

# CUET PG 2026 Buddhist Studies Question Paper with Solutions(Memory Based)

Time Allowed :1 Hours 30 min	Maximum Marks :300	Total Questions :75
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## General Instructions

1. The exam lasts 90 minutes (1 hour 30 minutes).
2. There are 75 Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs) to be answered.
3. +4 marks for every correct answer. -1 mark (negative marking) for every incorrect answer. 0 marks for unanswered or un-attempted questions.
4. For any discrepancy in questions, the English version is considered final (except for language-specific papers).
5. Click one of the four options to choose an answer.
6. You must click "Save & Next" to confirm your response. Only saved answers are considered for evaluation.
7. Use "Mark for Review & Next" to flag a question for later. You can unselect or change your answer using the "Clear Response" button.
8. All calculations must be done on the Rough Sheets provided at the centre. These must be returned to the invigilator after the exam.

### 1. Who is the author of the famous Sanskrit text Buddhacarita?

- (A) Kalidasa  
(B) Ashvaghosha  
(C) Banabhatta  
(D) Nagarjuna

**Correct Answer:** (B) Ashvaghosha

#### **Solution:**

**Concept:** *Buddhacarita* is an important Sanskrit epic that narrates the life, teachings, and spiritual journey of Gautama Buddha. It is one of the earliest classical Sanskrit works related to Buddhist literature.

#### **Step 1: Understand the literary work.**

*Buddhacarita* provides a poetic and philosophical account of the life of Buddha, including his birth, renunciation, enlightenment, and teachings.

#### **Step 2: Identify the author.**

The text was composed by **Ashvaghosha**, a renowned Buddhist scholar, poet, and philosopher who lived around the 1st–2nd century CE.

#### **Step 3: Analyze the other options.**

- Kalidasa – famous for works like *Abhijnanasakuntalam*
- Ashvaghosha – author of *Buddhacarita* (correct)

- Banabhatta – author of *Harshacharita*
- Nagarjuna – important Buddhist philosopher, not the author of this text

#### Quick Tip

Ashvaghosha is considered one of the earliest Sanskrit dramatists and a key figure in Buddhist literature.

## 2. In which city was the Third Buddhist Council held under the patronage of Emperor Ashoka?

- (A) Rajgir
- (B) Vaishali
- (C) Pataliputra
- (D) Sarnath

**Correct Answer:** (C) Pataliputra

#### Solution:

**Concept:** The Buddhist Councils were important assemblies held to preserve and propagate the teachings of Buddha. The **Third Buddhist Council** was convened during the reign of Emperor Ashoka in the 3rd century BCE.

#### Step 1: Understand the purpose of the Third Council.

The council aimed to:

- Purify the Buddhist Sangha by removing corrupt practices
- Compile and systematize Buddhist teachings
- Promote the spread of Buddhism beyond India

#### Step 2: Identify the location.

The Third Buddhist Council was held at **Pataliputra**, the capital of the Mauryan Empire (modern-day Patna).

#### Step 3: Analyze the other options.

- Rajgir – site of the First Buddhist Council
- Vaishali – site of the Second Buddhist Council
- Pataliputra – site of the Third Buddhist Council (correct)
- Sarnath – place of Buddha's first sermon

#### Quick Tip

A simple way to remember: 1st–Rajgir, 2nd–Vaishali, 3rd–Pataliputra, 4th–Kashmir (commonly accepted tradition).

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**3. What is the literal meaning of the term 'Pratityasamutpada' in Buddhist philosophy?**

- (A) Path of liberation
- (B) Dependent origination
- (C) Cycle of rebirth
- (D) Ultimate truth

**Correct Answer:** (B) Dependent origination

**Solution:**

**Concept:** *Pratityasamutpada* is a central doctrine in Buddhist philosophy that explains the nature of existence and the interdependence of all phenomena. It describes how all things arise in dependence upon multiple causes and conditions.

**Step 1: Understand the literal meaning.**

The term can be broken down as:

- *Pratitya* – depending on or because of
- *Samutpada* – arising or origination

Thus, it literally means “dependent origination” or “dependent arising.”

