ANSWERS TO WS 2

THE SPREAD OF BUDDHISM IN RECENT TIMES AND ITS APPEAL

EXERCISES

1. Why has interest in meditation increased in recent times and Buddhism become attractive to many?

2. Consider what conditions in a country allow people to freely choose a path?

3. What attitudes in a society promote openness to other religions and ways of life?

PERSONAL REASONS	POLITICAL CIRCUMSTANCES	SOCIETAL OPENESS
• desire for individual development • interest and openness • self-realization • desire for meaning • curiosity to gain experience • need to find one's way • ...	• human dignity • free development of the person • freedom of belief, freedom of religion • freedom of expression • freedom of assembly • right to education • other basic rights that the students know, freedom of movement, freedom to travel, etc. could be added. …	• interest and openness • respectful handling • with different points of view • recognition of other cultures • diverse media • discussion and formation of opinions is possible...

4. Explain the overlap of the three areas.
   There is an interaction in the interplay of the three domains, for example, social and political freedoms bring about personal freedoms. For example, books are not censored and premarital relations are not prohibited.

5. Explain why Buddhism cannot gain a foothold in some countries even if people there are interested.
   In dictatorships or countries without religious freedom, there is no possibility to practice Buddhism publicly because dissenting opinions and lifestyles are suppressed or even persecuted.