

**Colombo Y.M.B.A.- Examinations on
Theravada Buddha Dhamma (English Medium)
Revised Regulations from 2004**

1 Effective Date:

The new syllabus will come into effect for the Junior parts 1 & 2, for the examination in 2004. For the Senior parts 1 & 2 for the exam in 2005, and for the diploma examination in the year 2006.

2. Eligibility: The examination is open to any person interested in the study of Theravada Buddhism.

3. Scheme of Examination: The examination shall be at 3 levels¹.

(1) Junior -

(a) Part 1

(b) Part 2

(2) Senior -

(a) Part 1

(b) Part 2

(3) Diploma

Any candidate may take Junior Parts 1 & 2 Examinations separately in 2 years or together in 1 year. Those successful in both parts may take Senior Parts 1 & 2 separately in 2 years or together in 1 year. Those successful at the Senior levels are eligible to sit for the Diploma examination.

Those candidates who are over the age of 25 years may be exempted from Junior part 1 and may sit for Junior Part 2 direct. Those who are successful at Junior Part 2 may be exempted from Senior Part 1 and may sit for Senior Part 2 direct. Those who are successful at the senior level can sit for the Diploma examination.

4. Certificates will be awarded to all candidates who are successful at each level

5. Date and place of Examination: The examination will usually be held on the **last Sunday of August** each year from 2004, (not in June)

6. The examination will be held in Sri Lanka and abroad. The centres will be decided according to the applications received.

¹ The equivalent levels of the new and old syllabuses will be as follows:

Junior Part 1 - Preliminary

Junior Part 2 - Junior

Senior Part 1 - Senior

Senior part 2 - Higher certificate

Diploma is same

7. No fees are charged for these examinations.

Note: Postal and other expenses for this examination and other examinations conducted by the Colombo Y.M.B.A. have increased very much in the recent past. As such donations from any one are welcome.

Donations may be sent to the '**Dhamma Examinations Fund**' A/c. No. 01/0061/04/2637/07 at National Savings Bank, Borella Branch, direct or to the Colombo Y.M.B.A. to the credit of The Dhamma Examinations Fund.

8 Mode of application:

Candidates may apply privately or through the institutions in which they study, such as Dhamma schools. A specimen application will be sent on written request to -

The Superintendent of Examinations, Colombo Y.M.B.A., Borella, Colombo 8, Sri Lanka.

Applications should reach the Y.M.B.A. office before end of June each year.

9. Minimum marks required:

Ordinary pass - 40 % marks in each paper,

Credit pass - 55 %

Honours - 70 % in each paper.

10. Results:

The results of candidates from institutions will be sent to them. Private candidates will be informed individually.

11. Prizes and Merit awards:

The Sadhuwardena Challenge Shield will be awarded to the Local school with the best results. Prizes or special certificates may be awarded to candidates, scoring the 3 highest marks at each level.

Further particulars can be obtained from the **Superintendent of Examinations, Colombo Y.M.B.A. Borella, Sri Lanka. Telephone - 01.695786**

Hony. Secretary
Dhamma Examination Branch

Buddha's lay patrons, - Anathapindika, Bimbisara, Visakha, Kosala, etc.
Lives of Ven. Ananda, Sariputta, Moggallana, and Maha Kassapa, Bhikkunis
Khema, Uppalavanna, etc.

Six Theravada Buddhist Councils and first writing of The Tipitaka .
The 4 Noble Truths, with details of the 8-Fold Path. 4 sublime states -
Brahma vihara

The 10 perfections - *dasa parami* with a Jataka story to illustrate each
parami.

Dhammapada stanzas - 12, 33, 41, 43, 50, 53, 60, 61, 82, 85, 109, and 204,
The meaning of the stanzas and they should be memorized

Senior - Part 1 - 2 Hour paper (Senior) (2005)

Important Events in the Life of The Buddha from Enlightenment to
Parinibbana.

Kamma and Vipaka, Proof of Rebirth, and the 5 Natural laws - *Panca
Niyama Dhamma*.

