

**Advanced Subsidiary GCE
GCE RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

Unit G576: AS Buddhism

Specimen Paper

Additional Materials: Answer Booklet (...pages)

G576 QP

Morning/Afternoon

Time: 1 hour 30 minutes



INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- Answer **two** questions.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

- The number of marks for each question is given in brackets [] at the end of each question or part of question.
- The total number of marks for this paper is **70**.

ADVICE TO CANDIDATES

- Read each question carefully and make sure you know what you have to do before starting your answer.

SPECIMEN

This document consists of **2** printed pages.

Answer **two** questions.

- 1 (a) Explain the relationship between the three poisons and samsara. [25]
(b) 'There is no difference between greed and hatred.' Discuss. [10]
- 2 (a) Explain the different attitudes to the Buddha in Theravada and Mahayana Buddhism. [25]
(b) To what extent is the Buddha seen as simply a man in Theravada Buddhism? [10]
- 3 (a) Explain why Asoka was important for the spread of Buddhism. [25]
(b) 'Asoka was more important to the survival of Buddhism than the sangha.' Discuss. [10]
- 4 (a) Explain how following the vinaya rules might lead to nibbana. [25]
(b) 'The vinaya rules are impractical in modern society.' Discuss. [10]

Paper Total [70]

SPECIMEN

The maximum mark for this paper is 70.

SPECIMEN

Band	Mark /25	AO1	Mark /10	AO2
0	0	absent/no relevant material	0	absent/no argument
1	1-5	<p>almost completely ignores the question</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • little relevant material • some concepts inaccurate • shows little knowledge of technical terms <p>Communication: often unclear or disorganised</p>	1-2	<p>very little argument or justification of viewpoint</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • little or no successful analysis <p>Communication: often unclear or disorganised</p>
2	6-10	<p>focuses on the general topic rather than directly on the question</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • knowledge limited and partially accurate • limited understanding • selection often inappropriate • limited use of technical terms <p>Communication: some clarity and organisation</p>	3-4	<p>an attempt to sustain an argument and justify a viewpoint</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • some analysis, but not successful • views asserted but not successfully justified <p>Communication: some clarity and organisation</p>
3	11-15	<p>satisfactory attempt to address the question</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • some accurate knowledge • appropriate understanding • some successful selection of material • some accurate use of technical terms <p>Communication: some clarity and organisation</p>	5-6	<p>the argument is sustained and justified</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • some successful analysis which may be implicit <p>Communication: some clarity and organisation</p>
4	16-20	<p>a good attempt to address the question</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • accurate knowledge • good understanding • good selection of material • technical terms mostly accurate <p>Communication: generally clear and organised</p>	7-8	<p>a good attempt at using evidence to sustain an argument</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • some successful and clear analysis • might put more than one point of view <p>Communication: generally clear and organised</p>
5	21-25	<p>an excellent attempt to address the question showing understanding and engagement with the material</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • very high level of ability to select and deploy relevant information • accurate use of technical terms <p>Communication: answer is well constructed and organised</p>	9-10	<p>an excellent attempt which uses a range of evidence to sustain an argument</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • comprehends the demands of the question • shows understanding and critical analysis of different viewpoints <p>Communication: answer is well constructed and organised</p>

