

Please check the examination details below before entering your candidate information

Candidate surname					Other names				
Centre Number					Candidate Number				
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Pearson Edexcel Level 3 GCE

Monday 24 June 2024

Afternoon (Time: 2 hours)

Paper reference **9RS0/4A**

Religious Studies

Advanced

PAPER 4: Study of Religion

Option 4A: Buddhism

You do not need any other materials.

Total Marks

Instructions

- Use **black** ink or ball-point pen.
- **Fill in the boxes** at the top of this page with your name, centre number and candidate number.
- There are **three** sections in this question paper. Answer **all** the questions in each section.
- Answer the questions in the spaces provided
– *there may be more space than you need.*

Information

- The total mark for this paper is 80.
- The marks for **each** question are shown in brackets
– *use this as a guide as to how much time to spend on each question.*

Advice

- Read each question carefully before you start to answer it.
- Try to answer every question.
- Check your answers if you have time at the end.

Turn over ►

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1 Explore the significance of the Tipitaka.

(8)

(Total for Question 1 = 8 marks)



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2 Assess the importance of the stages and perfections of the Bodhisattva path.

(12)

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(Total for Question 2 = 12 marks)

TOTAL FOR SECTION A = 20 MARKS



SECTION B

Answer ALL questions. Write your answers in the spaces provided.

Read the following passage before answering the questions.

Those of us who do not live according to the Buddhist program of morality and meditation have, therefore, no means of judging this claim. The Buddha was always quite clear that his Dhamma could not be understood by rational thinking alone. It only revealed its true significance when it was apprehended 'directly,' according to yogic methods, and in the right ethical context. The Four Noble Truths do make logical sense, but they do not become compelling until an aspirant has learned to identify with them at a profound level and has integrated them with his own life. Then and only then will he experience the 'exultation,' 'joy' and 'serenity' which, according to the Pāli texts, come to us when we divest ourselves of egotism, liberate ourselves from the prison of self-centeredness, and see the Truths 'as they really are.' Without the meditation and morality prescribed by the Buddha, the Truths remain as abstract as a musical score, which for most of us cannot reveal its true beauty.

(Source: extract from *Lives: Buddha*, Karen Armstrong, Phoenix Press, 2002, Edexcel Anthology)

- 3** (a) Clarify Buddhist ideas about meditation shown in this passage.

You must refer to the passage in your response.

(10)

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(b) Analyse the importance of meditation as part of the Eightfold Path.

(20)

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(Total for Question 3 = 30 marks)

TOTAL FOR SECTION B = 30 MARKS



SECTION C

Write your answer in the space provided.

- 4** Evaluate the importance of the application of the First Precept in the modern world.

In your response to this question, you must include how developments in Buddhism have been influenced by **one** of the following:

- Philosophy of Religion
- Religion and Ethics
- New Testament Studies.

(30)



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(Total for Question 4 = 30 marks)

TOTAL FOR SECTION C = 30 MARKS
TOTAL FOR PAPER = 80 MARKS



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