

3.3 Empires: Belief Systems

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 12 marks

KEY WORDS sikhism 锡克教 • protestant reformation 新教改革 • ottoman 奥斯曼 • safavid 萨法维

Objective

Build the skills to explain **continuity and change in belief** 信仰体系.

You must be able to:

- state the double effect of the Reformation
- explain how political rivalry intensified a religious split
- state the context in which Sikhism developed
- explain why belief and politics are inseparable here

1 Worked examples

Study these first. Each one shows the method for a task used later.

■ The Reformation's double effect

The Protestant Reformation **marked a break with existing Christian traditions**, and **both the Protestant and Catholic reformations contributed to the growth of Christianity**. A break and a growth in the same sentence.

■ Rivalry and split

Political rivalries between the Ottoman and Safavid empires **intensified** the split within Islam between Sunni and Shi'a. The split existed; the rivalry deepened it.

■ Sikhism

Sikhism developed in South Asia **in a context of interactions between Hinduism and Islam** — a new tradition emerging from the meeting of two others.

■ Inseparable

In all three cases the religious history is also a political one: rulers back confessions, and confessional difference supplies a language for state rivalry.

2 Practice

2.1 State the double effect of the Reformation. [2]

2.2 Explain how political rivalry affected the Sunni-Shi'a split. [2]

2.3 Sikhism developed in a particular context.

(a) State it. [1]

(b) State what all three examples show about religion and politics. [2]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 The CED says the reformations contributed to [1]

- **A** the decline of Christianity
- **B** the growth of Christianity
- **C** no change
- **D** the end of Christianity

3.2 The Ottoman-Safavid rivalry [1]

- **A** created the Sunni-Shi'a split
- **B** intensified an existing split
- **C** healed the split
- **D** was unrelated to it

3.3 A doctrinal difference becomes a border.

(a) State what has happened. [1]

(b) Explain why this makes the difference harder to resolve.

[2]

Solutions

2.1 it marked a break with existing Christian traditions; both reformations contributed to the growth of Christianity.

2.2 the split already existed; the rivalry intensified it.

2.3 (a) interactions between Hinduism and Islam in South Asia. (b) rulers back confessions and confessional difference supplies a language for state rivalry.

3.1 B. growth, despite the break.

3.2 B. “intensified” is the CED’s verb.

3.3 (a) a religious difference has acquired a political interest. (b) resolving it would now require a state to concede territory or authority, so the doctrinal question is no longer the only thing at stake.