Question Number	Answer	Max Mark
<p>1(a)</p>	<p>Explain the relationship between the three poisons and samsara.</p> <p>Candidates are likely to explain the nature and relationship of the three poisons, greed, hatred and delusion. Candidates might explain the cycle of samsara, explaining the nature of rebirth in Buddhism.</p> <p>Candidates are likely to explain the depiction of samsara in the Tibetan Wheel of Life, where the three poisons are depicted as the hub of the wheel. They may use this to demonstrate the role of the three poisons in keeping beings within samsara.</p> <p>Some candidates might refer to dependent origination to demonstrate the operation of the 3 poisons within the cycle of samsara.</p> <p>Better responses will need to address both aspects of the question fully.</p>	<p>[25]</p>
<p>1(b)</p>	<p>‘There is no difference between greed and hatred.’ Discuss.</p> <p>Answers will build on the material in part (a), perhaps exploring the reasons why they are both included within the three poisons. Candidates are likely to use examples from their own experience to argue that greed and hatred are patently different.</p> <p>Good responses are likely to explore the Buddhist understanding that hatred is an inversion of greed, desiring the absence rather than presence of something.</p> <p>Good responses should be able to assess similarities and differences between the two before reaching a conclusion.</p>	<p>[10]</p>
<p>2(a)</p>	<p>Explain the different attitudes to the Buddha in Theravada and Mahayana Buddhism.</p> <p>Candidates are likely to explain the Theravada view that the Buddha was ‘simply’ a man, who having followed the Bodhisattva path reached its conclusion and could see the world as it really was.</p> <p>Good responses are also likely to explain the idea that in Theravada Buddhism only one Buddha appears at a time.</p> <p>Candidates might also consider the trikaya doctrine in Mahayana Buddhism, especially the more celestial views of the Buddha expressed in Mahayana Buddhism.</p> <p>Good responses may explain the concept of tathagatagarbha, and the multiplicity of Buddhas in the Mahayana tradition.</p>	<p>[25]</p>

Question Number	Answer	Max Mark
2(b)	<p>To what extent is the Buddha seen as simply a man in Theravada Buddhism?</p> <p>Candidates might argue that the Buddha is seen as a man in Theravada Buddhism, though one who has followed a long path towards Buddhahood.</p> <p>Some candidates might argue that the Buddha was a man, but the achievement of Buddhahood elevated him beyond this.</p> <p>Good responses are likely to focus on the appropriateness of the word simply in this context. They might explore the extraordinary nature required to follow the path to Buddhahood.</p>	[10]
3(a)	<p>Explain why Asoka was important for the spread of Buddhism.</p> <p>Candidates are likely to explain key aspects of the life of Asoka, however better responses will need to move beyond description and address the question, specifically focusing on why Asoka was important for the spread of Buddhism.</p> <p>Candidates might explain Asoka's support for missionary activity for example to Sri Lanka (Ceylon) and the erection of pillars.</p> <p>Further explanation is likely to focus on the reformation of the sangha and governmental support.</p> <p>Good responses are likely to explain the success and importance of these factors in spreading Buddhist belief and practice.</p>	[25]
3(b)	<p>'Asoka was more important to the survival of Buddhism than the sangha.' Discuss.</p> <p>Candidates are likely to explore the effect of Asoka's patronage and reforms on the early survival of Buddhism.</p> <p>Candidates might also assess the importance of the sangha in preserving the teachings of the Buddha.</p> <p>Good responses might consider the state of the sangha at the time of Asoka, and the damage this might have caused to Buddhism if left unreformed, before reaching a conclusion.</p>	[10]

Question Number	Answer	Max Mark
4(a)	<p>Explain how following the vinaya rules might lead to nibbana.</p> <p>Candidates are likely to explain the purpose of the vinaya rules in helping bhikkhus follow the middle path, and developing the attitudes necessary for the achievement of nibbana.</p> <p>Candidates might also explain the nature of nibbana, and the qualities that need to be developed in order to realise nibbana.</p> <p>Candidates would benefit from explaining some specific vinaya rules to illustrate their response.</p> <p>Candidates are likely to explain the link between the vinaya rules, kamma, the Four Noble Truths, and nibbana.</p>	[25]
4(b)	<p>'The vinaya rules are impractical in modern society.' Discuss.</p> <p>Candidates might argue that some rules, such as the injunction on the handling of money, are impractical in modern society.</p> <p>Candidates may argue that although difficult to follow such rules still have value, for example in the development of positive attitudes or the following of the middle path.</p> <p>Good responses might explore whether such rules were always impractical, or are only so now due to modern developments.</p>	[10]
Paper Total		[70]

Assessment Objectives Grid (includes QWC)

Question	AO1	AO2	Total
1(a)	25		25
1(b)		10	10
2(a)	25		25
2(b)		10	10
3(a)	25		25
3(b)		10	10
4(a)	25		25
4(b)		10	10
Totals	50	20	70

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