

YOUNG MEN'S BUDDHIST ASSOCIATION
COLOMBO - SRI LANKA
2551 DHAMMA EXAMINATION - 2007

Grade - Diploma
Subject - Dhamma

Date : 24th June 2007
Time : 3 hours

Answer any five questions

1. Write an Essay on 'The Uniqueness of the Buddha'.
2. Discuss the position of women in Buddhism indicating how the teaching and practices of the Buddha elevated their social status.
3. "Tumhehi kiccam atappam - akkhataro Thathagata" (You yourselves must strive Thathagatas only point the way - Dhammapada 276) Explain this dictum in relation to the role of the Buddha as a promoter of man's deliverance from 'Sansara' (Round of Births).
4. Write a brief account of the 'Buddhist Law of kamma'.
5. Discuss the guidelines given by the Buddha in the Kalama Sutta to lay devotees to identify the Truth in a multitude of conflicting teachings.
6. Discuss the contribution of the Six Buddhist Councils towards the preservation and dissemination of the Buddha Dhamma and maintaining the unity and discipline of the sangha.
7. Identify the main differences between the Theravada and Mahayana doctrines of Buddhism.
8. Write short notes on FOUR of the following
 - (a) Attakilama thanuyoga (self - mortification)
 - (b) Kayanupassana (Contemplation of the Body)
 - (c) Sila Visuddhi (Purification of Morality)
 - (d) Sanyojana (Fetters)
 - (e) Anicca (Impermanence)
 - (f) Samma ditthi (Right View)

(20 marks for each answer)





YOUNG MEN'S BUDDHIST ASSOCIATION
COLOMBO - SRI LANKA
2552 DHAMMA EXAMINATION -2008

GRADE : Diploma

DATE : 29th June 2008

SUBJECT : Dhamma

TIME : 3 hours

*** Answer five questions only**

1. Explain any one of the four foundations of mindfulness (cattaro satipatthana) forming the content of Maha Satipatthana sutta
2. Give a summary of the 'Cula kammavibhanga sutta' with reference to the aspects of the Doctrine of Kamma dealt with therein.
3. Explain the doctrine contained in the following Dhammapada atanza :
277. Sabbe sankhara canicca ti
yada pannaya passati
atha nibbindati dukkhe
esa maggo visuddhiya
4. What are the seven Stages of Purity (satta visuddhi) on the Path to Nibbana ? Enumerate and explain.
5. Evaluate the role of the Buddha as a reformer of the contemporary society.
6. Discuss the importance of Kalama sutta as a criterion of true religion.
7. Summarise the advice of the Buddha to lay Householders regarding the means of earning wealth and the manner of using wealth.
8. Write short notes on any four of the following :
 - (i) Tranquillity Meditation (samatha bhavana)
 - (ii) Vicikiccha (sceptic doubt)
 - (iii) Akiriyavada
 - (iv) Sopadisesa Nibbana
 - (v) Bodhisatta (Aspirant to Buddhahood)
 - (vi) Anapana sati (Mindfulness on Breathing)

(20 Marks for each answer)



**YOUNG MEN'S BUDDHIST ASSOCIATION
COLOMBO - SRI LANKA
2553 DHAMMA EXAMINATION - 2009**

**Grade - Diploma
Subject - Dhamma**

**Date : 28th June 2009
Time : 3 hours**

Answer any five questions.

(20 marks for each question)

1. Enumerate the Four Foundations of Mindfulness (Sati pathāna) and explain ONE of them.
2. "You yourselves must strive; Tathāgatas only point the Way (Tumhehi kiccam atappam - akkhātāro Tathāgata - Dhammapada stanza 276)" Explain this aphorism in relation to the spiritual role of the Buddhas.
3. "Buddhism stands unique in the history of religions in denying the existence of a Soul, Self or Atman." Explain this statement in relation to the Buddhist Doctrine of "No-Soul" (Anatta)
4. Discuss Buddha's advice to Kalamas (in Kalama Sutta) as criteria for identifying truth from falsehood.
5. Identify the main differences between Mahayana and Theravada Buddhism.
6. What are the Seven Stages of Purity (Satta Visuddhi)? Explain ONE of them.
7. Discuss the qualities and achievements of the Buddha as a "Great Teacher"
8. Write short notes on any FOUR of the following
 - (i) The arahat
 - (ii) Personality View (Sakkaya ditthi)
 - (iii) Right Understanding (Samma Ditthi)
 - (iv) Volition (Cetana)
 - (v) Tranquillity meditation (Samatha bhavana)
 - (vi) King Asoka



