

## Question #2: Buddhism

Study the passage below and answer the questions which follow.

<sup>compassion</sup>  
Avalokitesvara Bodhisattva when practicing deeply the Prajna Paramita perceives that all five skandhas are empty and is saved from all suffering and distress. Shariputra, form does not differ from emptiness, emptiness does not differ from form. That which is form is emptiness, that which is emptiness form. The same is true of feelings, perceptions, impulses, consciousness. Shariputra, all dharmas are marked with emptiness..

The Bodhisattva depends on Prajna Paramita and the mind is no hindrance; without any hindrance no fears exist. Far apart from every perverted view one dwells in Nirvana. In the three worlds all Buddhas depend on Prajna Paramita and attain Anuttara Samyak Sambodhi. Therefore know that Prajna Paramita is the great transcendent mantra, is the great bright mantra, is the utmost mantra, is the supreme mantra which is able to relieve all suffering and is true, not false. So proclaim the Prajna Paramita mantra, proclaim the mantra which says: gate gate paragate parasamgate bodhi svaha -The Heart Sutra ca. 600CE

(a) Identify three teachings in this passage. [3 points]

The first teaching is from the four noble truths, and it is that if the mind is freed from all desires, one will be able to escape all sufferings and distress. Another teaching is derived from the eight fold path, in which the key to detaching oneself from the physical world is to train the mind to be mindful and conscious, resulting in emptiness. Only with a clear mind, which is attained through mindfulness practices, will one be able to be freed from the superficial world that is connected to desires and suffering. The final teaching in this passage is part of the four noble truths, which is the awareness that all desires for superficial things (if you need more space write on the separate lined paper and attach)

Perfect on  
Mahayana

needs more  
on  
Theravada

(b) Explain how this text could be used to show similarities and/or differences between Theravada and Mahayana Buddhism. (6 points)

5/6

Theravada Buddhism's goal is to attain nirvana. In Mahayana Buddhism, the goal is to enter nirvana and become a bodhisattva. Once a person becomes a bodhisattva, they will be reborn to help others attain nirvana or enlightenment as well. For example, the heart sutra emphasizes the cultivation of bodhicitta, which means the "awakened thought." The heart sutra mainly emphasizes the goal of achieving enlightenment then returning to help others do the same. In addition, the heart sutra emphasizes the six perfections, which is important in relation to compassion in the bodhisattva path. In the Lotus sutra, the avalokitesvara, the bodhisattva of compassion, emphasizes the concept of "upaya", or skillful means. In other words, there are many different paths to liberation, and one should choose the most suitable path for the his or herself. Furthermore, the main difference between Theravada and Mahayana Buddhism is to help others to liberation rather than only focusing on one's own journey to enlightenment. In Taiwan, the heart of Mahayana (if you need more space write on the separate lined paper and attach)

Perfect answer on Mahayana!

q2 pta in life are the main source of suffering and when the mind has no distracting thoughts, all fears or desires do not exist.

q2 ptb Buddhism, there is a well established Buddhist organization called Tzu Chi. Due to the large scale and influential work Tzu Chi does, many individuals in Taiwan even qualify Tzu Chi as its own sector of Mahayana Buddhism. In Tzu Chi, a huge emphasis is placed on volunteer work like providing disaster relief in different countries from all over the world. Tzu Chi volunteers offer help based upon the core principle of Mahayana Buddhism of helping others achieve nirvana.

q3 ptb flow of nature. In the practical Taoism aspect, Tai Chi follows the nature of balance. <sup>Explain this!</sup> In the formal religion, Taoism incorporates ideas of no action but some forms of formal religion do not. For example, a Taiwanese devotee at a Taoist or Buddhist temple may abide to the principles of wu wei but pray to Buddhist bodhisattva's. Most formal religions in Taoism consists of a syncretism of Taoism and a variety of other religions.

### Question #3: Taoism

Study the passage below and answer the questions which follow.

"The wise ones gained their knowledge without travelling, gave their [right] names to things without seeing them; and accomplished their ends without any purpose of doing so [taking no action]."

Tao Te Ching by Lao-tzu, wuwei action without intention

(a) Identify three abilities of the wise ones as explained in this passage. [3 points]

The first ability of the wise ones is the ability to perform actions without intention. The well known principle to this ability is wuwei (無為), which is the act of following the "way". Another ability is to not complicate things in life, if one purposefully performs an action for a specific purpose, they would disrupt the flow of how things naturally flow. The third ability is to follow the flow and course of nature, do not try to see or hear things that cannot be heard. All things will fall into place without any effort from one's mind or thoughts.

perfect  
3/3

(if you need more space write on the separate lined paper and attach)

6/6 Perfect Answer! - except explain Tai Chi more

Excellent

(a) Explain why taking no action is important to Taoists. (6 points)

Taking no action is also known as "wu wei" (無為) and is

interconnected with the idea of p'u (樸). Wu wei is to never act with purpose, and to remain unmoved or passive so all things will flow naturally. The idea of p'u is to leave something untouched, the original Taoist teaching of p'u, derives from the imagery of an uncarved piece of wood. No carvings result in the perfect and most natural or authentic wooden block. Additionally, these two

Taoist concepts can also be manifested in the three different branches of Taoism, which is philosophical, practical, and formal religion.