**Step 2: Interpret the philosophical significance.**

It conveys that:

- Nothing exists independently
- Every phenomenon arises due to causes and conditions
- It is closely linked to the concept of the cycle of birth and death (samsara)

**Step 3: Analyze the options.**

- Path of liberation – refers to the Eightfold Path
- Dependent origination – correct meaning
- Cycle of rebirth – refers to samsara
- Ultimate truth – relates to Nirvana or Dharma

#### Quick Tip

Pratityasamutpada is often explained through the chain of twelve links (nidanas), illustrating the cycle of existence.

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**4. Which section of the Tripitaka contains the rules and discipline for the monastic order?**

- (A) Sutta Pitaka
- (B) Vinaya Pitaka
- (C) Abhidhamma Pitaka
- (D) Dharma Pitaka

**Correct Answer:** (B) Vinaya Pitaka

**Solution:**

**Concept:** The **Tripitaka** (Three Baskets) is the traditional collection of Buddhist scriptures, divided into three main sections:

- **Vinaya Pitaka** – rules and regulations for monks and nuns
- **Sutta Pitaka** – teachings and discourses of the Buddha
- **Abhidhamma Pitaka** – philosophical and doctrinal analysis

**Step 1:** Understand the purpose of each Pitaka.

Each section serves a different role in preserving Buddhist teachings and practices.

**Step 2:** Identify the section related to discipline.

The **Vinaya Pitaka** specifically deals with:

- Rules of conduct for monks (bhikkhus) and nuns (bhikkhunis)
- Ethical guidelines and disciplinary procedures
- Organization of the monastic community (Sangha)

**Step 3:** Analyze the options.

- Sutta Pitaka – discourses
- Vinaya Pitaka – discipline (correct)
- Abhidhamma Pitaka – philosophy
- Dharma Pitaka – not a standard division

**Quick Tip**

“Vinaya” means discipline—associate it with rules for monks to remember its function easily.

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**5. What are the 'Three Marks of Existence' (Tilakkhana) in Buddhism?**

- (A) Dharma, Sangha, Buddha
- (B) Suffering, Desire, Ignorance
- (C) Impermanence, Suffering, Non-self
- (D) Birth, Death, Rebirth

**Correct Answer:** (C) Impermanence, Suffering, Non-self

**Solution:**

**Concept:** The **Three Marks of Existence** (Tilakkhana) are fundamental characteristics that describe the nature of all conditioned phenomena in Buddhist philosophy. They form the basis for understanding reality and are essential for attaining insight and liberation.

The three marks are:

- **Anicca** (Impermanence) – everything is constantly changing
- **Dukkha** (Suffering) – existence involves dissatisfaction or suffering
- **Anatta** (Non-self) – there is no permanent, unchanging self

**Step 1: Understand each mark.**

- Impermanence – all things arise and pass away
- Suffering – attachment to impermanent things leads to suffering
- Non-self – the idea of a fixed self is an illusion

**Step 2: Analyze the options.**

- Dharma, Sangha, Buddha – Three Jewels of Buddhism
- Suffering, Desire, Ignorance – related but not the three marks
- Impermanence, Suffering, Non-self – correct
- Birth, Death, Rebirth – cycle of samsara

**Step 3: Select the correct answer.**

Thus, the Three Marks of Existence are Impermanence, Suffering, and Non-self.

**Quick Tip**

Remember: Anicca (change), Dukkha (unsatisfactoriness), Anatta (no self) — the core insight into reality in Buddhism.

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**6. Which Buddhist school is known for the doctrine of 'Sunyata' (Emptiness) as propounded by Nagarjuna?**

- (A) Theravada
- (B) Mahayana
- (C) Vajrayana
- (D) Hinayana

**Correct Answer:** (B) Mahayana

**Solution:**

**Concept:** The doctrine of **Sunyata** (Emptiness) is a central philosophical concept in Mahayana Buddhism. It was systematically developed by the great Buddhist philosopher **Nagarjuna**, who founded the Madhyamaka (Middle Way) school.

Sunyata teaches that:

- All phenomena are empty of inherent, independent existence
- Things exist only in dependence on causes and conditions
- This idea is closely related to *Pratityasamutpada* (dependent origination)

**Step 1: Understand the doctrine.**

Emptiness does not mean nothing exists; rather, it means nothing exists independently or permanently.

