



UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA - SRI LANKA
CENTRE FOR DISTANCE & CONTINUING EDUCATION

General Degree Examination in Arts (External) –2020 (November, 2021)

BUDDHIST CULTURE - I
BCG 1: Prescribed Texts

Answer **five** questions only.

(Number of questions in this paper is 10)

Three hours only.

1. Discuss the reasons why Brahmanical caste (Varṇa) system is criticized in Buddhism.
2. Explain the nature of the Aggañña Sutra's view of the origin of human society.
3. Investigate how the Buddha criticized the Brahmanical idea of sacrifice.
4. Reveal how the Buddhist economic system presented in the Kūṭadanta Sutta can be used for social development.
5. Explain the reasons for introducing the views so called Abrahmacariyavāsa in the Sandaka Sutta.
6. Explain the criterion of "Anussava" and determine the reasons from which it is criticized on the basis of Buddhist discourses.

PTO ...

7. Discuss how to identify certain social phenomena through the story of Vedehikā taught in the Kakacūpama Sutta.
 8. Explain the usefulness of the Kakacūpama Sutta on building the spiritual development of the life of a Buddhist monk.
 9. Inquire about the personality traits of the Avalokiteśvara Bodhisattva as revealed by the Sukhāvatīvyūha Sūtra.
 10. "The purpose of the Sukhāvatīvyūha Sūtra is to connect the idea of a world of universal pleasure with the Buddhahood." Explain.
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UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA



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CENTRE FOR DISTANCE AND CONTINUING EDUCATION

GENERAL DEGREE EXAMINATION IN ARTS (EXTERNAL- OLD SYLLABUS) 2020

Buddhist Culture - II/ බෞද්ධ සංස්කෘතිය - 11/ (BCG -11)
(Schools of Buddhism)

Answer **FIVE** questions only,

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

(Time - Three Hours)

1. “The Buddhist council caused the perpetuation of the dispensation.”
Examine.
2. Examine critically the causes to the Fourth Buddhist council and its results.
3. Elucidate the origin and expansion of division of *Nikāya* occurred in the community of *Saṅgha*
4. Discuss the fundamental teachings of the Sarvāstivāda philosophical tradition.
5. Introduce the Yogācāra philosophical tradition and evaluate the service rendered by its teachers for the development of the tradition .
6. Present the teachings on consciousness of Yogācāra tradition and explain the connection between the teachings of the Store Consciousness and Karma.
7. Introduce the Sarvāstivāda Abhidhamma tradition and their fundamental teachings.

PTO ...

8. Examine the concept of the three bodies (*tri-kāya*) of the Buddha, which developed gradually in the Mahāyāna tradition .
9. Explain the basic teachings of the Sarvāstivāda philosophical tradition and examine the perception (*Anumāna*) .
10. Write short notes on four (4) of the following topics.
 - a. Madyamaka Philosophical Tradition
 - b. Philosophy of *Śūnyatā*
 - c. Ācārya Vasubhandu
 - d. Concept of momentariness
 - e. Concept of Bodhisatva

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GENERAL DEGREE EXAMINATION IN ARTS (EXTERNAL) - 2021
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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. Examine the epistemological criteria applied by early religious traditions of India in arriving at conclusions about the nature of reality.
2. Explain on what philosophical grounds Buddhism rejects the view that adequate knowledge about the nature of reality could be obtained purely by means of logic.
3. Examine with reference to the Suttas the way in which Buddhism has applied empirical knowledge as the foundation of all knowledge.
4. Explain the place of free-will in the teachings of Buddhism.
5. Give an account of the concept of soul discussed in Indian philosophy.
6. Elucidate the way in which the Buddha utilized categorical and analytical methods in explaining the teaching concerning soullessness.
7. Discuss the justification for describing the Buddhist doctrine of *Karma* as being metaphysical.
8. Examine the causal basis of the origin of suffering.

PTO ...

9. Explain the causes and reasons on the basis of which Nirvana may be determined to be the highest happiness.

10. Introduce the ten questions left aside by the Buddha as undetermined (*avyākata*) and show why they were left aside in that manner.

Moderated by Prof. P.D. Premasiri on 30. 10. 2021

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