



UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA
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CENTRE FOR DISTANCE AND CONTINUING EDUCATION
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GENERALDEGREE EXAMINATION IN ARTS (EXTERNAL) 2014 (AUGUST 2015)
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Buddhist Philosophy - I / බෞද්ධ දර්ශනය - I - BPG-1
(Ethics and Psychology)

Answer **FIVE** questions only,

Selecting at least **two questions** from each section.

(The total number of questions in this paper is 10.

All questions carry equal marks.)

(Three Hours)

Section - I

1. "The Buddha performed the role of a moral critic in connection with the religious practices of pre-Buddhist India." Discuss.
2. Comment on the view that the goal of the Buddhist path is to transcend the distinction between moral good and bad.
3. Explain the ethical significance of the Buddha's statement: "One who protects oneself protects others and one who protects others protects oneself".
4. Explain the ethical characteristics of happiness in Buddhist teaching.
5. Examine the implications of Buddhist teachings on the morality of punishment.

PTO ...

Section - II

6. Explain how the Buddhist concept of mind avoids the strict dualism of mind and body.
7. Show, to what extent the Buddhist teachings on concepts of Dukkha (suffering) and Samudaya (cause of suffering) Noble Truths are psychological.
8. Elucidate the Buddhist guidelines that could be used for the regulation of disturbing emotions.
9. Discuss the Buddhist teachings on the development of personality.
10. Examine the psychological characteristics on the classification of persons in Buddhist teachings

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GENERAL DEGREE EXAMINATION IN ARTS (EXTERNAL) – 2014 (AUGUST 2015)
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Buddhist Philosophy - II / බෞද්ධ දර්ශනය- II - BPG - 2
(History of Buddhist Philosophy: Comparison and Application)

Answer **five** questions only.

(The total number of questions in this paper is 10.

All questions carry equal marks.)

(Three Hours)

1. Clarify the changes that took place in contemporary philosophical thoughts with the advent of Buddhism.
2. "Buddhism considers all spiritual experiences as the life experience". Discuss.
3. Examine the Buddha's critique of the dogmatic attitude in the sphere of philosophy.
4. "To what extent the Buddhist teachings are compatible with the modern scientific world view." Examine.
5. Examine the expansion of Buddhism and the origin of varied Buddhist philosophies in relation to ideologies of schools of Buddhism.
6. Clarify with examples how Sarvasthivadin's views were rejected based on Theravada method of cogitation.

PTO ...

7. What is meant by momentariness? Examine with reference to Sautrāntika teachings.
8. Inquire why it is not possible to consider that Idealist (*Vigñāvādī*) Yogācāra philosophy as a teaching on theory of soul.
9. Examine the relationship between the teaching of emptiness (*śūnytā*) in Mādhyamaka philosophy and the teaching of dependant origination (*paṭiccasamuppāda*) in Theravada tradition.
10. Write short notes on any **four** of the following topics:
 - (a) Hinayanic Buddhist Opinions
 - (b) Venerable Nāgārjuna
 - (c) Āryadeva
 - (d) Dinnāga
 - (e) Absolute truth
 - (f) Non-self concept

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GENERAL DEGREE EXAMINATION IN ARTS (EXTERNAL) – 2014 (AUGUST 2015)
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Buddhist Philosophy - III / බෞද්ධ දර්ශනය III - BPG III
(Metaphysics and Epistemology)

Answer **FIVE** questions,

Select at least **two questions** from each section.

(The total number of questions in this paper is 10.

All questions carry equal marks.)

(Three Hours).

Section - I

1. Clarify the nature of metaphysical questions and discuss the Buddhist attitude to such questions.
2. Why did the Buddha reject authority as a source of knowledge? Discuss.
3. Examine how the Buddhist teachings of karma and rebirth (*punabbava*) can be explained in terms of no-soul (*anatta*) doctrine.
4. Examine the reasons for the Buddha's classification of some philosophical questions as unanswerable.
5. Can Buddhist Nibbāna be reckoned as a metaphysical reality? Discuss.

PTO ...

Section - II

6. Inferential knowledge (*anumāna ñāṇa*) in Buddhism is based on the knowledge about phenomena (*dhamme ñāṇa*). Examine.
7. Buddhism rejects the notion that reasoning (Takka) is the only means of knowledge. Explain with examples.
8. Examine the epistemological importance of the role of Saddhā in Buddhism for the achievement of liberation.
9. “Even if a statement is true, correct and beneficial, the Buddha does not declare it, if the time is inappropriate.” Explain the nature of the Buddha’s teaching pertaining to this statement.
10. Discuss the place of sensory perception in Buddhist epistemology with reference to the Suttas.

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