**Step 2: Identify the associated school.**

The concept of Sunyata is a hallmark of **Mahayana Buddhism**, especially in the Madhyamaka tradition.

**Step 3: Analyze the options.**

- Theravada – emphasizes original teachings, less focus on Sunyata
- Mahayana – emphasizes Sunyata (correct)
- Vajrayana – later development, includes tantric practices
- Hinayana – term historically used for early schools

**Step 4: Select the correct answer.**

Thus, the Mahayana school is associated with the doctrine of Sunyata.

**Quick Tip**

Nagarjuna's philosophy of Sunyata forms the foundation of the Madhyamaka school within Mahayana Buddhism.

**7. What is the name of the future Buddha who is currently residing in the Tushita Heaven?**

- (A) Avalokiteshvara
- (B) Maitreya
- (C) Manjushri
- (D) Amitabha

**Correct Answer:** (B) Maitreya

**Solution:**

**Concept:** In Buddhist tradition, **Maitreya** is regarded as the future Buddha who will appear on earth to renew the Dharma after the teachings of Gautama Buddha have declined. He is currently believed to reside in the **Tushita Heaven**, a celestial realm where Bodhisattvas await their final birth.

**Step 1: Understand the role of a future Buddha.**

A future Buddha is one who is destined to attain enlightenment and teach the Dharma in a future age.

**Step 2: Identify the correct figure.**

Maitreya is specifically mentioned in Buddhist texts as the Bodhisattva residing in Tushita Heaven awaiting his descent to earth.

**Step 3: Analyze the options.**

- Avalokiteshvara – Bodhisattva of compassion
- Maitreya – future Buddha (correct)
- Manjushri – Bodhisattva of wisdom
- Amitabha – Buddha associated with the Pure Land

**Quick Tip**

Maitreya is often depicted as a symbol of hope and the future renewal of Buddhist teachings.

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**8. The concept of 'Alayavijnana' (Storehouse Consciousness) is a central tenet of which philosophical school?**

- (A) Madhyamaka
- (B) Yogachara
- (C) Theravada
- (D) Vaibhashika

**Correct Answer:** (B) Yogachara

**Solution:**

**Concept: Alayavijnana**, or “Storehouse Consciousness,” is a key concept in Buddhist epistemology and psychology. It refers to a foundational level of consciousness that stores all impressions (samskaras), karmic seeds (bija), and experiences.

This concept is central to the **Yogachara** (also known as Vijnanavada) school of Mahayana Buddhism.

**Step 1: Understand Alayavijnana.**

It functions as:

- A repository of karmic imprints
- The basis for individual experience and perception
- A link explaining continuity of consciousness across rebirths

**Step 2: Identify the associated school.**

The Yogachara school emphasizes the role of consciousness in constructing reality and introduces detailed theories of mind, including Alayavijnana.

**Step 3: Analyze the options.**

- Madhyamaka – focuses on emptiness (Sunyata)

- Yogachara – focuses on consciousness (correct)
- Theravada – early Buddhist tradition
- Vaibhashika – Abhidharma-based school

**Step 4:** Select the correct answer.

Thus, the concept of Alayavijnana belongs to the Yogachara school.

#### Quick Tip

Yogachara is often called the “Mind-Only” school because it emphasizes that reality is shaped by consciousness.

**9. Which mudra (hand gesture) did the Buddha perform at the moment of his Enlightenment?**

- (A) Dharmachakra Mudra
- (B) Abhaya Mudra
- (C) Bhumisparsha Mudra
- (D) Dhyana Mudra

**Correct Answer:** (C) Bhumisparsha Mudra

**Solution:**

**Concept:** Mudras are symbolic hand gestures used in Buddhist iconography to convey specific meanings and events in the life of the Buddha. Each mudra represents a significant spiritual moment or teaching.

**Step 1:** Understand the event of Enlightenment.

At the moment of Enlightenment under the Bodhi tree, the Buddha is said to have called the Earth to witness his attainment of truth.

**Step 2:** Identify the mudra.

The **Bhumisparsha Mudra** (Earth-touching gesture) represents this moment, where the right hand touches the ground, symbolizing the Earth as witness.

