

South Asian World Religions: Core Tenets and History

World Religions · Answer Key · 10 Questions

1. Which Upanishadic concept, central to Hindu philosophy, describes the universal soul or consciousness from which all existence emanates and to which it returns?

- A) Karma
- B) Moksha
- C) Brahman**
- D) Dharma

2. The Four Noble Truths, foundational to Buddhism, were first expounded by Siddhartha Gautama in which ancient Indian city?

- A) Varanasi
- B) Bodh Gaya
- C) Sarnath**
- D) Kushinagar

3. Mahavira, the 24th Tirthankara and a central figure in Jainism, is traditionally believed to have attained liberation (moksha) at which location?

- A) Pawapuri**
- B) Vaishali
- C) Rajgir
- D) Sravanabelagola

4. Guru Nanak Dev Ji, the founder of Sikhism, was born in the village of Talwandi, which is now known by what name?

- A) Anandpur Sahib
- B) Nankana Sahib**
- C) Patna Sahib
- D) Chamkaur Sahib

5. The Bhagavad Gita, a key scripture in Hinduism, is a dialogue between Prince Arjuna and which divine charioteer?

- A) Shiva
- B) Brahma
- C) Vishnu
- D) Krishna**

6. The concept of 'Ahimsa' (non-violence) is a cardinal principle in which South Asian religion, advocating for the avoidance of harm to all living beings?

- A) Hinduism
- B) Buddhism
- C) Jainism
- D) All of the above**

7. In Buddhism, the 'Eightfold Path' is a guideline for achieving enlightenment. Which of the following is NOT one of its components?

- A) Right Understanding
- B) Right Speech
- C) Right Wealth**
- D) Right Action

8. The holy scripture of Sikhism, compiled by the tenth Guru, is known as the Adi Granth, and is considered the living Guru. What is its full title?

- A) Guru Granth Sahib**
- B) Dasam Granth
- C) Jap Ji Sahib
- D) Ramayana

9. The Vedic period, a foundational era for Hinduism, is characterized by the composition of which collection of sacred hymns and rituals?

- A) The Puranas
- B) The Upanishads
- C) The Vedas**
- D) The Epics

10. According to Jain tradition, the 'Sallekhana' vow involves a voluntary fast unto death, intended to lead to detachment and spiritual liberation. This practice is most closely associated with which Jain Tirthankara's teachings?

- A) Rishabhanatha
- B) Parsvanatha
- C) Mahavira**
- D) Neminatha