**YOUNG MEN'S BUDDHIST ASSOCIATION
COLOMBO - SRI LANKA
2554 - DHAMMA EXAMINATION - 2010**

Grade - Diploma
Subject - Dhamma

Date : 27th June 2010
Time : 3 hours

(Answer any FIVE questions only)

1. Explain how Cullakamma Vibhanga sutta illustrates how Kamma (both Kusala and Akusala) takes effect.
2. Explain how the Buddha stands unique amongst religious teachers of the World.
3. What are the main differences and common beliefs in the doctrinal systems of Theravada and Mahayana schools of Buddhism ?
4. Outline the Buddhist attitude to wealth and material progress.
5. "The Buddha's teachings in the Sigalovada Sutta are aimed at promoting social harmony by the fulfillment of obligations by the parties that are mutually related". Explain this statement.
6. What are the four 'Contemplations' (anupassana) dealt with in the Satipatthana Sutta ? Explain one of them.
7. Distinguish between Tranquillity Meditation (Samatha bhavana) and Insight Meditation (Vipassana bhavana)
8. Briefly outline the Buddhist Doctrine of Anatta (Egolessness).
9. Evaluate the importance of the Seven Stages of Purity (Satta visuddhi) as requisites for the attainment of Nibbana.
10. Give the meaning of the following stanza from Dhammapada and indicate the moral embodied therein :

Tumhehi kiccam atappam
Akkhatāro Tathagata
patipannā pamokkhanti
jhāyino Mārabandhanā

11. "Buddha encouraged free inquiry". Comment on this statement
12. Write short notes on any FOUR of the following
 - (a) Niyama dhamma (Natural laws)
 - (b) Samma ditthi (Right vision)
 - (c) Anapana sati bhavana (Meditation on Mindfulness on breathing)
 - (d) Vicikiccha (Sceptic doubt)
 - (e) Parajika vinaya rules
 - (f) Kathavatthu prakarana (Abhidhamma text)

(20 Marks for each answer)



YOUNG MEN'S BUDDHIST ASSOCIATION
COLOMBO - SRI LANKA
2555 DHAMMA SEXAMINATION - 2011

Grade - Diploma
Subject - Dhamma

Date : 26 June - 2011
Time : 3 hours

Answer FIVE questions only

1. Explain any one of the four foundations of mindfulness (cattaro satipatthana) forming the content of Maha Satipatthana Sutta.
2. Give a summary of the 'Cula kammavibhanga sutta' with reference to the aspects of the Doctrine of Kamma dealt with therein.
3. Explain the doctrine contained in the following Dhammapada atanza:

146. Ko nu haso kim anando
niccam pajjalite sati
Andhakarena onaddho
Padipam na gavesatha
4. What are the seven stages of Purity (satta visuddhi) on the Path to Nibbana? Enumerate and explain the "Four kinds of Morality consisting of Purification (catu parisuddha sila).
5. Write a short Essay on "The Uniqueness of the Buddha and His teachings"
6. Discuss importance of Kalama sutta as a criterion of true religion.
7. Summarise the advice of the Buddha to lay Householders regarding the means of earning wealth and the manner of using wealth.
8. Identify the main differences between the Theravada and Mahayana doctrines of Buddhism.
9. Explain the concept of 'Dukkha' (Suffering) as presented in the Teachings of the Buddha.
10. Discuss the Importance of Vinaya (Monastic Discipline) as a factor that promotes the strength and long duration of the Buddha sasana (dispensation)
11. Write short notes on any FOUR of the following:
 - (a) Panca niyama dhamma (Five-fold law of Nature)
 - (b) Samma sankappa (Right intention)
 - (c) Katha vatthu (Abhidhamma text - Points of Controversy)
 - (d) Sotapanna (The stream Enterer)
 - (e) Sati (Mindfulness)
 - (f) Attakilamathanuyoga (Self - mortification)

(20 marks for each answer)