**Step 3:** Analyze the options.

- Dharmachakra Mudra – teaching gesture (first sermon)
- Abhaya Mudra – gesture of fearlessness
- Bhumisparsha Mudra – enlightenment (correct)
- Dhyana Mudra – meditation gesture

#### Quick Tip

“Bhumisparsha” literally means “touching the earth,” marking the Buddha’s victory over ignorance and attainment of enlightenment.

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**10. In which town did Gautama Buddha deliver his first sermon, known as Dharmachakrapravartana?**

- (A) Bodh Gaya
- (B) Kushinagar
- (C) Sarnath
- (D) Lumbini

**Correct Answer:** (C) Sarnath

**Solution:**

**Concept:** After attaining Enlightenment at Bodh Gaya, Gautama Buddha traveled to deliver his first sermon. This event is known as **Dharmachakrapravartana** (Turning of the Wheel of Dharma), marking the beginning of his teaching career.

**Step 1: Understand the significance of the first sermon.**

In this sermon, Buddha explained:

- The Four Noble Truths
- The Eightfold Path

It laid the foundation of Buddhist teachings.

**Step 2: Identify the location.**

The first sermon was delivered at **Sarnath**, near Varanasi, in the Deer Park (Mrigadava).

**Step 3: Analyze the options.**

- Bodh Gaya – place of Enlightenment
- Kushinagar – place of Mahaparinirvana
- Sarnath – place of first sermon (correct)
- Lumbini – birthplace of Buddha

#### Quick Tip

Remember the sequence: Lumbini (birth) → Bodh Gaya (enlightenment) → Sarnath (first sermon) → Kushinagar (death).

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**11. What is the name of the dialogue between the Indo-Greek King Milinda and the monk Nagasena?**

- (A) Dhammapada
- (B) Milindapanha
- (C) Suttanipata
- (D) Mahavamsa

**Correct Answer:** (B) Milindapanha

**Solution:**

**Concept:** *Milindapanha* (Questions of King Milinda) is a famous Buddhist text that records a philosophical dialogue between the Indo-Greek King Menander (Milinda) and the Buddhist monk Nagasena.

**Step 1: Understand the nature of the text.**

It is a question-and-answer dialogue that explores deep Buddhist philosophical concepts such as:

- Nature of the self (Anatta)
- Karma and rebirth
- Ethical conduct and wisdom

**Step 2: Identify the correct work.**

The dialogue between King Milinda and Nagasena is compiled in *Milindapanha*.

**Step 3: Analyze the options.**

- Dhammapada – collection of sayings of Buddha
- Milindapanha – dialogue between Milinda and Nagasena (correct)
- Suttanipata – early Buddhist texts
- Mahavamsa – Sri Lankan historical chronicle

**Quick Tip**

Milindapanha is known for its logical and philosophical style, making complex Buddhist ideas easier to understand through dialogue.

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**12. Which category of the Eightfold Path includes Right Speech, Right Action, and Right Livelihood?**

- (A) Wisdom (Prajna)
- (B) Ethical Conduct (Sila)
- (C) Mental Discipline (Samadhi)
- (D) Meditation (Dhyana)

**Correct Answer:** (B) Ethical Conduct (Sila)

**Solution:**

**Concept:** The **Noble Eightfold Path** is the path taught by Buddha to end suffering. It is divided into three main categories:

- **Wisdom (Prajna)** – Right View, Right Intention
- **Ethical Conduct (Sila)** – Right Speech, Right Action, Right Livelihood
- **Mental Discipline (Samadhi)** – Right Effort, Right Mindfulness, Right Concentration

**Step 1: Identify the given components.**

The question lists:

- Right Speech
- Right Action
- Right Livelihood

**Step 2: Match with the correct category.**

All these belong to the **Ethical Conduct (Sila)** group.

**Step 3: Analyze the options.**

- Wisdom – related to understanding and insight
- Ethical Conduct – moral behavior (correct)
- Mental Discipline – meditation practices
- Meditation – part of mental discipline

**Step 4: Select the correct answer.**

Thus, the correct category is Ethical Conduct (Sila).

