

Subject code: 07

31 August 2024

MALAYSIAN BUDDHIST EXAMINATION SYNDICATE

51st MALAYSIAN BUDDHIST EXAMINATION

(Higher Stage)

Time: 3 HOUR

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. This paper consists of 12 Questions divided into Sections A, B, C and D.
2. Candidates are required to answer 5 Questions.
3. It is compulsory to answer 1 Question from each Section.
4. For your 5th Question, candidates can choose from any Section.
5. Answers should be relevant to the question.

Section A

1. When the Buddha was about to enter Parinibbana in the Sala Grove near Kusinara, a wandering ascetic named Subhadda, came to see him and asked a question.

What was Subhadda's question and what answer was given by the Buddha which helped to clear his doubt?

2. Explain the three knowledges that the Buddha realised during the night of Enlightenment. Why is jhana necessary for gaining these knowledges?
3. Elaborate on the essence of the Buddha's Teaching as uttered by Venerable Assaji to the young Sariputta at Rajagaha.

"Of all things that from a cause arise, the Tathagata, the cause thereof has told; and how they cease to be, that, too, he tells, this is the teaching of the Great Recluse".

Section B

4. What are the "Five Hindrances (pancanivarana)" to mental development? Explain how one may overcome these hindrances by practising the antidotes recommended by the Buddha.
5. What are the Ten Fetters (Dasa Samyojana)? Explain clearly the fetters to be eradicated at each stage of Sainthood of the Ariyas (Sotapanna, Sakadagami, Anagami and Arahant) and their attainments.
6. What is the significance of the Four Noble Truths in Buddhism? Elaborate on the three stages in the understanding of each Truth and the twelve insights gained from these Four Noble Truths.

Section C

7. When Mahā Pajapāti Gotamī first asked the Buddha, through Venerable Ananda, to allow her to join the Order, why did the Buddha hesitate but gave permission later on? Describe briefly the event and state the Eight Garudhammas set forth.

8. What are the special qualities and virtues of Venerable Sariputta? Give evidence from the events of Venerable Sariputta's life which led to his becoming the Chief Disciple of the Buddha, foremost in wisdom.
9. Give a brief account of the virtues and contributions of Visakha that qualified her as the Chief Female Patron of the Buddha.

Section D

10. How does one attain Sammasambuddhahood?
Give an account of Sumedha's encounter with the Buddha Dipankara which led to Gautama's attainment of Sammasambuddhahood.
11. With evidence from the Suttas, evaluate the role of gratitude as a spiritual practice in Buddhism. How does one cultivate gratitude and to whom should one cultivate gratitude?
12. Discuss the challenges you face in observing the Five Precepts in your daily life. How do you overcome these challenges and integrate the precepts into your daily practice?

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