2014 MSW study questions

Philosophy of Human Nature

Chapter One

1. What is the primary concern of the Philosophy of Confucius?

2. What is the difference between the Decree of Heaven and one’s Destiny?

3. While all people have the ability to become sages, what are the five reasons that

Confucius gives that make it so hard to achieve this state?

4. What are the five ways that Confucius gives to cultivate a proper sense of oneself?

What is the ultimate goal of these five ways?

5. Who is Mencius and what does he teach?

6. Who is Hsun-tzu and what does he believe?

7. What are criticisms of this religion?

Chapter Two

1. What are the Upanishads?

2. How does Hinduism understand the nature of the universe? What is the *Brahman?*

3. Does Hinduism view persons as individuals? Why are why not?

4. What is the principle of the *Atman*?

5. What is reincarnation in Hinduism? Will it ever end? If so, how?

6. How do people actually become free in Hunduism?

7. What does Shankara teach about Hinduism? What is MAYA?

8. What does Ramanuja teach about Hinduism? Does he see the soul different than

Shankara? If so, how?