

### CLASSROOM EDITION

(Note: \* signals a more challenging question.)

#### Reading & Understanding – “10 Questions” (p. 6)

This interview with the Dalai Lama is based on questions posed by TIME magazine readers. In order to understand the complicated background of the Dalai Lama's life, you need to understand the complex relationship between Tibet and China, as well as the interplay of politics and religion in this situation.

1. **Background Information:** Complete the cloze passage below using the words in bold print.

For further reading, refer to:

[tibet.com/DL/index.html](http://tibet.com/DL/index.html)

[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tibet\\_Autonomous\\_Region](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tibet_Autonomous_Region)

[freetibet.org/](http://freetibet.org/)

[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Panchen\\_Lama](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Panchen_Lama)

# SAMPLE

#### History and Background

<b>reincarnations</b>	<b>lineage</b>	<b>provinces</b>	<b>enlightenment</b>	<b>buddha</b>	<b>modernise</b>
<b>intrigue</b>	<b>legitimate</b>	<b>untimely</b>	<b>independence</b>	<b>Lhasa</b>	<b>deported</b>
<b>autonomy</b>	<b>cordial</b>	<b>hierarchy</b>	<b>religious</b>	<b>successor</b>	<b>posthumously</b>

Tibetan Buddhists believe that the current Dalai Lama is the 14<sup>th</sup> reincarnation in the unbroken \_\_\_\_\_ of a very important \_\_\_\_\_ in their branch of Buddhism. (Here, the term 'buddha' refers to someone who has attained \_\_\_\_\_ and helped others to do so through teaching and example.) This chain of \_\_\_\_\_ is believed to stretch back to the birth, in 1391, of the 1<sup>st</sup> Dalai Lama ('lama' means spiritual teacher).

The 5<sup>th</sup> Dalai Lama in this chain united the various \_\_\_\_\_ in Tibet with the support of the then Mongolian ruler. From then until 1959, the Dalai Lama was the official head of the Tibetan government, managing most of the country from the capital at \_\_\_\_\_. There was political \_\_\_\_\_ over the choice and \_\_\_\_\_ death of some of the Dalai Lamas during that period. According to the brother of the current Dalai Lama, "The circumstances are such that it is very likely some, if not all, were poisoned, either by loyal Tibetans for being Chinese-appointed impostors, or by the Chinese for not being properly manageable."

In 1912, the 13<sup>th</sup> Dalai Lama declared Tibetan \_\_\_\_\_ from China, \_\_\_\_\_ Chinese residents in the country, and is said to have undertaken various measures to \_\_\_\_\_ Tibet. The Dalai Lamas continued to rule until the People's Republic of China invaded the region in 1949. The 14<sup>th</sup> Dalai Lama fled to India, claiming a government-in-exile. This means that his government claims to be Tibet's \_\_\_\_\_ government, but they reside in a foreign country and are unable to exercise their legal power. The implication is that the government-in-exile will eventually return to their native country. The current Dalai Lama has said he seeks greater \_\_\_\_\_ for Tibet. However, the relationship between the current Dalai Lama and China is obviously not \_\_\_\_\_.

The issue of who the next Dalai Lama will be is crucial for political and \_\_\_\_\_ reasons. The Dalai Lama and Panchen Lama are the two top positions in the Tibetan Buddhist \_\_\_\_\_. Traditionally the Panchen Lama officially identifies the reincarnated Dalai Lama, and vice versa.

Often, the 2 people who will occupy these top positions are identified while they are still young children. They are then trained and educated to fulfil their roles. However, in the past, some Panchen Lamas have also been identified \_\_\_\_\_, i.e. recognised as Panchen Lamas after their death.

Following the unexpected death of the 10<sup>th</sup> Panchen Lama in 1989, the search for his reincarnated \_\_\_\_\_ became a political controversy. China correctly pointed out that in the Qing dynasty, the Dalai Lama and the Panchen Lama were legitimately selected by a system of drawing lots from a Golden Urn. The Chinese government claims that they accurately selected a child as the 11<sup>th</sup> Panchen Lama by drawing lots from the Golden Urn in 1995. However, the Tibetans in exile do not recognise this Panchen Lama, saying the true Panchen Lama can only be identified by the current Dalai Lama.

## 2. Vocabulary

In the table below, match the words and phrases from the article with their **contextual** meanings.

	Word from Article		Meaning in Context
1.	outraged (para 1)	a.	Sanguine and hopeful
2.	optimistic (para 2)	b.	Viewpoint
3.	challenge (para 3)	c.	Excuse
4.	reconciliation (para 4)	d.	Distinguish, differentiate
5.	hard-liners (para 4)	e.	Furious, infuriated
6.	outlook (para 4)	f.	Influenced and controlled in a negative way
7.	shortsighted (para 4)	g.	Difficult trial or test
8.	holistic (para 4)	h.	Stubborn sticklers to a particular view
9.	relevant (para 7)	i.	Accomplishment
10.	pretext (para 8)	j.	Compromise and resolution
11.	manipulated (para 8)	k.	Looking at all aspects and not just a few
12.	make a distinction (para 8)	l.	Restricted to the short term
13.	relative (para 10)	m.	Disappointment
14.	failure (para 10)	n.	Not absolute; can only be determined by comparison to other factors
15.	achievement (para 10)	o.	Significantly pertinent

Answers: 1- , 2- , 3- , 4- , 5- , 6- , 7- , 8- , 9- , 10- , 11- , 12- , 13- , 14- , 15- .

