

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Religious Studies A Level - Buddhism</b>
Context	<p>The following tasks will help you develop an overview of our first topic: the life of The Buddha. They will also help you understand why and how his life is significant for Buddhists today, and some different ideas about how the story of his life should be interpreted and understood by Buddhists today. You may also gain an overview of some of the different branches of Buddhism today, and the main beliefs of Buddhism.</p>
Securing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Watch the short video clip below about the Life of the Buddha</li> <li>• Read the document called Reading 1 – The Life of the Buddha</li> <li>• Summarise the Life of the Buddha in 10 bullet points. To do this you will need to pick out the most important events in his life.</li> <li>• Rank the events in order of importance. Which might be the most important event in the Buddha’s life? Why do you think this might be? Why might someone disagree with you?</li> </ul> <p><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rHp82O5acDg">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rHp82O5acDg</a></p>
Processing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read the document called Reading 2 – Interpretations</li> <li>• How was the Buddha influenced by the religious, cultural and economic situation in India at the time? Produce a mindmap to collect together your ideas.</li> <li>• Try to think of examples where the Buddhas teaching was unique and not influenced by the religion, culture and society of his time.</li> <li>• You could listen to the following podcast to learn more about the life and teachings of the Buddha</li> </ul> <p><a href="https://www.thepanpsycast.com/episode-88-buddhism-part-1-the-life-of-siddhartha-gautama">Episode 88, Buddhism (Part I - The Life of Siddhartha Gautama) (thepanpsycast.com)</a></p>
Exploring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read the document called Reading 3 – Peter Harvey - Introduction to Buddhism</li> <li>• Create a diagram to represent the different branches of Buddhism Harvey introduces. This could be a timeline of their development, a family tree, a flow chart, an annotated map, or any other type of diagram you think would work well.</li> <li>• Try to include when and where each branch began, how it developed from and is connected to the other branches, their main beliefs and practices, their scriptures, how they are influenced by the culture or religions in the society in which they developed, how many followers they have today, and any other facts you can identify.</li> <li>• You can undertake additional research if you like, or just focus on the extract from Peter Harvey</li> <li>• This is a university level text, so it will involve quite a bit of work. You will need to read, reread, take notes and synthesise the information into a different form.</li> </ul> <p>The following documentary explores the life of the Buddha in more detail – this is quite long so worth dipping in and out of!</p>

	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vc7_VyVXDLs">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vc7_VyVXDLs</a>
Reviewing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Based on what you have learnt from this bridging work, what do you think you will find interesting about studying Buddhism for 2 years?</li><li>• What questions would you like to ask about Buddhism in your first lesson</li></ul>