**Hinduism**

**I. Introduction**

Hinduism is one of the world’s oldest belief systems (approximately 5,000 years old) that originated in the Indus River Valley. There is **no single founder** or date of the belief system’s creation because it is based on the beliefs and practices of a diverse group of people who added to the religion over thousands of years. Hinduism is followed by the majority of people in **India** and Nepal, but it also exists among significant populations outside of the sub-continent and has over 900 million followers worldwide, known as Hindus. Since Hinduism has been compiled from so many different belief systems throughout its history, some people refer to it as 'a way of life' or 'a family of religions' rather than a single religion. There are, however, some unifying concepts.

**DIRECTIONS: Actively read/Annotate below about the religion of Hinduism and answer the questions that follow.**

**1. Brahma: The Creator 2. Vishnu: The Preserver 3. Shiva: The Destroyer**

responsible for creating life in the world makes sure the world and people and in charge of death and destruction

 protected and safe



According to Hinduism, the meaning (purpose) of life is four-fold: to achieve Dharma, Artha, Kama, and Moksha. The first, dharma, means to act virtuously and righteously. That is, it means to act morally and ethically throughout one’s life. The second meaning of life according to Hinduism is Artha, which refers to the pursuit of wealth and prosperity in one’s life. Importantly, one must stay within the bounds of dharma while pursuing this wealth and prosperity (i.e. one must not step outside moral and ethical grounds in order to do so). The third purpose of a Hindu’s life is to seek Kama. Kama means desire or pleasure. Kama refers to a range of pleasures, from enjoying the arts, music, writing and dance to sexual pleasure. In simple terms, Kama can be defined as obtaining enjoyment from life. The fourth and final meaning of life according to Hinduism is Moksha, enlightenment. By far the most difficult meaning of life to achieve, Moksha may take an individual just one lifetime to accomplish (rarely) or it may take several. However, it is considered the most important meaning of life and offers such rewards as liberation (freedom) from reincarnation (rebirth), self-realization, enlightenment (understanding), or unity with God.

**According to the document, what is the purpose of Hinduism (explain each).**

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**Achieving Moksha is the Goal of Life**

*To Hindus every person has an essential self or atman. Some view it as the same as Brahman and other as a form of Brahman. The ultimate goal of existence, Hindus believe, is achieving moksha, or union with Brahman. To do that, individuals must free themselves from selfish desires that separate them from Brahman. Most people cannot achieve moksha in one lifetime, but Hindus believe in reincarnation, or the rebirth of the soul in another bodily form. Reincarnation allows people to continue world toward moksha through several lifetimes.*

**-Adapted from Prentice Hall World history, Ellis and Esler**

According to this excerpt, what is the **purpose** of reincarnation?

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**Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Band: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Directions: Using TEAL strategies, answer the following question:**

**How did Hinduism influence the lives of its followers?** (Explain how the issue (religion) has **affected people**.)

Hinduism has many beliefs, which influence its followers in a **positive/negative (circle one)** way.

One belief of Hinduism is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, which means \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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This influences its followers **positively/negatively (circle one)** because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. This influences its followers **positively/negatively (circle one)** because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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| **EXCELLENT(4.5-5)*** **T**opic sentence clearly states a specific position.
* **E**vidence has 3 or more supporting facts from the document to support position.
* **A**nalysis is in-depth and completely supports the position taken.
* **L**ink of the evidence and analysis is clear and connected to the topic sentence.
 | **GOOD (3.5-4)*** **T**opic sentence is clear, but does not state a specific position.
* **E**vidence has 2-3 supporting facts from the document to support position.
* **A**nalysis is vague and/or partly supports the position.
* **L**ink of the evidence and analysis is connected to the topic sentence
 | **SATISFACTORY (1.5-3)*** **T**opic sentence is not clear and/or does not state a position.
* **E**vidence is present, but does not have details and/or support position taken.
* **A**nalysis has little details and/or does not support the position.
* **L**ink of the evidence and analysis is not clear and/or present and/or does not connect to the topic sentence.
 | **UNSATISFACTORY (0-1)*** **T**opic sentence is not present.
* **E**vidence is not present to support position and/or evidence does not support the position taken.
* **A**nalysis is not present and/or does not support the position taken.
* **L**ink of the evidence and analysis is not present.
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