*Karma* and Rebirth Lesson Plan

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| Overview & Purpose Students will have an understanding of how *karma* has an important role within rebirth. This lesson can be used when teaching students about *karma* or Dependent Origination. | | | Education Standards Addressed | |
| **Activity** | **Aims** | **Time Given** | | **Other** |
| Recap with students what *karma* is. Get them to explain differences in religion, how *karma* is understood by Buddhists and that *karmic* acts are intentional. | Students should be able to recall previous lessons about the nature of *karma*. | 5 Minutes | |  |
| Use a handout or powerpoint to look at the mental and physical make up of a person (*skandhas*, *dhatus* etc.). Ask students how they think Buddhist rebirth works. | Students should start to understand that within Buddhist thought a person is made of up of divisible parts. | 10 Minutes | |  |
| Use the Milindapañha 25-28 (The Questions of King Milinda) to show that there is no part of the body that can be identified as the Self. Stress to students that the relationship between *karma* and rebirth is important as it reconciles how there can be rebirth without a Self or soul. Make the students write their own version of the analogy. | Students should be able to use critical thinking skills to apply the Milindapañha to the teaching of *anātman*. | 15 Minutes | | Get students to play the roles of King Milinda and Nagasena. |
| Returning to the powerpoint or handout explain to students that *karmic* seeds must come to fruition. When the body dies a new being is caused into existence. Explain that the state of mind at the moment of death is important in determining the rebirth destination. Even if a person was bad during their life they can have a good rebirth. Explain weighty, proximate, habitual and performed *karma*. | Students should have a basic understanding of rebirth within Buddhism. They should be able to see that *karmic* results are not immediate. *Karma* can dictate the quality of the experience in a rebirth, the moment of death dictates the rebirth destination | 15 Minutes | |  |
| Ask students questions based on the lesson to make sure they have comprehended the main points of the lesson. If needed let students ask you questions if they are unsure on any points. | Students should be able to recall the main points of the lesson. | 5 Minutes | |  |