

## In-Class Essay will be given on Tuesday April 12, 2016

You may prepare for the essay by taking notes and creating an outline on the other side of this paper. You are strongly encouraged to create a thesis statement for your essay! You may bring in this paper on the date of the essay and use it while you are writing. You will also be allowed to use graphic organizer we started in class before this essay. With the exception of these papers you will not be allowed to have any other papers or your notebook while writing the essay.

### THEMATIC ESSAY QUESTION

*Directions:* Write a well-organized essay that includes an introduction, several paragraphs addressing the task below, and a conclusion.

#### Theme: **Belief Systems**

The world has many different belief systems. Each is distinctive, but all greatly influenced the lives of their followers and the society in which the belief system was practiced.

#### Task:

Choose **two** major belief systems and for **each**

- Explain key beliefs **and/or** practices
- Discuss an influence the belief system had on the lives of its followers or the society in which it was practiced

You may use any example from your study of global history. Some suggestions you might wish to consider include animism, Buddhism, Christianity, Confucianism, Daoism, Islam, Judaism, legalism, and Shinto.

**You are *not* limited to these suggestions.**

**Do *not* use the United States as the focus of your answer.**

#### Guidelines:

**In your essay, be sure to**

- Develop all aspects of the task
- Support the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details
- Use a logical and clear plan of organization, including an introduction and a conclusion that are beyond a restatement of the theme

**In developing your answer to Part II, be sure to keep these general definitions in mind:**

- explain** means “to make plain or understandable; to give reasons for or causes of; to show the logical development or relationships of”
- discuss** means “to make observations about something using facts, reasoning, and argument; to present in some detail”