AP World History Summer Project - World Religions and Belief Review

Preview:

- For the 2019-2020 school year, the AP World History Course will be redesigned. Rather than focusing on 10,000 years’ worth of history, we will be only focusing on 800 years 😊 instead.
- As a result, the class will begin in the 1200s, with an emphasis on key themes throughout world history (like trade, religion, culture, the economy, government, technology, etc.) and key locations (Africa, Asia, Americas, Europe, etc.) as well.
- Of the themes listed above, world religions will play a pivotal role in understanding world history. Many of the religions that we will be discussing in class originated prior to the 1200s. Therefore, I have decided to have your summer project be based on world religions because it will provide a foundation of information that applies to each region of the world that we will be discussing throughout the entire duration of the class.

Assignment:

- I want you to research the following religions/belief systems:
  - Buddhism, Christianity, Confucianism, Hinduism, Islam, and Judaism
- Please answer the following questions for each belief:
  - Founder (if possible)
  - Date of Origin
  - Location of Origin
  - Types of Gods (Monotheistic, Polytheistic, No God, etc.)
  - Name Holy Book or Key Holy Writings
  - DESCRIBE/EXPLAIN KEY BELIEF SYSTEMS – this to me is the most important part, what are the beliefs that these people follow.
    - Possible Examples that I would discuss if I was doing this project – 7 Sacraments of Christianity and key Church beliefs, 4 Noble Truths of Buddhism, Karma and Reincarnation of Hinduism, 5 Key Relationships of Confucianism and the concept of filial piety, 5 Pillars of Islam and Shariah Laws, and much more!
  - Belief in Afterlife
  - Types (list and briefly explain them)
  - Miscellaneous Facts – there is nothing specific that I am looking for here, I just want you to be able to list any facts that you found that you thought might be significant to understanding each faith.
- Then (in your own words) answer the following question:
  - From a historical perspective, how has religion shaped society? I understand that this is a very broad topic. For me, I just want you to have a basic understanding on the impact that religion has had in shaping societies and civilizations throughout the globe. Your response only needs to be 1 to 2 paragraphs in length. Please make sure that this work is your own, and not copied from any other resource.

Directions

- Write clearly and in pen (DO NOT TYPE ASSIGNMENT).
- This assignment will count as a test grade. Please make sure that you take your time with this assignment, and really attempt to gain an understanding of these great systems of belief.
- Not only will we have a test on it within the first few weeks of class but the information provided will last us the entire school year, and will be a major part of the AP Exam!!
- Due Date: first day that Mr. Ferro sees your class (so either August 12th or August 13th).
- Cheating/Plagiarism will not be tolerated! If you copy the work of any other person, both participants will receive a zero as a test grade. If you receive a zero for this assignment, the chances of you receiving a grade higher than a C will be somewhat difficult. I want this assignment to be informative, and I want to reward you for all of your hard work over the summer!