In terms of the philosophical form of Taoism, in one of Zhuangzi's stories, "nature the superhero", the idea of <sup>times up</sup> following the course of nature is evident. In verse sixteen of the Tao Te Ching, it says "returning to the source is stillness, which is the way of nature. The way of nature is unchanging." The idea of "stillness" in the Tao Te Ching relates to the

idea of taking no action and maintaining the (if you need more space write on the separate lined paper and attach)

q2 pta in life are the main source of suffering and when the mind has no distracting thoughts, all fears or desires do not exist.

q2 ptb Buddhism, there is a well established Buddhist organization called Tzu Chi. Due to the large scale and influential work Tzu Chi does, many individuals in Taiwan even qualify Tzu Chi as its own sector of Mahayana Buddhism. In Tzu Chi, a huge emphasis is placed on volunteer work like providing disaster relief in different countries from all over the world. Tzu Chi volunteers offer help based upon the core principle of Mahayana Buddhism of helping others achieve nirvana.

q3 ptb flow of nature. In the practical Taoism aspect, Tai Chi follows the nature of balance. <sup>Explain this!</sup> In the formal religion, Taoism incorporates ideas of no action but some forms of formal religion do not. For example, a Taiwanese devotee at a Taoist or Buddhist temple may abide to the principles of wu wei but pray to Buddhist bodhisattva's. Most formal religions in Taoism consists of a syncretism of Taoism and a variety of other religions.

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-The Heart Sutra ca. 600CE

(a) Identify three teachings in this passage. [3 points]

All material things that tie people to the world, as well as their

personal ego, are in reality empty. To be able to realize this is what

will free one from this world and gain ~~an~~ abundant understanding +

insight to reach Nirvana. The mind should be clear, not clouded with

thoughts that will hinder oneself; by adding oneself of unnecessary

thoughts and worry, one can get rid of fear

perfect 3/3

(if you need more space write on the separate lined paper and attach)

(b) Explain how this text could be used to show similarities and/or differences between Theravada and Mahayana Buddhism. (6 points)

Theravada Buddhism only relies on the Pali Canon, while Mahayana Buddhism employs many other sacred texts, including the Heart Sutra. A difference between the 2 is the belief in bodhisattvas. In Mahayana, bodhisattvas are individuals that are capable of attaining Nirvana, but delays doing so to return to help others on their journey. This difference in the value of community and the value of independence is also emphasized in their names. Theravada is also known as Hinayana, which means "small vehicle, wheels". Mahayana means "great raft". However, these 2 types of Buddhism still share the same view on Anicca, or the doctrine of impermanence. For example during Vesak, a celebration of the birth, enlightenment, and death of the Buddha, and the Sangha, the monastic order of monks and nuns, flowers and candles are brought as gifts, as flowers fade and candles burn out, reinforcing the impermanence of all things. However, Zen (Chi), a type of Mahayana Buddhism in Taiwan, value impermanence and non-attachment to a lesser extent, as it values volunteer work over any thing else, which is a demonstration of Karuna, or compassion, and (if you need more space write on the separate lined paper and attach) requires attachment to be cultivated.

Very good.



### Section C

Answer at least one question. Answers must be written within the answer boxes provided.

#### Taoism

Study the passage below and answer the questions which follow.

- 7. "Although the road is broad and straight, but some people prefer rugged sidepaths"

Lao-Tzu, Tao Te Ching 53

- (a) Outline **three** teachings in this passage.

*Write MORE!* [3]

.....The...Tao...is...comparable...to...a...road...-...because...it...is...a...path...one...walks...in...life...and...not...just...below

.....The...path...to...dao...is...very...simple...-...and...our...minds...complicate...it.

.....There...are...many...ways...to...achieve...the...tao...because...it...is...infinite.

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(This question continues on the following page)



(Question 7 continued)

Balance Nature

(b) Explain what Taoism says about the human condition.

[6]

Taoism... believes... that... the... human... condition... should... be... natural and balanced. One... is... supposed... to... engage... in... ~~無~~ ~~為~~ (wuwei)... which... literally... translates... to... "do nothing". This means that one... is... supposed... to... let... nature... and... life... take... you... to... wherever... it... chooses... because... what... is... natural... will... always... be... the... best. One very important symbol in Taoism is ~~陰~~ ~~陽~~ (yin yang). This symbol represents the balance that one should strive for in life. For example, there is one white dot in the black part of the circle and a black dot in the white part of the circle. Didactically, this can be interpreted as how one should always maintain a nuanced view in life, keeping a balance between confidence and doubt that you have in your knowledge. The small dots represent the seeds of doubt

good  
good  
good

that you should have for all the knowledge you retain. Another example is the practice of ~~太極~~ (taichi) where one is expected to sense the amount of ~~氣~~ (chi), in one's body and balancing the amount of chi in all parts of your body. Taichi moves are also always balanced. For example, if a taichi move requires one to raise their right hand, the left hand would raise in the subsequent move (or they will occur simultaneously). Chinese medicine also endorses the idea of balance of chi within one's body, as it is believed that physical pain derives from a high concentration of chi in that body part. Therefore, ~~針灸~~, or acupuncture was derived using the insertion of the needle to release the chi in that body part and allowing it to disperse evenly throughout the body.

Very good

Perfect Answer!