Nivarana - 5 Hindrances, *Dasa Sanyojana* - 10 Fetters,

General Knowledge of 40 objects of meditation in Samatha Bhavana and
the results.

Social ethics of Buddhism based on Parabava, Singalovada and Vyagappajja
Suttas.

Dhammapada stanzas - 19, 24, 35, 54, 56, 62, 63, 76, 80, 94, 99, 100, 104, 105,
129. They should be memorized and the meaning
of the stanzas known.

Senior - Part 2 - 2 Hour paper (Former HSC) (2005)

The syllabus of Senior Part 1 and the following

37 *Bodhi pakkiya Dhamma* - 37 Constituents of Enlightenment. 4 stages on the
path to Nibbana, *Paticca samuppada* - Dependent Origination, 3 signata -
Tilakkhana,

Meaning of the verses in *Ratana Sutta*, and a summary of *Dhamma-cakka-
pavattana Sutta*.

Contribution made to the Buddha Sasana by H.S.Olcott, and his associates.

Dhammapada Stanzas - 64, 65, 67, 68, 81, 90, 92, 97, 103, 112, 113, 121, 122,
127, 145, They should be memorized and the
meaning of the stanzas known.

Diploma Level - 3 Hours (2006)

Syllabuses of Senior Levels and the following:

A summary of The *Maha Satipathana Sutta* and *Culla-kamma Vibhanga
Sutta*,

A general knowledge of *Vipassana Bhavana*, (Insight Meditation), 7 stages
to Purity - (*Satta visuddhi*), Uniqueness of The Buddha and His teachings.
Differences between Theravada and Mahayana Buddhism.

Dhammapada stanzas - 75, 89, 123, 135, 146, 191, 202, 216, 239, 240, 276,
277, 338, 365, 366, They should be memorized and
the meaning of the stanzas known.

Revised Syllabus for Abhidhamma

Note: The chapters referred to below are from the 'Abhidhammhatta-sangaha'¹

Junior Part 1 - 1 - hour paper (Former Preliminary)

History of Abhidhamma, Names of Books of the Abhidhamma Pitaka
and their commentaries. Differences of the contents of Sutta and
Abhidhamma Pitaka., Difference between *Paramasacca* and *sammutti
sacca*, (Absolute and Apparent/Conventional realities), the 4 Absolute
Realities - *Paramatthas*,

Classification of citta into 89 or 121 types. (See chapter 1)

Junior Part 2 - 1 1/2 - hour paper (Junior)

Syllabus of Junior part 1 plus clear understanding of the 52 mental
factors- *cetasika* and their classifications. The composition of each
citta, - *Sangahanaya* and the identification of citta in which a particular
cetasika will be found. - *Sampayogatanaya*
- (See chapter 2)

Nibbana, the definition, qualities, aspects, etc. (See chapter 6 end)

Senior - Part 1 - 2 Hours (Senior)

Analysis of the 28 kinds of qualities of matter - *rupa samuddesa*. Their
classification into 8 categories etc.- *rupa vibhago*. Formation of matter
- *rupa samutthana*, Grouping - *rupa kalapa*, Occurrence of matter, in
different planes, time and class of beings - *Rupa Pavattikkamo*.
(See chapter 6)

classification of citta according to Feelings - *Vedana*, Roots - *Hetu*,
and Functions - *Kicca*. (See chapter 3 - Miscellaneous Section)

Senior Part 2 - 2 1/2 - Hour paper (Former HSC)

Senior part 1 syllabus plus Classification of citta according to Doors - *Dvara*, Objects - *Arammana*, and Bases - *Vattu*. (See chapter 3)
Analyses of Thought processes - *Citta vithi*, through sense doors and mind door, according to individuals and planes - *Puggala & Bhumi Bhedo*, and death proximate thought process - *maranasanna citta vithi* (See chapters 4).
and Process freed- Chapter - No.5

Diploma Level - 3 Hours

Syllabuses of Senior Levels plus
Abhidhamma Categories (Chapter 7)

