

Subject Code: 07

31 August 2021

MALAYSIAN BUDDHIST EXAMINATION SYNDICATE

48th MALAYSIAN BUDDHIST EXAMINATION

(Higher Stage)

THE LIFE OF THE BUDDHA, THE DHAMMA, THE SANGHA

Time: 3 hours

1. There are **9** questions in this paper, divided into Sections A, B and C.
2. Candidates are required to answer **2** questions from each section.
3. Answers should be to the point.

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SECTION A (Life of Buddha and History of Buddhism in India)

1. The Buddha is often mentioned in the Pali Canon as the “Unique Being”.
What are the 9 unique qualities of the Buddha that make Him excel above all other beings. Support your answer with evidence from the Suttas.
2. The Buddha was also known as the Great Physician (Bhisakko).
In what way was he a physician or a doctor? Illustrate your answer with examples from the Suttas.
3. Explain clearly what the Buddha had achieved in His 45 years of missionary work.
Describe how His effort had paved the way for the spread of the Dhamma after His Mahaparinibbana to this present day.

SECTION B (Dhamma and Suttas, Sangha and lay followers)

4. Give a brief description of the nine virtues of the Sangha. Why is the Sangha considered a great field of merit?
5. Describe Venerable Mahakassapa’s relationship with the Buddha.
What caused him to convene the First Buddhist Council?
6. Explain in detail the special qualities of Venerable Ananda that enabled him to serve the Buddha as attendant monk (Upathayaka) until His Mahaparinibbana.
What is his most important contribution to the Dispensation?

SECTION C (General Buddhist Practices)

7. What is the Noble Eightfold Path?
Describe how one may cultivate the eight factors of the Path to realize Nibbana.
8. What are the Four Foundations of Mindfulness?
Explain how the Cessation of suffering is brought about through the cultivation of mindfulness.
9. What are the Five Hindrances?
Discuss how these Five Hindrances obstruct our Path to Enlightenment.

THE END