**Detailed Introduction for IBSL World Religions Students**

1. First, on my website read "**Week 1 IB World Religions Official Poster**"
2. On this poster from the IB Program you will see that your official requirements for IBSL World Religions can be summarized as follows:
3. For 'Paper 1' you must be able to answer 5 different question about 5 different religions. You must choose at least 1 religion from each group A, B, and C

Group A: Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism

Group B: Judaism, Christianity, Islam

Group C: Taoism, Jainism, Baha'i Faith

You can answer any 5 different religions you want; however, my class will only prepare you to answer 1) Hinduism, 2) Buddhism, 3) Judaism, 4) Christianity, and 5) Taoism

IMPORTANT CHANGE FOR May 2021 Exams ONLY!-

I just learned from the IB that they are making the exam ‘easier’ this year. Therefore, you only need to answer 1 question from Group A, 1 Question from Group B; and 1 Question from Group C

Note: I think my class will best prepare you to answer Buddhism, Christianity, and Taoism.

The Paper 1 questions are very ‘general’ and relatively easy. You have many options for each religion. It always includes reading a passage from a sacred text of the religion and then explaining different main ideas in the passage and how it relates to the religion.

As you will hear often from me, the ‘secret’ to getting a score of 6/7 or 7/7 is to be able to provide very specific examples from sacred texts and specific religious practices and rituals.

1. For 'Paper 2' you must answer 2 different in-depth essay questions about 2 different religions that you have specifically studied in more detail. You must choose 1 religion from Group A and 1 religion from Group B below:

Group A: Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism

Group B: Judaism, Christianity, Islam

You can answer any religion you want from these lists; however, my class will be specifically preparing you to write your Group A Essay on Buddhism and your Group B Essay on Christianity. So you should prepare to study these 2 religions in the most specific detail.

IMPORTANT CHANGE FOR May 2021 Exams ONLY!-

I just learned from the IB that they are making the exam ‘easier’ this year. Therefore, you only need to answer 1 Paper 2 Essay Question this year. So you can choose any 1 religion from the Group A or Group B.

FYI- I think you will have the most success with Buddhism so I will spend extra time on Buddhism especially.

As mentioned above, definitely the secret to getting a score of 6/7 or 7/7 on Paper 2 is to support your essays with many specific examples of sacred texts and specific examples of sacred religious practices and rituals.

1. Finally for your IA (Internal Assessment) you must research and write a 1,900 word paper about any 1 religion you want. It can be chosen from one of the Groups above, or you can choose any religion at all that interests you.

In my opinion this IA is pretty ‘easy.’ It is more an exploration than a research paper. You will read a few books and articles, and then hopefully do interviews and/or visits to religious places. Then you will write a personal reflection about what you learned.

Note: every student in the class last year received a perfect 7/7 on her or his IA!

1. As I mentioned in class, I think it is relatively straightforward what will determine your IB score for this class. (Note that your IB score is not the same as your class grade of A, B, C, etc.) Here is my experience about your IB score (Anticipated IB Grade, Predicted IB Grade, and Final IB Grade):
2. If you just do the class work and nothing else on your own- you will get an IB score of 5/7

-You pay attention in class; you generally do the homework; and you do a general, main ideas only decent job on the Seminar Essays and Paper 1 and Paper 2 practice essays.

b. Students who get a 6/7…..

-Yes, they do the class work; they pay attention in class and do all the homework

-They put particular care and attention into the Seminar Essays and Paper 1 and Paper 2 practice essays. Their essays not only have main ideas about the religion, but they also do a GOOD JOB of providing some specific examples of specific sacred texts and specific sacred rituals and practices of the religion.

-As such they do a GOOD job throughout the year of doing independent work on their own to complete the WEEK 1 ADVANCED IB STUDENT RESEARCH SHEET on my website.

c.Students who get a perfect 7/7….

-Yes they do the class work; they pay attention in class and do all the homework

-The reason I give them an Anticipated Grade of 7/7 all comes down to their writing on Seminar Essays and Paper 1 and Paper 2 practice essays. They write exceptional essays that have a structured argument and support.

-They are able to support their essays with EXCEPTIONAL amounts of several specific sacred texts for the religion.

-They are able to support their essays with EXCEPTIONAL amounts of several specific sacred practices and rituals for the religion.

-In our class time and assigned homework I will introduce you to SOME sacred texts and specific rituals for each religion; however, I think in order to get an IB Anticipated Grade of 7/7 you must show some independent effort on your own to go into more specific detail about specific sacred texts and sacred rituals for each religion for Paper 1 and ESPECIALLY for Buddhism and Christianity for Paper 2. Therefore these students will do an EXCELLENT job throughout the year of doing independent work on their own to complete the WEEK 1ADVANCED IB STUDENT RESEARCH SHEET

1. So, if you haven’t figured it our yet, you should start filling out the WEEK 1 ADVANCED STUDENT RESEARCH SHEET if you want me to consider to give you a 6/7 or a 7/7 for your Anticipated Grade in September and Predicted Grade in April.

-For now you absolutely must do this work 100% independently by yourself. You are not allowed to share notes with another student at this point! If I discover you are copying notes from another student on this research sheet then that will be considered plagiarism and a serious disciplinary matter.

-In May 2021 when we are preparing for the real IB Exam then we may share notes all together to help us best prepare for the real exam; however, at this point you should NOT be sharing notes.

-At various times throughout the year, I will ask you to share your research sheet with me so I can see what work you are doing on it.

1. Finally, I will assign this as homework at a later date, but if you are curious now you can read on my website the official IB description for this course at "**Week 1 Official IB World Religions Guide"** It will give you many, many more details about the requirements of IBSL World Religions and the types of questions they will ask you on the exam. This is published by the IB Program itself.