

# Classical Age Religions and Philosophies Chalk Talk and Discussion

## Round 1: Silent!

1. There are seven large pieces of paper around the room with a question about important religions/philosophies written on them.
  - Hinduism - South Asia
  - Buddhism - South Asia
  - Judaism - Middle East
  - Christianity - Middle East
  - Legalism - China
  - Confucianism - China
  - Daoism - China
  - Animism - Africa, East Asia
2. You will be in a small group that will rotate together. Each group is assigned a color, so have your marker, colored pencil, colored pen at the ready.
3. For 30 seconds you will think about the religion or philosophy on the sheet and the question asked. Then, for two minutes, you and your peers will write on the page. Branch off of that religion or philosophy. Add facts, founders, main ideas, connections, thoughts, or questions you have, etc. It's not a speed situation - so don't race to add more. If you don't add it, perhaps someone in the following groups will add it.
4. Rotate and repeat. As you continue, you'll notice that there's more time spent reading what is on the page, and less time spent writing "new" information, as your peers may have done it before you. So, if you find you don't have anything new to add, star, circle, or underline things you think are important. Or perhaps answer a question that a fellow student asked! Or maybe make a connection between religions or philosophies that you've already looked at. Or add personal reflections that you think are relevant to the conversation.

## Round 2: Check them out

1. Go back through the papers in the same order, for one or two minutes each. Now, you do not have to be silent.
2. Discuss as a group what you think were the more important observations, connections, or facts written by your peers as you rotate through them one more time.

## Take it a step further...

1. Let's try to take this information and use it in an "AP Style" LEQ prompt. This is called application - take your knowledge, connections, and ideas and use them in a new way. Choose one of the following prompts and try to come up with a thesis statement that could work using some of the religions we just discussed! Then turn it in as your "exit ticket" for today
  - A. *Evaluate the extent to which religions or philosophies sought to maintain political and social order in their societies during the period 600 BCE to 600 CE.*
  - B. *Evaluate the extent to which rulers or leaders utilized religion to further their own power in the period 600 BCE to 600 CE.*
  - C. *Evaluate the extent to which religions appealed to lower class citizens during the period 600 BCE to 600 CE.*

## Teacher Instructions:

### If in person:

- Print out the questions below and paste them to a large piece of paper (butcher paper usually works nicely). Or, if you have a LOT of white board space or white board tables, you can put them on the tables/white boards with magnets etc.
- Divide the students into 7 groups so that they can rotate around. Smaller classes might only have 2 students in them, larger classes might have 5 or more, but that should be fine.
- If you are able, provide the students with a color to write with. (Green for one group, orange for another, red, purple, etc.) If not, it is NOT a critical piece of the activity - it will just help you to know when the comments were made in the rotation.

### If online:

- Seven Google Jamboards (those might be easiest for this activity), padlet, or the discussion thread feature on your Learning Management System (Schoology, Canvas, Google Classroom, etc.), post these questions.
- Have students respond virtually.
- Perhaps bring them together for a Google Hangout or Zoom.
- Create an assignment on the assignment feature of your LMS for the students to submit one of the last three questions mentioned on the first page.

**What are the major  
belief structures of  
HINDUISM, and how  
did the faith affect  
South Asia?**

**What are the major  
belief structures of  
BUDDHISM, and how  
did the faith affect  
South Asia?**

**What are the major belief structures of JUDAISM, and how did that affect the Middle East?**

**What are the major belief structures of CHRISTIANITY, and how did that affect the Mediterranean?**

**What are the major philosophical points of CONFUCIANISM, and how did that affect East Asia?**

**What are the major philosophical points of DAOISM, and how did that affect East Asia?**

**What are the major philosophical points of LEGALISM, and how did that affect East Asia?**

**What are the major beliefs of ANIMISM, and how did those beliefs affect the regions of the world**

**that subscribed to that  
faith?**