***STUDY GUIDE FOR HINDUISM***

1. What are the main scriptures in Hinduism?

2. shrutti…that which is heard…explain / smritti …that which is remembered…explain.

3. What does the name, "Hinduism", derive from?

4. What is the oldest book of the Vedas?

5. Who were the Aryan invaders of northwest India?

6. Which scriptures are called the "law books of the masses"?

7. Which scriptures are called the end or goal of the Vedas? (these are also thought of as the 'fountainhead of Indian philosophy').

8. Basic differences between the Vedas and the Upanishads?

9. Hindu cosmology: describe it; where is the earth? man?

10. the Brahma-loka... asuras and devas

11. Maya and Prakriti: be able to explain, describe the objective (materialistic) nature and the subjective (psychological) nature of Maya (or as it is also called, Prakriti).

12. samsara

13. jiva and soul....compare the Hindu and the Biblical notions.

14. Atman and Brahman…relationship between them.

15. Human history takes place in one tenth of a second, Brahma-loka time. What does this mean for the individual human being? for all of human history? Compare with the Biblical idea of man and history.

16. karma and the law of karma/karma and the jiva/karma and freedom

17. dharma…moral and cosmic dimensions....How does one know the dharma?

18. smallest unit of time change in the cosmos: yuga/the four yugas and the dharma and the cow

19. one cycle of yugas = one mahayuga/1000 mahayugas = one kalpa (one Brahma day)

one mahakalpa = one Brahma century…lifetime of a Brahma

20. destruction at the end of each cycle of yugas, kalpas, and mahakalpas, followed by rebirth of the cycles again.

21. Manu…who is he? Compare with biblical stories of Noah, Moses, God as creator, and Adam.

22. How did the Code of Manu influence Indian society?

23. moksha / mukti

24. Brahman and Maya

25. Nirguna Brahman and Saguna Brahman

26. via negativa…neti, neti

27. Shankara and "non-dualism"...(Vedanta) and dualism.

28. Brahman/Atman … explain these two.

29. avidya…ignorance…explain. How does this relate to dualism, and to Maya?

30. Vedanta…the end or goal of the Vedas: explain.

31. salvation…in terms of moksha (or mukti), samsara, Maya, Brahman, vidya, and avidya.

32. The two possible goals for the life of man? path of desires and the path of renunciation (Pravritti marga and Nivritti marga).

33. Why are there these two possible goals?

34. The Tri-varga…3 aims for creature-man: artha, kama, and dharma. Explain these.

35. What is the justification (rationalization) for the caste system?

36. apvarga…the ultimate goal for man…what is it? How does it differ from the tri-varga?

37. Constant tension in life: between man as creature and man as Atman. A reconciliation between these two dimensions which man lives in is dealt with by conceiving of life as taking place in the stages, called "ashramas". Explain/describe these: student…householder…forest dweller…sannyasin

38. What is a "jivan-mukta"?

39. Yoga…what does it mean? what is it used for?

40. bhakti yoga, karma yoga, jnana yoga, raja yoga: describe these.

41. sectarian Hinduism: describe: monotheistic; bhakti; various deities are given primacy.

42. Explain: the gods are "roles which must be played".