## Reading & Understanding

- What does the answer to the first question show about the Dalai Lama?
- What criticisms of China's leaders are made in the Dalai Lama's answer to the fourth question? What is his source of hope?
- In the answer to the fourth question, do you think the Dalai Lama sounds too much like a pragmatic realist for a spiritual person, or do you think he sounds like a compassionate religious leader with a caring heart for his people?
- Based on the whole interview, does the Dalai Lama resent having had to live as an exile for more than 45 years?
- Which of the Dalai Lama's answers is most interesting to you? If you could pose a question to the Dalai Lama, what would you ask?

**\*Analytical Thinking – “Creation Myths” (p. 52)**

This article considers the ethical issues that should be associated with scientific research. As you read the article, think about what your own moral stance is where research is concerned. Under what conditions would you be willing to put aside your ethics.

1. **Cultural Literacy:** The writer makes several assumptions about the reader’s ability to understand her various literary references. These cultural references occur in Paragraph 2 (Genesis; Frankenstein); Paragraph 3 (Jurassic Park) and Paragraph 8 (Rubicon). Complete the cloze exercise below to confirm your understanding of these references.

<i>Hebrew</i>	<i>formless</i>	<i>Torah</i>	<i>hovering</i>	<i>birth</i>	<i>narrate</i>	<i>Greek</i>
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“**Genesis**” is the name given to the first of the five books of the \_\_\_\_\_ (the \_\_\_\_\_ holy book). These five books also form the beginning of the Christian Bible. Literally, the word ‘genesis’ is a \_\_\_\_\_ word meaning ‘\_\_\_\_\_’ or ‘origin’. The book of “Genesis” consists of an account of how God created the universe and humankind. The first few sentences of the book are as follows:

*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was \_\_\_\_\_ and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was \_\_\_\_\_ over the waters. God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. God called the light “day,” and the darkness he called “night.” There was evening, and there was morning – the first day.*

The next few verses \_\_\_\_\_ God’s creation of water, sky, land, vegetation, sun, moon, stars, marine creatures, birds, wild animals and livestock over a series of days. The Bible then continues:

*Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.” So God created man in his own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.*

*God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”*

<i>destructive</i>	<i>powerful</i>	<i>eternal</i>	<i>outstrip</i>	<i>horrified</i>
<i>parallel</i>	<i>companion</i>	<i>name</i>	<i>carcasses</i>	<i>momentum</i>

“**Frankenstein; or, The Modern Prometheus**” is the title of a novel written by Mary Shelley, published in 1818. People often refer to “Frankenstein” as a monster. In fact, in the novel, the monster never has a \_\_\_\_\_. The character Victor Frankenstein is a scientist who tries to create life by re-animating what has died. He successfully manages to create a \_\_\_\_\_, large monstrous-looking creature using parts from various human and non-human \_\_\_\_\_. Frankenstein is \_\_\_\_\_ by the creature’s appearance and runs away. The monster becomes \_\_\_\_\_ and violent in its attempts to find acceptance and love. Rejected by the human world, the monster demands that Frankenstein create a female \_\_\_\_\_ for him. The story takes the form of a narration by Dr. Frankenstein to warn against allowing scientific ambition to \_\_\_\_\_ what can be realistically achieved. At the end of the story, Frankenstein dies. The monster commits suicide at the North Pole, after making plans so that his own carcass will never be discovered.

The novel was seen as a warning against scientific power which was gathering \_\_\_\_\_ in the Industrial Revolution. “The Modern Prometheus” in the novel’s subtitle refers to the Greek myth of Prometheus as a \_\_\_\_\_ to Victor Frankenstein. Prometheus, in some versions of Greek mythology created humankind. Prometheus then secretly took fire from heaven and gave it to humans. When Zeus, the king of the gods, discovered this, he condemned Prometheus to \_\_\_\_\_ punishment.

*boundary exceeded Latin irrevocable crossed historical*

The Rubicon is the ancient \_\_\_\_\_ name for a small river in northern Italy which flows into the Adriatic Sea. During the times of the Roman empire, it marked the \_\_\_\_\_ between the Roman province of Gaul and the rest of the Roman heartland. When Julius Caesar boldly \_\_\_\_\_ it in 49 BC, he was in effect breaking the law to begin a civil war.

Based on that \_\_\_\_\_ event, the expression “crossing the Rubicon” refers to an action that when taken, allows no turning back or change of heart. It results in \_\_\_\_\_ commitment. In some contexts, “crossing the Rubicon” can suggest a limit that, when \_\_\_\_\_, results in serious consequences. The action cannot be overturned or undone. It can also mean to make an irreversible decision.

- SAMPLE**
- Based on the 1<sup>st</sup> 2 cloze passages above, what does the writer mean when she says that the latest breakthrough in synthetic biology has left headline writers “torn between Genesis and Frankenstein”? (Para 2)
  - What is the “moral Rubicon” the writer refers to in the last paragraph?
  - (a) Comment on the effectiveness and suitability of the graphic that accompanies this article. (b) Read the article carefully and suggest some other graphic that could have been used to accompany the article.
  - Select a sentence in the article that clearly indicates that the writer sees moral issues not as absolutes but as something that must be determined by social consensus.