The law of Dependent arising. *Patikasamuppada* And the Law of Causal Relations - *Patthana*- The 24 conditions. *Uddesa and Tirasiya* - Chapter 8

Pali - There will be a few optional questions in Pali at the end of the Abhidhamma paper

Pali Syllabus

The sections referred below are from the "The New Pali Course - Part 1 by Prof. A.P.Buddadatta Maha Nayaka Thera"

Junior Part 1 (Former Preliminary)

1. The alphabet and Pronunciations of letters in Pali - Sections 1, 2 and 3
2. Parts of speech - sec. 4
3. Gender, number and case - Sec. - 5, 6, 7
4. Declension of Nouns -
Masculine stem - ending in 'a' - sec. 8
Inflection of the above declension - sec. 9
5. Conjugation of Verbs - sec. 10 & 11
6. Conjugation of Root 'paca' (to cook) - sec. 12 & 13
7. Different conjugations - sec. 14
8. The seventh Conjugation - sec. 15, 16 & 17
Exercises 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5

Junior Part 2 (Junior)

1. The Past Tense
2. Conjugations of 'Paca' (to cook) - Past indefinite Active - Sec. 18 19 and Exercise 6
3. Personal Pronouns - Sec. 20, and Excise 7

4. Future Tense - Conjugation of 'Paca' -
Sec. 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28 and Exercise 8 & 9
5. Declensions of the Masculine nouns ending in 'u' - Sec. 29 & 30.
Exercise 10

Senior Part 1 - Pali section (Senior)

1. Declensions of Feminine Nouns - Sec. 31, 32 & 33. Exercise 11
2. Declensions of Feminine Stems ending in 'i' - Sec. 34, 35 & 36.
Exercise - 12
3. Feminine Nouns ending in 'u' - sec. 37, 38 & 39. Exercise - 13
4. Neuter Gender - Sec. 40 to 44. Exercises - 14 & 15

Senior Part 2 (HSC)

1. Classification of Nouns and Pronouns - Sec. 45 to 48. Exercise - 16
2. Declension of Demonstrative Pronoun - 'Ima', sec. 49. Exercise - 17
3. The Verbal adjective or Participles - sec. 50 to 52. Exercise 18
4. Past Participles - Sec. 53 & 54. Exercise 19 & 20
5. Adjectives - Sec. 55, Exercise - 20.

Diploma Pali Syllabus

1. Numerals - Sec. 57 & 58. Exercise 21
2. Ordinal Numerals Sec. 61. Exercise - 22
3. Adverbs - Sec. 62. Exercise - 23
4. Syntax - Sec. 63.
5. Order of sentences - Sec. 64
6. Concord - Sec. 65 & 66. Exercise - 25
7. Passive Voice - Sec. 67 to 70. Exercise - 71 to 73.
8. Passive Participles - Sec. 71 to 73. Exercise - 27 & 28.

Recommended books for further reading

Life of the Buddha by Gnanamoli Thera
Manual of Buddhism by Narada Maha Thera
Buddhist Dictionary by Nyanathiloka Maha Thera
The Dhammapada by Achariya Buddhharakkita Thera
Guide to the Tipitaka by U Ko Lay
Analysis of The Tipitaka by Russel Web - No.217/220 BPS.

A Manual of Insight – Ledi Sayado Wh 31/32 BPS
The seven factors of Insight by Piyadassi Thera – Wh 01 BPS
The Foundation of Mindfulness – Wh 19 BPS
The four noble truths – Francis Story – Wh 34/35 BPS
Nibbana – Dr. P. Vagiranana Thera Wh 165/166
The requisites of Enlightenment (Bodhipakhiya Dipani) Wh 171/174 BPS

Note: Most of these books can be purchased from the Buddhist Publication Society, P.O. Box 61 Kandy or from the Narada Buddhist Bookshop, Sarana Road, off Baudhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 07, Sri Lanka.
Tel. – 075.364115.

Secretary Dhamma Examination Committee
Colombo Y.M.B.A
Borella, Colombo 08
Sri Lanka

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