

## Discussion and study questions for Jainism and Sikhism

1. Offer some general comparisons and contrasts between Jainism and Sikhism.
2. Describe some features Jainism shares with Buddhism.
3. Discuss similarities and differences between the Buddha and Mahavira.
4. What are the twenty-four tirthankaras?
5. What is the Jain view on God?
6. How does Jainism conceive time?
7. Explain the dualism found in Jainism and how it shapes understanding of human beings.
8. How are human beings different from other things composed of matter and spirit?
9. Discuss the Jain goal and the understanding of karma and rebirth.
10. Explain *ahimsa* and how this ethical recommendation is lived out.
11. How does "holy death" fit into Jain religion.
12. What are the branches of Jainism?

---

The spirit or soul that enlivens matter is called *jiva*.

Matter without soul or life is called *ajiva*.

A perfected person in Jainism who will not be reborn is a jina

Tirthankara refers to one of the twenty-four ideal human beings of the past. Its literal meaning is "crossing-maker" or "ford-finder."

The last and greatest of the twenty-four who reached perfection is Mahavira.

"Clothed in sky", a Digambara is a member of the Jain sect in which monks do not wear clothing.

"Clothed in white", a Shvetambara is a member of the Jain sect in which monks and nuns wear white clothing.

"Building person", a Sthanakavasi is a member of the youngest Jain sect, which rejects the use of statues and temples.

In Jainism, the puja is a ritual in honor of the tirthankara.

"Holy Death", death by self-starvation, is valued in Jainism as a noble end of a long life of virtue and detachment.

The idea in Buddhism and Jainism that emphasizes non-hurting and nonviolence is known as ahimsa.

## Sikhism

13. What does Sikhism share with Hinduism? What does it share with Islam?
14. What was Nanak's revelation and how did it occur?
15. Describe features of Hinduism that Nanak accepted. Which characteristics of Hinduism did he reject?
16. Who are the Khalsa? What do they do and how do they dress?
17. What defines the earliest stage of Sikhism?
18. Describe important features of the second stage of consolidation and religious definition.
19. What is the general content of the Adi Granth?
20. How is the Adi Granth viewed and treated?
21. Describe the dislocations and antagonisms experienced by Sikhism.
22. From what part of India does Sikhism come and where is it most prevalent today?

---

The founder of Sikhism was Nanak.

The primary scripture of the Sikhs is the Adi Granth.

The Golden Temple of the Sikhs is located in the city of Amritsar

The special military order founded by Gobind Singh was called the Khalsa

Uncut hair by the Khalsa and the last name Singh represent the symbolic characteristics of the lion.

The area of northwest India and eastern Pakistan, the Punjab is where Sikhism originated.

A poem by Guru Nanak that begins the Adi Granth, the Japji is recited daily by pious Sikhs.