



UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA
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CENTRE FOR DISTANCE AND CONTINUING EDUCATION
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GENERALDEGREE EXAMINATION IN ARTS (EXTERNAL) – DECEMBER 2017
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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)

(Three Hours)

PART - I

1. Describe the nature of the study of ethics and discuss accordingly, the meaningfulness of engaging in a study of ethics with reference to Buddhism.
2. "The objective of the Buddhist path is the moral perfection of the individual." Discuss.
3. Explain the significance of Sila in Buddhist morality.
4. Elucidate the ethical foundation of Buddhist theory of causality.
5. Explain the relationship between Nibbāna and morality in Buddhism.

PART - II

6. Compare the Freud's view and the Buddhist view on 'basic motivations.'

PTO ...

7. "It is to a psychological account of human life that the Four Noble Truths of Buddhism are primarily relevant." Discuss.
8. Examine the techniques presented in Buddhism for the management of emotions.
9. Examine to what extent it is possible to make use of the Buddhist meditation techniques for developing personality.
10. Explain with reference to the sutta discourses the psychological significance of the Buddhist teachings for allaying of mental distress.





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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.)

(Three Hours)

1. Analyse the contemporary religious and philosophical teachings and elucidate the new thought that Buddhist philosophy contributed to society.
2. Explain why the Buddha's teaching warns not to cling even to the Dhamma.
3. "All kinds of spiritual progress taught in the Buddha's teaching are not meant for blindly believing but for experiencing." - Examine.
4. Discuss why Buddhism rejects the notion that everything occurs due to past kamma.
5. Critically examine the Buddhist interpretation of the concept of world.
6. Discuss the contribution of the Buddhist councils for the perpetuation of the Buddha's dispensation.

PTO ...

7. "Logically and chronologically the Abhidhamma Piṭaka was composed after the other two piṭakas" - Comment.
8. Examine the varied Buddhist views and philosophical traditions that originated after the 2nd Buddhist council.
9. Discuss whether the Madhyamaka philosophy was a critical response to contemporary extreme views.
10. Write short notes on any **four** of the following:
 - I. Trikāya
 - II. Ālayavijñāna
 - III. Nippariyāyadesanā
 - IV. Bāhyārthānumeyavāda
 - V. Antarābhava
 - VI. Paramārthasatya

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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.)

(Three Hours).

Part - I

1. Discuss why the Buddha rejected authority as a source of knowledge?
2. Explain the critique of the concept of God according to Buddhism.
3. Explain why both the sensory and the extra-sensory spheres are included in the Buddhist analysis of perception.
4. Discuss with reference to early Buddhist discourses whether there is any place for free will and determinism in Buddhism.
5. Can *Nibbāna* taught in Buddhism be conceived as a metaphysical reality? Discuss.

Part - II

6. “Buddha is neither a traditionalist (*amussavikā*) nor a rationalist (*takkī / vīmaṃsī*).” Explain.

PTO ...

7. Explain the reasons for Buddhism's rejection of authority as a safe and reliable means of valid knowledge.
8. Point out how Buddhism explains rebirth while confirming the doctrine of no-self.
9. Examine the reasons for the Buddha's classification of some philosophical questions as unanswerable.
10. Make a critical inquiry into the ways how man becomes a victim of his own obsessions (papañca).

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