper 1 questions are very ‘general’ and relatively easy. You have many options for each religion. It always includes reading a passage from a sacred text of the religion and then explaining different main ideas in the passage and how it relates to the religion.

As you will hear often from me, the ‘secret’ to getting a score of 6/7 or 7/7 on Paper 1 is to follow the directions for best answering the question and use lots of ‘terminology’ from the religion.

1. For 'Paper 2' you must answer 2 different in-depth essay questions about 2 different religions that you have specifically studied in more detail. You must choose 1 religion from Group A and 1 religion from Group B below:

Group A: Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism

Group B: Judaism, Christianity, Islam

You can answer any religion you want from these lists; however, my class will be specifically preparing you to write your Group A Essay on Buddhism and your Group B Essay on Christianity. So you should prepare to study these 2 religions in the most specific detail.

As we will discuss definitely the secret to getting a score of 6/7 or 7/7 on Paper 2 is to support your essays with many specific examples of sacred texts and specific examples of sacred religious practices and rituals.

1. Finally for your IA (Internal Assessment) you must research and write a 1,900 word paper about any 1 religion you want. It can be chosen from one of the Groups above, or you can choose any religion at all that interests you.

In my opinion this IA is pretty ‘easy.’ It is more an exploration than a research paper. You will read a few books and articles, and then hopefully do interviews and/or visits to religious places. Then you will write a personal reflection about what you learned.

Note: every student in the class last year received a score of 7/7 or 6/7 on her or his IA!

1. Finally, I will assign this as homework at a later date, but if you are curious now you can read on my website the official IB description for this course at "**Week 1 Official IB World Religions Guide"** It will give you many, many more details about the requirements of IBSL World Religions and the types of questions they will ask you on the exam. This is published by the IB Program itself. BEFORE YOU TAKE THE EXAM IN MAY MAKE SURE YOU REVIEW THIS IMPORTANT DOCUMENT ABOUT WHAT SPECIFIC INFORMATION YOU NEED TO KNOW!