



UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA
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CENTRE FOR DISTANCE AND CONTINUING EDUCATION
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GENERAL DEGREE EXAMINATION IN ARTS (EXTERNAL) - AUGUST 2016
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BUDDHIST CULTURE - I / බෞද්ධ සංස්කෘතිය I - (BCG-1)
(Prescribed Texts)

Answer **any FIVE** questions.

The total number of questions in this paper is 10.

(Three Hours)

1. Examine the answer that the Buddha gave in response to Brahmin Kūṭadanta's question: "Venerable Gotama, how is it that perpetual gift of dāna brings about greater truth and greater benefit exceeding that of Mahāyāga (great oblation sacrifice) as claimed by you".
2. Examine the excellent monastic life as reflects in the Kūṭadanta Sutta.
3. "The origin of the universe and the evolution of society is not a spontaneous event." Examine with reference to the Aggañña Sutta.
4. Examine the non- Buddhist Shramanic teachings found in the Aggañña Sutta and explain how those teachings are refused in Buddhist teachings.
5. Examine the importance of Kakacūpama Sutta for the cultivation of an exemplary monastic life.

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6. Examine way how Buddhism illustrates the consequences of anger and blessings of loving kindness with reference to the Kakacūpama Sutta.
7. Examine the speciality of Buddhist path of deliverance with reference to the Sandaka Sutta.
8. Can the logic and inquiry be considered as necessary factors for the path of Buddhist soteriology ? Examine.
9. Can it be considered that ' the concept of Bodhisattva' as given in the Sukhāvatī Vyūha Sūtra, as a turning point created for the path of devotion?
10. Write short notes any **four** of the following topics:
 - a. Assadammasārathī
 - b. Simile of saw
 - c. Ābhassarāsattā (Radiant Beings)
 - d. Sukhāvatī world realm
 - e. Charity and deliverance

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BUDDHIST CULTURE -II / බෞද්ධ සංස්කෘතිය II - BCG-2
Schools of Buddhism

Answer any FIVE questions.

The total number of questions in this paper is 10.

(Three Hours)

1. Discuss the different views about the rise of dissentient schools of Buddhism.
2. Clarify the causes that led to the emergence of the mahāsaṅghika sect in the history of Buddhism.
3. Discuss the views on the origin and evolution of Sarvastivādi sect.
4. Compare and contrast the “Dharma” concept of the Sarvāstivādins with the Theravāda “Dhamma” concept.
5. Elucidate the special features of the Sautrāntika philosophy.
6. Examine how the fundamental teachings of the Yogācāra philosophy differ from the teachings of other traditions.
7. Examine the way in which venerable Nāgarjuna establishes the doctrine of void (śūnyatā).
8. Clarify the early Buddhist doctrine of viññāna and show in what respects this concept was developed in viññānavāda tradition.
9. Explain the fundamental differences between Theravāda and Mahāyāna.
10. Examine whether there are similarities and differences between non-self (anatta) teachings of the Theravāda and anātma concept of Mahāyāna.

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BUDDHIST CULTURE -III / බෞද්ධ සංස්කෘතිය III - (BCG - 3)
(Buddhist Culture in Sri Lanka)

Answer any **FIVE** questions.

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

(Three Hours)

1. Introduce the source which could be utilized for studying the Buddhist culture in Sri Lanka and examine what assistance could be obtained from them.
2. Give a description of the beliefs in Sri Lanka in the Pre- Buddhist era with reference to Mahavamsa.
3. Critically examine the evidence that the Sri Lankans had been aware of Buddhism before the arrival of Mahinda Thero.
4. Examine how far the selected topics by Mahinda thero for preaching the Dhamma to the Sri Lankans were fit to the life of the people of contemporary period.
5. Introduce the Buddhist teachings that influenced the administrative system in Sri Lanka.
6. Examine the contribution of Buddhism toward the development of Sinhala literature.

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7. Elucidate the Mahayana cultural elements that influenced the Sri Lankan culture.
8. Examine the degeneration of monastic life with reference to the Polonnaru ecclesiastical code.
9. Evaluate the religious service of the king Vijayabahu I.
10. Briefly introduce the development of Buddhist Stupa in Sri Lanka.

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