

Global History and Geography
Content-Specific Rubric
Thematic Essay
June 2015

Theme: Belief Systems—Movement

Belief systems are an established, orderly way that groups or individuals look at religious faith or philosophical principles. Some belief systems have spread outside their places of origin. The diffusion of these belief systems has affected other societies and regions in various ways.

- Task:** Select *two* belief systems that have spread outside their place of origin and for *each*
- Discuss a central principle of this belief system
 - Discuss how this belief system spread to another region
 - Discuss an effect of the spread of this belief system on a society or region

You may use any belief system from your study of global history and geography. Some suggestions you might wish to consider include Buddhism, Confucianism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, and communism.

You are *not* limited to these suggestions.

Do *not* use the United States as a region to which a belief system has spread.

Scoring Notes:

1. This thematic essay has a minimum of *six* components (for *two* belief systems, discussing a central principle of *each* belief system, how the belief system spread to *at least one* other region and *at least one* effect of the spread of this belief system on a society or region).
2. The region or society does not have to be specifically identified as long as it is implied in the discussion.
3. The central principles of the belief system may be similar; however, the details of the discussion should be different, e.g., monotheism as a central principle of Islam and of Christianity.
4. The discussion about how the belief systems spread may be similar; however, the details of each discussion should be different, e.g., both Buddhist missionaries and Christian missionaries spread their belief systems along trade routes.
5. The spread of the belief system may be discussed broadly across time and place or narrowly in a specific society or region.
6. The effect on a society or region to which this belief system spread may be discussed from any perspective as long as the position taken is supported by accurate historical facts and examples.
7. If three belief systems are discussed, only the first two belief systems may be scored.