

**MALAYSIAN BUDDHIST EXAMINATION SYNDICATE**

**45<sup>th</sup> 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 in short essay form.

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## **SECTION A**

1. Give an account of the life history of the Buddha from the time of his birth to his enlightenment. Support your answer with evidence from the Suttas.
2. What is the meaning of Sammasambuddha? What are the perfections that the Buddha need to cultivate in his previous lives to enable him to attain Sammasambuddhahood. Illustrate your answer with 3 examples from the Jatakas.
3. The Buddha is often mentioned in the commentaries as the “Unique Being”. Explain the unique qualities and virtues of the Buddha that make him excel above all other religious leaders and teachers of his time. Support your answer with evidence from the Pali Canon.

## **SECTION B**

4. What is the Doctrine of Dependent Origination (Paticca Samuppada)? How does Dependent Origination explain our cyclic existence of suffering with reference to the Pali Suttas?
5. What is the Buddha’s teaching on Cause and Effect? How does this teaching relate to rebirth and cyclic existence? Explain with support from the Pali Discourses.
6. The Buddha said “Sabbe dhamma anattati ti yada pannaya passati, atha nibbindati dukkhe esa maggo visuddhiya” which means all component things or dhamma are soulless, when one sees with wisdom, he overcomes misery. This is the path to purity. Explain how one who practices the Noble Eightfold Path can come to realization with wisdom these verses uttered by the Buddha.

## **SECTION C**

7. What is the significance and role of the Sangha in Buddhism? Explain the nine virtues of the Sangha with emphasis on the role as a field of merit. Support your answer with reference to the Pali Texts.
8. Who is Venerable Mahākassapa? Describe his role in the First Buddhist Council. What qualifies Venerable Mahākassapa to take up that role?
9. Trace the events that led to the establishment of the Bhikkhuni Sangha. What impact did the Bhikkhuni Sangha make on the status of women in India at that time?

THE END