

## **EP Homework Tasks**



# GCSE Buddhist Beliefs

Homework 1 Learn keywords	Date	Always make a
Homework 2 Creative activity	Date	note of the
Homework 3 Creative activity	Date	due date on Go4Schools
Homework 5 Creative activity	Date	
Homework 4   Prepare for mock exam	Date	Done?
Homework 1 - Learn the keywords in the KO below for a mini test at		
the start of lesson. You could read through the words, write them		
out, create a match up activity or get someone to test you.		
Homework 2 – Use Icons, words and /or pictures to briefly recount		
the story of the Buddha's life from birth to enlightenment (becoming		
the Buddha/awakened one)		
Homework 3 – Explain the impact of seeing the 4 sights on		
Siddhartha		
Homework 4 – Creative task. You are going to write an answer which		
shows an understanding of the spiritual, emotional and cultural		
experiences of religious believers.		
Should Siddhartha's father have concealed all suffering from him or		
should he have allowed him to know what life is really like?		
Homework 5		
Create a revision resource showing the different Buddhist beliefs		
shown on the KO. You should include beliefs about:		
1. Buddha's early life <i>The phases of his life and the 4 sights</i>		
2. Buddha's enlightenment and the 3 watches <i>How was he</i>		
tempted and what did enlightenment help him		
realise/see/understand?		
3. The 3 marks of existence <i>Suffering, impermanence and the</i>		
impermanent soul		
4. \$ Noble Truths and Noble Eightfold path Why do we suffer and		
what is the cure?		
5. Types of Buddhism <i>Theravada and Mahayana</i>		
6. Types of enlightened people <i>Arhats and Boddhisatvas</i>		
Homework 4 - Learn the facts in the knowledge organiser at the end of		
this booklet, for a knowledge test next lesson. You could highlight the		
key information, create revision cue cards or get somebody to test you.		
Optional Challenge Task		
Research popular stories/teachings from the Jakarta tales		



### **AQA Religious Studies A - Buddhist beliefs**



#### **Key terms**

**Arhat** A 'perfected person' who has overcome the main sources of suffering

Asceticism A lifestyle of strict selfdenial – rejected by Siddhartha for the Middle Way

**Bodhisattva** An enlightened person who chooses to remain in samsara to teach others

**Dependent Arising** The idea that everything is dependent on everything else

**Dharma** The Buddha's teachings – how to reach the state of enlightenment

**Eightfold Path** Eight aspects of life Buddhists live by to try and reach enlightenment

Enlightenment A state of spiritual wisdom which arises from understanding the nature of reality Four Noble Truths Four truths the Buddha taught about suffering and how to overcome it

**Four Sights** Four things Siddhartha saw that inspired him to leave his life of luxury

**Jakata** A book of popular tales about the life of the Buddha

**Meditation** The practice of focusing or calming the mind and reflecting on teachings

**Nirvana** A state of complete enlightenment which lies outside the cycle of samsara

**Samsara** Cycle of life, death and rebirth

**3 Marks of Existence** 3 Buddhist beliefs about the truth of existence **3 Watches** 3 realisations Siddhartha made in order to become enlightened

#### Buddha's Life + Four Sights

**Buddha** was born **Siddhartha Gautama** around 500BC in southern Nepal.

He grew up in a life of **luxury** as the son of a Queen. He was inspired to leave this life by the **Four Sights**.

After this he lived an **ascetic** life of self-denial and pain but wasn't able to become enlightened so left it for the Middle Way between pain and luxury.

The Four Sights Siddhartha saw on his trip outside the palace were:

- 1. An **old** man everyone ages
- 2. An ill man everyone becomes ill
- 3. A dead man all things die
- 4. A **holy** man the only answer to these problems



#### Enlightenment + 3 Watches



After the failure of Siddhartha's ascetic life to provide him with enlightenment Siddhartha chose to follow the **Middle Way**. He meditated under a tree and was tempted by **Mara** who tried to distract him, but he stayed focused on meditation and reaching enlightenment. Eventually he became enlightened during the **Three Watches of the Night** where he understood: knowledge of **all his previous lives**, the cycle of life, death and re-birth (**samsara**) and that all beings suffer due to **desire**. After this Siddhartha became enlightened and began to be known as Buddha.

#### Three Marks of Existence

The **Three Marks of Existence** are the fundamental Buddhist beliefs about the nature of human existence. They present a very different view of the world to Christianity. That **suffering** is inevitable, that everything is **impermanent** and that we have no fixed, immortal soul.



#### Dukkha

**Suffering** is a part of life that all people must face. Buddhists can try and overcome it.

Known as the 'lesser vehicle' as only male

Oldest form of Buddhism, found in southern

monks achieve enlightenment.

#### Anicca

The idea of **impermanence** – that everything constantly changes and we suffer when we resist it

#### **Anatta**

The idea that we **don't have a fixed soul** – there is no unchanging essence to us

#### Four Noble Truths + Eightfold Path



The Four Noble Truths are what Buddha taught about suffering

1. There is suffering >> 2. Suffering has a cause >> 3. Suffering can come to an end >> 4. There is a way to end suffering
One of the main causes of suffering is **tanha** or craving. Other causes are known as the **Three Poisons** of greed, hatred and ignorance.
Ultimately Buddha teaches that we can and must overcome these causes of suffering in order to become enlightened and reach **nirvana**– a state of freedom, happiness and peace

The **Eightfold Path** consists of eight aspects that Buddhists practise and live by in order to do this.

e.g. Right speech (speaking truthfully and kindly), right mindfulness (developing awareness of the world around you) and right understanding (developing an understanding of Buddha's teachings)

#### Types of Buddhism

#### Theravada

#### <u>Mahayana</u>

Known as the 'greater vehicle' as anyone can become enlightened.

Teaches **sunyata** or emptiness – nothing as a separate soul or self

#### **Pure Land**

Mostly found in **Japan** – a form of Mahayana Buddhism.

Based on faith in Amitabha Buddha and his paradise.

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#### Bodhisattva + Arhat

#### **Bodhisattva**

Asia

**Mahayana** Buddhists aim to become a Bodhisattva. Someone who reaches an enlightened state but chooses to remain in the cycle of samsara to help others reach enlightenment

#### Arhat

**Theravada** Buddhists aim to become an Arhat by following the Eightfold Path. An Arhat is a 'perfected person' who overcomes the main sources of suffering and reaches nirvana

