

Candidate 4 evidence

World Religion Essay 4

Buddhism

The Buddha is one who got enlightened and now shares his teachings with others. Enlightened means getting the knowledge and understanding of life and suffering. The Buddha was once a man named Siddhartha Gautama who was a Prince in the Palace soon to be King. When his Mum was pregnant with him she had a dream of a white elephant dancing which resembles wisdom which he endured right view and intention. When he was still a baby it is said he took his first steps and lotus flowers grew beneath him. The Buddha lived a life of extreme luxury in the palace before leaving to find a life out with the Palace. Siddhartha saw suffering for the first time and decided to leave his life from the Palace, going from great luxury to poverty and hunger. An implication of this is that it shows great power and strength to leave his life and family which shows what you have to do to become enlightened.

The Buddha created the eightfold path to replace the extreme life of luxury and poverty, this is relevant to Buddhists as it helps them to escape the life of suffering and live a more peaceful life. The belief of the Buddha is relevant as the Buddha is an enlightened person and has reached the goal of Nibbana. Being enlightened means gaining the knowledge of suffering of why /how it is there and how to get rid of it. The Buddha knowing how to get enlightened is significant to Buddhists because it is said that Nibbana is hard to understand until you experience it, and the Buddha is able to share his experience with Buddhists. The beliefs about the Buddha are also relevant as they help Buddhists to understand how to live a free and peaceful life away from suffering and therefore reach their goal and achieve enlightenment.

The Buddha's teaching of the Four Noble Truths help to guide the Buddhists and teaches them if you have harmonious minds and ignore the three root poisons of ignorance, greed and hatred it will get you to accept that suffering is a part of life and it will help you overcome it and reach the goal. A story that shows suffering and impermanence is Kisagotami and the mustard seeds. This story is about a grieving mother looking for something to heal her child who was already dead. She was told by the Buddha to get mustard seeds from every house that death hadn't entered. She soon realised with barely any seeds that death is everywhere and in life. She learned to accept the death of her child and put her child to rest and let herself heal. This shows that once you accept the Buddha's teachings you will leave the life of attachment and are on the path to enlightenment. The relevance of the beliefs about the Buddha is that they let Buddhists believe that a life free from suffering is possible which gives Buddhists hope that they need to keep trying.