

Please check the examination details below before entering your candidate information

Candidate surname					Other names				
Centre Number					Candidate Number				

Pearson Edexcel Level 3 GCE

Monday 23 June 2025

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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SECTION A

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

- 1** Explore the significance of the Tipitaka as a source of wisdom in Buddhism.

(8)

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(Total for Question 1 = 8 marks)



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2 Assess the importance of the Five khandas for Theravada Buddhists.

(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.

Commentary: The Body of essence is uniform for all the Buddhas, because there is no real difference between them...

The Transformation Body displays with skill birth, enlightenment, and Nirvāṇa, For it possesses much magic power to lead men to enlightenment.

The Body of the Buddhas is wholly comprised in these three bodies...

In basis, tendency, and act they are uniform.

They are stable by nature, by persistence, and by connection.

Commentary: The Three Bodies are one and the same for all the Buddhas for three reasons: *basis*, for the basis of phenomena is indivisible; *tendency*, because there is no tendency particular to one Buddha and not to another; and *act*, because their actions are common to all. And the Three Bodies have a threefold stability: by *nature*, for the Body of Essence is essentially stable; by *persistence*, for the Body of Bliss experiences phenomena unceasingly; and by *connection*, for the Transformation Body, once it has passed away, shows it metamorphoses again and again.

(Source: extract from *The Buddhist Tradition in India, China and Japan*, edited by William De Bary, Knopf Doubleday Publishing Group, 2011, Edexcel Anthology)

- 3 (a) Clarify Buddhist ideas about the trikaya (Three Bodies) shown in this passage.

You must refer to the passage in your response.

(10)

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(b) Analyse the early development of Mahayana Buddhism.

(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 four sights in the life of the Buddha.

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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