

Write your name here

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Other names

**Pearson**  
**Edexcel GCSE**

Centre Number

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Candidate Number

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# Religious Studies

## Unit 15: Buddhism

Tuesday 2 June 2015 – Afternoon  
**Time: 1 hour 30 minutes**

Paper Reference

**5RS15/01**

**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.
- Answer **ONE** question from each of the **four** sections.
- Answer the questions in the spaces provided  
– *there may be more space than you need.*

### Information

- The total mark for this paper is 84.
- The marks for **each** question are shown in brackets  
– *use this as a guide as to how much time to spend on each question.*
- Questions labelled with an **asterisk** (\*) are ones where the quality of your written communication will be assessed  
– *you should take particular care on these questions with your spelling, punctuation and grammar, as well as the clarity of expression.*
- The marks available for spelling, punctuation and grammar are clearly indicated.

### Advice

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

Turn over ►

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**PEARSON**

## SECTION 1 – BELIEFS AND VALUES

You must answer **ONE** question from this section.

**YOU WILL BE ASSESSED ON YOUR SPELLING, PUNCTUATION AND GRAMMAR IN THIS SECTION.**

**EITHER**

- 1 (a) What is the **Tipitaka**? (2)
- (b) Do you think the five khandas are only important for Buddhists?  
Give **two** reasons for your point of view. (4)
- \* (c) Explain what is important about the relationship between the lay people and the sangha in Buddhism. (8)
- (d) "The three marks of existence do not teach people anything useful."  
In your answer you should refer to Buddhism.
- (i) Do you agree? Give reasons for your opinion. (3)
- (ii) Give reasons why some people may disagree with you. (3)

**(Total for spelling, punctuation and grammar = 4 marks)**  
**(Total for Question 1 = 24 marks)**

**OR**

- 2 (a) What is **nibbana**? (2)
- (b) Do you think the Dhammapada is essential for all Buddhists?  
Give **two** reasons for your point of view. (4)
- \* (c) Explain why the Four Noble Truths are important for Buddhists. (8)
- (d) "Morality (sila) only matters if you are a Buddhist."  
In your answer you should refer to Buddhism.
- (i) Do you agree? Give reasons for your opinion. (3)
- (ii) Give reasons why some people may disagree with you. (3)

**(Total for spelling, punctuation and grammar = 4 marks)**  
**(Total for Question 2 = 24 marks)**



Indicate which question you are answering by marking a cross . If you change your mind, put a line through the box  and then indicate your new question with a cross .

Chosen question number:    **Question 1**     **Question 2**

Write your answer here:

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## SECTION 2 – COMMUNITY AND TRADITION

You must answer **ONE** question from this section.

**EITHER**

- 3** (a) What is the **Lotus Sutra**? (2)
- (b) Do you think Buddhists can learn anything from the Buddha's ascetic practices?  
Give **two** reasons for your point of view. (4)
- \* (c) Explain the distinctive features of Zen Buddhism. (8)
- (d) "The dhamma is out of date."  
In your answer you should refer to Buddhism.
- (i) Do you agree? Give reasons for your opinion. (3)
- (ii) Give reasons why some people may disagree with you. (3)

(Total for Question 3 = 20 marks)

**OR**

- 4** (a) What is a **bhikkuni**? (2)
- (b) Do you think the experience of the Buddha under the bodhi tree was the beginning of Buddhism?  
Give **two** reasons for your point of view. (4)
- \* (c) Explain why a Mahayana vihara has certain features. (8)
- (d) "All Buddhists should be Theravada Buddhists."  
In your answer you should refer to Buddhism.
- (i) Do you agree? Give reasons for your opinion. (3)
- (ii) Give reasons why some people may disagree with you. (3)

(Total for Question 4 = 20 marks)



Indicate which question you are answering by marking a cross in the box ☒. If you change your mind, put a line through the box ☒ and then indicate your new question with a cross ☒.

Chosen question number:    **Question 3** ☒    **Question 4** ☒

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### SECTION 3 – WORSHIP AND CELEBRATION

You must answer **ONE** question from this section.

#### EITHER

- 5 (a) What is meant by **puja**? (2)
- (b) Do you think vipassana meditation is a good way to achieve enlightenment?  
Give **two** reasons for your point of view. (4)
- \* (c) Explain why the use of rupas is important for some Buddhists. (8)
- (d) "Chanting mantras is pointless."  
In your answer you should refer to Buddhism.
- (i) Do you agree? Give reasons for your opinion. (3)
- (ii) Give reasons why some people may disagree with you. (3)

(Total for Question 5 = 20 marks)

#### OR

- 6 (a) What is **Wesak**? (2)
- (b) Do you think all Buddhists should celebrate New Year?  
Give **two** reasons for your point of view. (4)
- \* (c) Explain why samatha meditation is important for many Buddhists. (8)
- (d) "Mudras help a person to meditate."  
In your answer you should refer to Buddhism.
- (i) Do you agree? Give reasons for your opinion. (3)
- (ii) Give reasons why some people may disagree with you. (3)

(Total for Question 6 = 20 marks)



Indicate which question you are answering by marking a cross . If you change your mind, put a line through the box  and then indicate your new question with a cross .

Chosen question number:    **Question 5**     **Question 6**

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**SECTION 4 – LIVING THE BUDDHIST LIFE**

**You must answer ONE question from this section.**

**EITHER**

- 7** (a) What are the **vinaya**? (2)
- (b) Do you think Buddhists should work to relieve suffering in the UK?  
Give **two** reasons for your point of view. (4)
- \*(c) Explain the role of the vihara in a local area. (8)
- (d) "Karuna (compassion) should be shown by everybody."  
In your answer you should refer to Buddhism.
- (i) Do you agree? Give reasons for your opinion. (3)
- (ii) Give reasons why some people may disagree with you. (3)

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**(Total for Question 7 = 20 marks)**

**OR**

- 8** (a) What is a **bodhisattva**? (2)
- (b) Do you think a person's beliefs should affect their choice of job?  
Give **two** reasons for your point of view. (4)
- \*(c) Explain why some Buddhists work for community cohesion. (8)
- (d) "Khanti (patience) only matters to Buddhists."  
In your answer you should refer to Buddhism.
- (i) Do you agree? Give reasons for your opinion. (3)
- (ii) Give reasons why some people may disagree with you. (3)

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**(Total for Question 8 = 20 marks)**



Indicate which question you are answering by marking a cross . If you change your mind, put a line through the box  and then indicate your new question with a cross .

Chosen question number:    **Question 7**     **Question 8**

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