YEAR 8 RELIGIOUS STUDIES – T6 Week 7

FAMOUS RELIGIOUS PEOPLE

Please try and complete all the activities. If you do not have online access, complete the not online activities. If you do have online access complete both sets of work. Thank you 😊 you can email me at any time at [lbeng@staldhelms-academy.co.uk](mailto:lbeng@staldhelms-academy.co.uk) These lessons are planned to revise the religions you have already learnt about.

**ONLINE**

**WEEK 7 13th July Buddhism**

Research a famous Buddhist and their beliefs. Through getting to know what Buddhism is like for that person you can learn more about Buddhism yourself. What were their defining moments? What were their experiences? How has it shaped them today? Present your findings in a Word document or as a PowerPoint.

Example of celebrity Buddhists: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N9v-nFuKT_8&t=189s>

Orlando Bloom speaking about Buddhism: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ah1z9CMo01k>

**NOT ONLINE**

**WEEK 7 13th July Buddhism**

Read extracts from Richard Gere’s interview about his journey as a Buddhist then answer the questions below.

**Interviewer:** What was your first encounter with Buddhism?  
**Richard Gere:** My first encounter with Buddhist teachings was in my early twenties. I was not particularly happy. I had questions like, “Why anything?”. I started reading. Evans-Wentz’s books on Tibetan Buddhism had an enormous impact on me.

**Interviewer:**What did you find in those books that appealed to you?

**Richard Gere:** They had all the romance of a good novel, so you could really bury yourself in them, but at the same time, they offered the possibility that you could live here and be free at the same time. I hadn’t even considered that.

**Interviewer:**What was the first tradition you became involved with?

Bottom of Form

The first tradition that I became involved in was Zen. My first teacher was Sasaki Roshi. I remember going out to L.A. for a three day Zen meditation program. It was then that I realized, this is work, serious work on your mind.

**Interviewer:** When did you meet the Dalai Lama for the first time?

**Richard Gere:** I had been a Zen student for five or six years before I met His Holiness in India. I was incredibly nervous. It completely changed my life. No question about it. It wasn’t like I felt, “Oh, I’m going to give away all my possessions and go to the monastery now,” but it quite naturally felt that this was what I was supposed to do—work with these teachers, learn whatever I could, bring myself to it.

**Interviewer:** You go to India often. Does that give you the opportunity to practice in a less distracted environment?

**Richard Gere:** Actually it’s probably more distracting! When I go there, I’m just a simple student like everyone else, however I can also help. When I’m in India there are a lot of people who require help and it’s very difficult to say no.

**Interviewer:** Here you’re involved in a world of film-making that people think of as extremely consuming, high-powered, even cut-throat.

**Richard Gere:** That’s all true. But it’s like everyone else’s life, too. It just gets into the papers, that’s all. It’s the same emotions. The same suffering. The same issues. No difference.

**Interviewer:** When you are asked about Buddhism, what do you feel are the most important aspects to mention?

**Richard Gere:** I discuss wisdom and compassion. We are here to explore—expand our minds and expand our hearts.

**Questions**

1. When was Richard Gere’s first encounter with Buddhism?
2. What was the first tradition Richard Gere became involved with?
3. What impact did meeting the Dalai Lama have on Richard Gere?
4. How is Richard Gere’s life the same as everyone elses despite his fame and fortune?
5. What does Richard Gere feel the most important aspects of Buddhism include?