

Subject Code: 07

31 August 2019

MALAYSIAN BUDDHIST EXAMINATION SYNDICATE

46th 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 a total of **6 questions**, by choosing 2 questions from each section.
3. Answers should be to the point.

DO NOT TURN OVER THE PAGE UNTIL YOU ARE TOLD TO DO SO

SECTION A

1. Explain fully what the Buddha had achieved in his 45 years of ministry. How did his efforts pave the way for the continuation of the dispensation (sasana) after his mahaparinibbana until the present day?
2. The Buddha is often mentioned in the commentaries as the “Physician (Abhissako)”. In what way was he a physician or doctor? Illustrate your answer with details from the Suttas.
3. The Buddha was once asked, “Why he had not explained the origin of the world. He gave his reply in the Culamalunkyaputta Sutta in the Majjhima Nikaya. Discuss the reply given by the Buddha in the context of the Sutta.

SECTION B

4. The Buddha said “sabbe dhamma anattati”, that all dhammas are non-self, when one sees with wisdom, he overcomes misery. This is the path to purity. Explain how a person practising meditation can come to the realization of non-self as taught by the Buddha.
5. What are the “Five Hindrances (pancanivarana)”? Explain how one may eradicate these hindrances with the practice of the Four Foundations of Mindfulness.
6. What are the “Seven Factors of Enlightenment” (sattabhojjhanga)? Illustrate how these factors of enlightenment” can arise with the practice of the Noble Eightfold Path.

SECTION C

7. Describe how the Venerable Sariputta came to realize and accept the Buddha’s teaching as uttered in the short verses by the Venerable Assaji. Describe a major incident to illustrate that he was a filial son in repaying his parents’ kindness before he attained Nibbana.
8. Explain the qualities & virtues of Venerable Rahula. Take an extract from the Rahulovadasutta from Majjhimanikaya to illustrate what the Venerable Rahula learnt from the Buddha.
9. What were the qualities and virtues of Venerable Ananda that enabled him to serve the Buddha as his attendant monk (Upatthayaka)? Explain the conditions he set before accepting this position.

END