

Candidate Marks Report

Series : 6 2018

This candidate's script has been assessed using On-Screen Marking. The marks are therefore not shown on the script itself, but are summarised in the table below.

Centre No :	Assessment Code :	H573
Candidate No :	Component Code :	06
Candidate Name :		

Total Marks :

In the table below 'Total Mark' records the mark scored by this candidate.
'Max Mark' records the Maximum Mark available for the question.

Question Part

1	<p>The life of the Buddha holds many lessons that grew to become the foundation of Traditional Buddhist teachings, as such an understanding of the Buddha's life is very important.</p>
	<p>The Buddha, or Siddhartha as he was known when alive, was originally very rich living in a large house before he realised there was suffering in the world. He came across; a king dead man, a homeless man, an ill man, a beggar and, although this is debated, a holy man. The first four men made him realise suffering was real and that he, a fellow human, didn't deserve luxury while others were suffering. It is said the holy man made him decide to seek nirvana but again this is highly debated. This is relevant to Buddhists because, the teaching of all being equal is the main foundation of all Buddhism, being relevant to Karma, re-birth, The six realms of existence and many more. This rule can be seen today, with modern Buddhists fighting inequality within their own community as well as the western world. For a Buddhist to gain enlightenment, he must put</p>



Question Part

Others before himself. This is a key aspect of the Buddha's life, without it there would be no Buddhism, as such this section of the Buddha's life is vital to Buddhism in general and to Buddhists past and present.

The Buddha's enlightenment is also a key moment in Buddhist history, at the moment of his enlightenment, he gave a sermon to his closest followers, informing them to pass on his story: of his past lives, his sermons, his teachings ect. It was only at this moment the Buddha learned the true meaning of his teachings, of his own existence even. The followers stayed with him until he died in the spot he was enlightened in. It was this moment that gave Buddhism true depth; The importance of meditation, the concept of Nirvana, the ~~six~~ realms of existence and after his death many more teachings, terms of Buddhism, concepts emerged because of the Buddha's enlightenment. Without this moment and without the teachings being spread through more sermons Buddhism would not have become as established as it is and likely would have died with Sathawtha. Knowing the Buddha's story is key to Buddhism,



Question Part

but particularly his enlightenment because that gave the movement meaning, while people believed in Buddhism it was looked down upon by many, particularly those who believed in the cast system. The information about the Buddha's enlightenment however did change minds. Again, without this moment Buddhism would not exist today.

Overall, a knowledge and understanding of the Buddha's life is vital to any Buddhist, as it was his life that made the religion possible. His life, and his experiences are what made people believe in Buddhism during its origination and as such is of, or should be, of key importance to any Buddhist.



Question Part

2

The concept of Nirvana or Nivana as it is more commonly known is indeed a difficult concept to grasp, but is it unexplainable?

Firstly, a small overview on what Nirvana is. Most simply it's where you go once you have been enlightened. While it may seem simple, what it actually means is debatable. There are two main arguments about what Nirvana means, which I will discuss within this ~~essay~~.

The first argument, "The state of mind argument." This argument takes the Buddha's own enlightenment into account, as his is the only recorded example of an "Enlightenment". Some Buddhists believe that because the Buddha claimed to be / have his enlightenment while alive, that enlightenment is a state of mind. This belief does correlate to a lot of teachings, for example meditation is about improving the mind and body. This idea rules out the idea of Nirvana being a physical realm, such as Heaven in Christianity. The six realms of existence help to support this theory, as Nirvana is not one of the six realms whereas if it was a physical location it would



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have been. Undeniably this is a logical answer and argument to the question of "What is Nirvana?"

The second argument and naturally a counter to the "State of Mind Argument" is the "Physical Location Argument" which states that Nirvana is where you go once you have been enlightened. This argument also takes into account the Buddha's enlightenment, suggesting that once the Buddha gained enlightenment he died shortly after in order to "go" to Nirvana. Some counter this by saying he died of age but as he was healthy (or had no recorded illnesses) it seems unlikely. Furthermore, those who believe in this argument also use the six realms of existence to support their argument, or rather illustrations of it. Within most illustrations of the wheel containing the six realms, Buddha is pictured outside of the wheel, usually on a cloud. This would suggest that the Buddha did indeed move onto a different place, however this is countered as simply being artistic interpretation as the Buddha ^{is} ~~does~~ not always shown in drawings of the six realms. It must



Question Part

he admitted however, that the Buddha's death after his enlightenment when he was supposedly healthy is unusual. He died after giving one final sermon, perhaps finishing his teachings because he knew he was going to pass on to Nirvana, but no one will ever truly know.

Overall, no one will ever truly know what Nirvana is as the Buddha didn't share this information with his followers. Buddhists discuss what it means to them but no one will ever truly know unless they gain enlightenment. As such, Nirvana truly cannot be fully explained.



Question Part

4	<p>Social activism has only recently begun to have a relevance to Buddhism, with it starting in the 50's/60's, with a Campaign to free Tibet.</p>
	<p>One of the key ideas of Buddhism is that all beings are equal and should be treated equally. As such, Buddhists should care when people fall victim to social injustice. Which there are examples of, for instance: The Dalai Lama's recent Campaign to free Tibet from China: who have occupied Tibet. There have been countless protests to try to have Tibet freed the most famous one occurring in the 1960's. Tibetan monks from all over the world, sat and set themselves on fire while remaining silent and still. This gained a lot of attention in the West, particularly San Francisco where a large group of monks set themselves on fire on a busy street. This selflessness gained a lot of support for the free Tibet movement which still goes on to this day. To sacrifice one's self in the name of equality for all is the ultimate ^{ultimate} form of giving yourself to your religious beliefs. Without this sacrifice the Tibetan movement</p>



Question Part

would not have gained as much traction as it did and would not be so far along in terms of progress. This was a vital move within the campaign and Buddhist belief made it possible, so that their mothers and sisters could one day walk free again.

However, social activism hasn't always been a part of Buddhism. During the time of early Buddhism and the time when Sidhartha was alive specifically, Buddhist women had a very rough time becoming established within the religion. Originally the Buddha didn't want women involved at all as he believed his teachings would only last 500 years, instead of his predicted 1000. He was later convinced however to allow women to become nuns but the rules were complicated and oppressive. To be ordained, a monk and a nun had to be there when no nuns existed. Somehow groups of nuns started to form but with the restrictive rules, over a hundred years most schools of nuns had died out. However within modern Western Buddhism, many female ~~nuns~~ Buddhists exist, nuns, scholars and Bodhisattvas along with many more traditionally male roles being



Question Part

forced by women. Progress hasn't reached all of the Buddhist community ~~but~~ as some argue that the involvement of women in Buddhism goes against the Buddha's original wishes. Technically this is true but at the time women were not treated equally, they still aren't but there have been great improvements since the Buddha's time. To counter this, once women were allowed to join the ranks of Buddhism, the Buddha did say that all could reach enlightenment, proving the equality of the sexes within Buddhism.

Overall, while social activism may not have always played a part in Buddhism, the idea of all creatures being equal has. People have always taken that rule and used it to fight for what is right, from the inclusion of ~~the~~ women in Buddhism to the freedom of Tibet. Fighting for rights has always been part of Buddhist practice.



