Study questions, chapters 3-4

Buddhism:

1. What kinds of questions did Malunkyaputta bring to the Buddha?

2. What did Siddhartha learn in his encounter with the old man, the sick man, the

dead man and the monk?

3. How does Mahalyama Buddhism describe the life of the Buddha?

4. What are Buddha’s three characteristics of existence? What conclusions does he

draw from them?

5. What is the 12 fold chain of causation?

6. What are the five skandhas and what do they mean?

7. How do the First two noble truths of Buddhism help us diagnose the problem with

humanity?

8. What are the Last two noble truths and how are they attained? How do they

provide the solution?

9. Describe the 8 fold path.

10. What is the difference between the Buddhist monk and the Buddhist Layman?

11. What is the difference between Mahayana and Theravada Buddhism?

12. What are the 8 additional steps added for women who want to pursue the path of

the Buddha?

Platonism

1. What is the best way to live according to Plato?

2. Describe Plato’s theory of forms?

3. How does he apply the theory of forms to the moral life?

4. Why is Plato dualist in his thinking?

5. What are the qualities of the soul?

6. Is the soul divided? If so, into how many parts? What are they?

7. What is present in the person that creates disharmony in society?

8. How does education and government by philosopher kings resolve the problems in

the human race?