

**Hinduism and Buddhism (Document Analysis)**

*Focus Question: In what ways did Buddhism reflect Hindu traditions, and in what ways did it challenge them?*

<b>HINDUISM</b>	<b>BUDDHISM</b>
Excerpt from the <i><u>Upanishads</u></i>	Excerpt from <i><u>The Gospel of Buddha</u></i>
Excerpt from the <i><u>Bhagavad-Gita</u></i>	Excerpt from <i><u>“The Discourse That Set Turning the Wheel of Truth”</u></i>

## SAMPLE PARAGRAPH

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While both Hinduism and Buddhism originated in India and share primary beliefs and practices, Buddhism's growth out of Hinduism often challenged the existing social and political structures in India by creating hope and freedom of choice in a society that was dominated by the rigidity of the caste system. The origins of **Hinduism** began with the **Aryan** invasion of India around 1500 BCE. The caste system in India that resulted from these migrations and settlement patterns was made up of **Brahmins, Kshatriyas, Vaishyas, Shudras**, and eventually the **Untouchables**. This caste system created identities formed around the kinds of occupations and social roles people held in ancient India. Aryan oral traditions were passed down through sacred texts known as the **Vedas** establishing the **caste system** in India. Hinduism promoted the concept of **reincarnation** and that through good deeds, or **karma**, one could be reborn into a higher caste. Additional sacred texts, such as the **Upanishads**, emerged between the ninth and fifth centuries BCE stating that all creatures on Earth were part of a larger soul, or **Brahma**. INSERT DOCUMENT ANALYSIS HERE (Doc. A) Towards the end of the Vedic Period, around 530 BCE a young member of the warrior class, **Siddhartha Gautama** left his family to meditate and become an **ascetic**. According to legend, as he meditated he achieved **enlightenment** and afterwards took the name **Buddha**, while his disciples and followers came to be known as **Buddhists**. INSERT DOCUMENT ANALYSIS HERE (Doc. C) The Buddhist doctrine, originally preached to five former disciples of Buddha, is summarized in the **Four Noble Truths** and **the Eightfold Path**. INSERT DOCUMENT ANALYSIS HERE (Doc. D) In response to the changing nature of India and the increasing popularity of Buddhism, Hinduism began to spread through epic poems such as the **Mahabharata** and the **Ramayana**. INSERT DOCUMENT ANALYSIS HERE (Doc. B) India's political organization during the classical period mirrored the religious competition and resulting hierarchy. As the **Mauryan Empire** emerged in the fourth century BCE a more centralized government demonstrated similar concepts to that of the absolute Brahma of Hindu teachings, but **Ashoka Maurya's** conversion to Buddhism furthered its popularity. By the time of the **Gupta Era** in the third and fourth century CE greater religious freedom was extended but at the same time with the Gupta's support Hinduism spread to become India's major religion. Hinduism and Buddhism both played an integral and significant part in the complex religious character of India. However, Buddhism extended its influence beyond India and played an important role in the development of Asia as a whole.