**BHIE 142: HISTORY OF MODERN EAST ASIA: JAPAN**
**(TUTOR MARKED ASSIGNMENT)**

**Course code: BHIE-142**
**Assignment Code: BHIE-142/AST/TMA/ 2026-2027**
**Marks: 100**

**Note: There are three Assignments given below. You have to answer all questions in the Sections.**

## Assignment – I

**Answer the following questions in about 500 words each.**

1. Discuss the major religious systems and intellectual trends responsible for the development of Japanese thought. 20

2. Discuss the efforts made by the Government to industrialize Japan in the key sectors. 20

## Assignment – II

**Answer the following questions in about 250 words each.**

3. Describe the nature and feature of economy under Tokugawa. 10

4. Examine the nature of the constitution of the Meji regime. 10

5. Describe Japans efforts to abolish unequal treaties with Western Powers. 10

## Assignment – III

**Answer the following questions in about 100 words each.**

6. Tanaka and the People's Rights Movement 6

7. Formation of the dual structure 6

8. The war and economic policies 6

9. Japan and the Indian national army 6

10. The coming of the Black Ships. 6

## 1. Discuss the major religious systems and intellectual trends responsible for the development of Japanese thought. 20

### Answer

The development of Japanese thought was not the result of one religion or philosophy. Over several centuries, native beliefs interacted with ideas from China, Korea and, later, the West. Japanese thinkers borrowed concepts but also reshaped them according to local political institutions and social needs. The main influences were Shinto, Buddhism, Confucianism, different schools of learning in the Tokugawa period, and modern intellectual movements.

### Shinto and the sacred world

Shinto, often described as the indigenous religious tradition of Japan, centres on reverence for kami, the sacred presences associated with natural forces, ancestors and particular places. Shrine worship, festivals and purification rites expressed a sense of community and continuity rather than a single fixed theology. The sun goddess Amaterasu became important in stories about the imperial family. These traditions helped link political authority, ritual and ideas of belonging. However, Shinto practices were diverse, and their connection with state power changed across different periods.

### Buddhism and philosophical enquiry

Buddhism reached Japan through contacts with Korea and China in the sixth century. It offered ideas concerning impermanence, suffering, karma, rebirth and the possibility of liberation. Nara and Heian-period Buddhist establishments contributed to education, manuscript culture, art and scholarship. Tendai and Shingon traditions combined philosophical learning with ritual practice. Later, Pure Land teachings made devotion to Amida Buddha accessible to people outside monasteries, while Nichiren Buddhism emphasized faith in the Lotus Sutra.

Zen Buddhism, influential among sections of the warrior class, stressed meditation, discipline and direct experience. It shaped religious life and also influenced painting, gardens, calligraphy and ideas of composure. Buddhism did not simply replace Shinto. Shrines and temples often shared sacred sites, and many people participated in both traditions. Such coexistence encouraged a flexible approach to religious identity in Japanese society.