**Edmund Burke Academy/Online Lesson**

**World Affairs**

**Karen H. Reeves**

***Buddhism*** (to accompany **video PPT**, then research materials or internet)

Note: Please be **thorough** in your answers; dates are necessary and complete explanations required. **Many of you are missing questions because you fail to give complete answers!**

**Please download this document and type your answers under each question!**

1. Explain the difference between a **religion** and a **philosophy**. Is Buddhism a religion or a philosophy? **[I’m asking this again because so many of you missed this the last time!]**
2. Define a-theism.
3. Why are many of the traditions/concepts similar in both Hinduism and Buddhism?
4. What is the fastest growing religion/philosophy in South/SE Asia?
5. What is part does **impermanence** play in Buddhist ideology?
6. How do Buddhists regard Siddhartha Gautama?
7. What caused him to pursue a life of meditation/contemplation?
8. Why did he adopt the “Middle Way?”
9. Where was he when he achieved “Enlightenment?”
10. Who was responsible for sending out the first Buddhist missionaries?
11. List and explain the Four Noble Truths (in your own words, please)
12. Choose four of the precepts in the Eightfold Path and explain what they mean.
13. Name and explain two concepts shared in both Hinduism and Buddhism.
14. What is the ultimate goal of Buddhism?

How does it differ from the ultimate goal of Hinduism?

1. Why is Theravada Buddhism considered “orthodox?”
2. According to Theravadans, who is most likely to achieve Nirvana?
3. Where are most Theravadans found?
4. Explain the difference between a Bodhisattva and an Arhant.
5. Who do Mahayanans believe can achieve Enlightenment?
6. Where is the Zen sect of Buddhism thought to have originated?

Where is it most prominent today?

1. Define the following:
2. Mudras
3. Mantras
4. Mandalas

Explain how they help the Tantric Buddhist achieve Nirvana.

21. Why do Tibetan Buddhists destroy the Mandala?

22. Explain how the new Dalai Lama is chosen. (please be thorough)

 Where is the traditional capital of Tibetan Buddhism?

 What is the name of the palace?

 Why is the current Dalai Lama in exile?

 Who served as his secretary?

23. Why are there so many Buddhist centers on the west coast of the U.S.?

24. Describe the prayer wheel and its purpose.

25. What color is the traditional Vietnamese monk’s robe?

26. Why do Buddhist monks use the “begging bowl?”

27. What does the hand almost touching the ground, found in the seated Buddha, represent?

28. What are mala beads used for?

29. What was the most interesting thing to you about the skull bowls (which, by the way, are not common to all sects of Buddhism)? Explain.