

Anchor Level 5-B

The response:

- Thoroughly develops all aspects of the task evenly and in depth by discussing a central principle of Buddhism and Islam, how these belief systems spread to other regions, and an effect on a society to which each belief system spread
- Is more analytical than descriptive (*Buddhism*: main goal is to reach nirvana, which is a state of being at one with oneself; person is free of desire and suffering through right thought, right speech, right action; merchants supported building temples along Silk Road, exposing more people to belief system; regions that had established belief systems incorporated aspects of Buddhism in their cultures; Japanese culture shows how Buddhism and Shinto exist side by side; tea ceremony is a Buddhist ceremony representing spirit of harmony; many Shinto and Buddhist altars found side by side; *Islam*: Muhammad preached monotheism in a society that worshipped many gods; Muhammad returned to Mecca and made it most sacred city of Islam; people all over Middle East adopted the religion; spread along trade routes such as trans-Saharan, Indian Ocean, and Mediterranean Sea by merchants and missionaries; Muslims everywhere are united in their commitment to the Five Pillars; Islam reshaped Spanish culture; Islamic scholars translated and preserved Greek and Roman findings in math, science, astronomy, and medicine; huge libraries emphasized the importance of learning to Islam)
- Richly supports the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details (*Buddhism*: Siddhartha Gautama founded belief system and became known as Buddha, the Enlightened One; reach enlightened state by accepting Four Noble Truths and following Eightfold Path; spread by missionaries to China, Korea, Japan; origin in northern India; Confucianism; *Islam*: founded in 600s by Muhammad; Medina; Saudi Arabia; fled in 622; one God, Allah; charity to poor; fasting during Ramadan; hajj to Mecca once in one's lifetime; forces from northern Africa conquered Gibraltar and southern Spain; Cordova)
- Demonstrates a logical and clear plan of organization; includes an introduction that is beyond a restatement of the theme and a brief conclusion

Conclusion: Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 5. The response combines numerous facts, examples, and details in analyzing various forms of cultural diffusion and the manner in which belief systems spread. The response does a good job of demonstrating how the introduction of new belief systems influenced the cultures of Spain and of Japan.