

Grade 9 Life Orientation Worksheet

Major religions of the world

People from many of the major religions of the world spend a lot of their time in promoting peace. Read this extract from <http://www.dalailama.com> about what the Dalai Lama says about the way in which the world's religions promote world peace. Then answer the questions that follow.

World Religions for World Peace

The principles discussed so far are in accordance with the ethical teachings of all world religions. I maintain that every major religion of the world – Buddhism, Christianity, Confucianism, Hinduism, Islam, Jainism, Judaism, Sikhism, Taoism, Zoroastrianism – has similar ideals of love, the same goal of benefiting humanity through spiritual practice, and the same effect of making their followers into better human beings. All religions teach moral precepts for perfecting the functions of mind, body, and speech. All teach us not to lie or steal or take others' lives, and so on. The common goal of all moral precepts laid down by the great teachers of humanity is unselfishness. The great teachers wanted to lead their followers away from the paths of negative deeds caused by ignorance and to introduce them to paths of goodness.

All religions agree upon the necessity to control the undisciplined mind that harbours selfishness and other roots of trouble, and each teaches a path leading to a spiritual state that is peaceful, disciplined, ethical, and wise. It is in this sense that I believe all religions have essentially the same message. Differences of dogma may be ascribed to differences of time and circumstance as well as cultural influences; indeed, there is no end to scholastic argument when we consider the purely metaphysical side of religion. However, it is much more beneficial to try to implement in daily life the shared precepts for goodness taught by all religions, rather than to argue about minor differences in approach.

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Questions

1. Name any two of the religions mentioned in this text. [2]
2. What do all the religions have in common? [2]
3. What do they all teach? [2]
4. What is the common goal they all have?[2]
5. Why does the Dalai Lama feel that all religions have the same message? [2]
6. What does the Dalai Lama mean by 'differences of dogma'? Give one example of this. [4]
7. What does the Dalai Lama think all religions should concentrate on? [2]
8. Do you agree with what the Dalai Lama says about all religions having the same message? Explain your answer. [4]
9. Do you feel that all world religions do enough to promote world peace? Explain your answer. [4]
10. If the followers of Christianity are called Christians, what do we call the followers of these religions? [6]
 - Judaism
 - Islam
 - Buddhism
 - Sikhism
 - Hinduism
 - Taoism

Total marks: 30

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Suggested Solutions

Question number	Possible marks	Solutions
1	30	<p>Solutions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Any two: Hinduism, Islam, Jainism, Buddhism, Christianity, Confucianism, Judaism, Sikhism, Taoism, Zoroastrianism. [2] 2. Love, benefitting humanity through spiritual practice and making their followers better people. [2] 3. Moral precepts – not to lie, steal or kill. [2] 4. Unselfishness by taking their followers away from negative deeds and towards the path of goodness. [2] 5. All religions lead their followers to a peaceful, disciplined, ethical and wise state. 6. By dogma he means unthinking beliefs – following form rather than understanding the substance. Any suitable example that shows this. [4] 7. Teach their followers to do good deeds during their daily lives. [2] 8. Own response. [4] 9. Own response. [4] 10. [6] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Judaism – Jews • Islam – Muslims • Buddhism – Buddhists • Sikhism – Sikhs • Hinduism – Hindus • Taoism – Taoists