

**Advanced GCE  
GCE RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

Unit G586: A2 Buddhism

**Specimen Paper**

Additional Materials: Answer Booklet (...pages)

**G586 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.

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

Answer **two** questions.

- 1 Assess the importance of the Dalai Lama in Tibetan Buddhism. [35]
- 2 'Sila is more important than prajna in Buddhist ethics.' Discuss with reference to environmental issues. [35]
- 3 To what extent is the purpose of the Lotus Sutra to establish the superiority of Mahayana Buddhism? [35]
- 4 Assess the importance of meditation for those seeking nibbana. [35]

**Paper Total [70]**

SPECIMEN

The maximum mark for this paper is 70.

SPECIMEN

<b>Band</b>	<b>Mark / 21</b>	<b>AO1</b>	<b>Mark / 14</b>	<b>AO2</b>
<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	absent / no relevant material	<b>0</b>	absent / no argument
<b>1</b>	<b>1-5</b>	almost completely ignores the question <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• little relevant material</li> <li>• some concepts inaccurate</li> <li>• shows little knowledge of technical terms</li> </ul> Communication: often unclear or disorganised	<b>1-3</b>	very little argument or justification of viewpoint <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• little or no successful analysis</li> </ul> Communication: often unclear or disorganised
<b>2</b>	<b>6-9</b>	focuses on the general topic rather than directly on the question <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• knowledge limited and partially accurate</li> <li>• limited understanding</li> <li>• selection often inappropriate</li> <li>• limited use of technical terms</li> </ul> Communication: some clarity and organisation	<b>4-6</b>	an attempt to sustain an argument and justify a viewpoint <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• some analysis, but not successful</li> <li>• views asserted but not successfully justified</li> </ul> Communication: some clarity and organisation
<b>3</b>	<b>10-13</b>	satisfactory attempt to address the question <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• some accurate knowledge</li> <li>• appropriate understanding</li> <li>• some successful selection of material</li> <li>• some accurate use of technical terms</li> </ul> Communication: some clarity and organisation	<b>7-8</b>	the argument is sustained and justified <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• some successful analysis which may be implicit</li> </ul> Communication: some clarity and organisation
<b>4</b>	<b>14-17</b>	a good attempt to address the question <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• accurate knowledge</li> <li>• good understanding</li> <li>• good selection of material</li> <li>• technical terms mostly accurate</li> </ul> Communication: generally clear and organised	<b>9-11</b>	a good attempt at using evidence to sustain an argument <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• some successful and clear analysis</li> <li>• might put more than one point of view</li> </ul> Communication: generally clear and organised
<b>5</b>	<b>18-21</b>	an excellent attempt to address the question showing understanding and engagement with the material <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• very high level of ability to select and deploy relevant information</li> <li>• accurate use of technical terms</li> </ul> Communication: answer is well constructed and organised	<b>12-14</b>	an excellent attempt which uses a range of evidence to sustain an argument <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• comprehends the demands of the question</li> <li>• shows understanding and critical analysis of different viewpoints</li> </ul> Communication: answer is well constructed and organised

Question Number	Answer	Max Mark
1	<p><b>Assess the importance of the Dalai Lama in Tibetan Buddhism.</b></p> <p><b>AO1</b> Candidates are likely to explain the status of the Dalai Lama as a bodhisattva. Candidate might explain the religious significance of a spiritual leader regarded as a bodhisattva.</p> <p>Responses are likely to focus on the authority and status of the Dalai Lama.</p> <p>Candidates are likely to consider the political views of the current Dalai Lama and his continuing campaign to free Tibet. However good responses should maintain a religious focus.</p> <p>Good responses may explain the institution of the Dalai Lama, and the actions of other historical Dalai Lamas.</p> <p><b>AO2</b> Candidates may assess the political importance of the current Dalai Lama, and his particular significance for the Tibetan community given the Chinese control of Tibet. Once again candidates' responses should maintain a religious focus however.</p> <p>Good responses might explore issues raised by those Dalai Lama's who have engaged in behaviour which might be deemed contradictory to Buddhist teachings.</p> <p>Good responses might consider how important an individual Dalai Lama is, compared to the significance of the institutional line of Dalai Lamas.</p>	[35]
2	<p><b>'Sila is more important than prajna in Buddhist ethics.'</b></p> <p><b>AO1</b> Candidates should explain the concepts of sila and prajna in appropriate detail.</p> <p>Candidates might explain the aspects of the eightfold path which comprise sila, namely right action, livelihood and speech.</p> <p>Candidates might explain the aspects of the eightfold path which comprise prajna, namely right understanding thought. Candidates might also explain the role of prajna in the bodhisattva path.</p> <p>Good responses are likely to consider a range of Buddhist ethical considerations, showing how they relate to sila and prajna.</p>	

Question Number	Answer	Max Mark
2 cont'd	<p><b>AO2</b> Candidates are likely to argue that the actions a Buddhist carries out are of more importance than wisdom.</p> <p>They may give examples exploring the effects on others to support this. Good responses are likely to consider whether prajna is necessary in order to ensure that actions are correct. They might consider whether well-meaning but mistaken actions are the most ethical choices.</p> <p>Good responses may explore the concept of upaya, and consider whether prajna might mean sila can be ignored in some circumstances.</p>	[25]
3	<p><b>To what extent is the purpose of the Lotus Sutra to establish the superiority of Mahayana Buddhism?</b></p> <p><b>AO1</b> Candidates are likely to explain the parable of the burning house. Although some description is likely, merely descriptive accounts will not answer the question however.</p> <p>Good responses will explain the parable of the burning house, and its introduction of the concept of ekayana.</p> <p>Candidates might explain the concept of upaya, and its implications.</p> <p>Candidates may consider the use of the term hinayana, and the reference to the arhats leaving the sermon at the beginning of the text.</p> <p><b>AO2</b> Candidates might argue that the implications of the concepts of upaya and ekayana lead to an emphasis on the superiority of the Mahayana path.</p> <p>Candidates might explore the relative importance of other teachings in the Lotus Sutra, for example the nature and status of Buddha's.</p> <p>Good responses might consider the history and importance of the Sutra before reaching a conclusion.</p>	[25]

Question Number	Answer	Max Mark
4	<p><b>Assess the importance of meditation for those seeking nibbana.</b></p> <p><b>AO1</b> Candidates might answer from the perspective of any Buddhist tradition they have studied, or consider ideas from a range of traditions.</p> <p>Candidates might explain a range of meditation practices within different schools of Buddhism.</p> <p>Candidates might explain the importance of meditation, in relation to morality and wisdom, within the eightfold path.</p> <p>Good responses may explain alternative paths to nibbana, such as those found within Pure Land Buddhism.</p> <p><b>AO2</b> Candidates might argue that meditation is an integral part of the path to nibbana, and thus of prime importance.</p> <p>Candidates might explore the relationship between meditation and other parts of the Buddhist path, before offering an evaluation of its importance.</p> <p>Candidates might explore whether the importance of meditation varies within different schools.</p>	[35]
<b>Paper Total</b>		<b>[70]</b>

**Assessment Objectives Grid (includes QWC)**

<b>Question</b>	<b>AO1</b>	<b>AO2</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>1</b>	21	14	<b>35</b>
<b>2</b>	21	14	<b>35</b>
<b>3</b>	21	14	<b>35</b>
<b>4</b>	21	14	<b>35</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>70</b>

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