



UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA  
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CENTRE FOR DISTANCE AND CONTINUING EDUCATION  
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අගෝස්තු 2018

FIRST YEAR (100 LEVEL) EXAMINATION IN BACHELOR OF ARTS  
(EXTERNAL NEW SYLLABUS) AUGUST 2018

BPHE 101: PRE-BUDDHIST PHILOSOPHICAL BACKGROUND

Answer **FIVE** questions only.

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

(Time: Three Hours)

1. Explain how philosophical concepts gradually developed during the pre-Buddhist period in India.
2. “The advent of Buddhism was a critical response to the contemporary religious and philosophical views.” Discuss.
3. Make an inquiry into the development of the concept of karma from the pre-Buddhist period.
4. “Presenting oblations to the god of fire (*agni*) in the vedic period gradually developed and turned out to be the wholesome action of giving (*dāna*) in the Buddhist civilization.” Comment.
5. Discuss with reference to canonical discourses the basic differences of interpretations of the theory of causation depicted in Buddhist and pre-Buddhist teachings.

PTO ...

6. Explain how polytheism gradually turned out to be monotheism in the course of time and comment on them from the Buddhist perspective.
7. Elucidate the differences between the concepts of emancipation (*vimukti*) in the Upaniṣadic teachings and that in Buddhism.
8. Examine the caste system introduced in the Vedic period and the Buddha's critique of it.
9. Compare and contrast the life and the main teachings of Jaina Mahāvīra with those of the Buddha.
10. "The ten unanswered questions depicted in the Buddhist discourses reveal to which extent the interest of contemporary society was inclined towards metaphysical views." Discuss.