**Quick Tip**

A simple grouping: Wisdom (2), Ethics (3), Meditation (3) — helps remember the Eight-fold Path structure easily.

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**13. What are the five 'Skandhas' (Aggregates) that constitute a sentient being according to Buddhism?**

- (A) Dharma, Sangha, Buddha, Karma, Nirvana
- (B) Form, Sensation, Perception, Mental formations, Consciousness
- (C) Birth, Death, Suffering, Desire, Ignorance
- (D) Earth, Water, Fire, Air, Space

**Correct Answer:** (B) Form, Sensation, Perception, Mental formations, Consciousness

**Solution:**

**Concept:** In Buddhist philosophy, a sentient being is not viewed as a permanent self but as a collection of five aggregates known as the **Skandhas**. These aggregates explain the composition of an individual and support the doctrine of *Anatta* (non-self).

The five Skandhas are:

- **Rupa** (Form) – physical body and material elements
- **Vedana** (Sensation) – feelings (pleasant, unpleasant, neutral)
- **Samjna** (Perception) – recognition and identification
- **Samskara** (Mental formations) – thoughts, habits, volitions

- **Vijnana** (Consciousness) – awareness of experiences

**Step 1: Understand the idea of aggregates.**

The Skandhas collectively create the illusion of a permanent self, but each is impermanent and constantly changing.

**Step 2: Identify the correct set.**

Only one option correctly lists all five aggregates.

**Step 3: Analyze the options.**

- Dharma, Sangha, Buddha, etc. – Three Jewels and other concepts
- Form, Sensation, Perception, Mental formations, Consciousness – correct
- Birth, Death, etc. – general life concepts
- Earth, Water, etc. – five elements theory

**Quick Tip**

Remember the sequence: Rupa → Vedana → Samjna → Samskara → Vijnana — the five components of existence.

**14. Which ancient Indian university was a world-renowned centre for the study of Mahayana Buddhism?**

- (A) Takshashila
- (B) Nalanda
- (C) Vikramashila
- (D) Ujjain

**Correct Answer:** (B) Nalanda

**Solution:**

**Concept:** Ancient India was home to several great centres of learning, among which **Nalanda University** stands out as one of the most prestigious institutions for higher education, especially in Buddhist studies.

**Step 1: Understand the significance of Nalanda.**

Nalanda:

- Flourished between the 5th and 12th centuries CE
- Was supported by Gupta and later rulers
- Attracted students and scholars from across Asia
- Specialized in Mahayana Buddhism, philosophy, logic, and medicine

**Step 2: Compare with other universities.**

- Takshashila – earlier centre, diverse subjects

- Nalanda – major centre of Mahayana Buddhism (correct)
- Vikramashila – later Buddhist centre, also important
- Ujjain – known for astronomy and mathematics

**Step 3: Identify the correct answer.**

Nalanda was the most renowned centre for Mahayana Buddhist studies.

#### Quick Tip

Nalanda is often regarded as one of the world’s first residential universities with an extensive library and international scholars.

**15. Who is known as the 'Light of Asia' in modern literature related to the Buddha's life?**

- (A) Edwin Arnold
- (B) Rabindranath Tagore
- (C) Max Muller
- (D) T. W. Rhys Davids

**Correct Answer:** (A) Edwin Arnold

**Solution:**

**Concept:** *The Light of Asia* is a famous poetic work published in 1879 that presents the life and teachings of Gautama Buddha in an accessible and literary form for Western audiences. It played a significant role in introducing Buddhist philosophy to the modern world.

**Step 1: Identify the literary work.**

*The Light of Asia* is not a title given to a person, but rather a celebrated book about the Buddha.

**Step 2: Recognize the author.**

The work was written by **Edwin Arnold**, an English poet and journalist.

**Step 3: Analyze the options.**

- Edwin Arnold – author of *The Light of Asia* (correct)
- Rabindranath Tagore – Indian Nobel laureate poet
- Max Muller – scholar of Indology and Vedic texts
- T. W. Rhys Davids – Pali scholar and founder of the Pali Text Society

**Step 4: Conclusion.**

Thus, Edwin Arnold is associated with the work *The Light of Asia*, which popularized the life of the Buddha in modern literature.

#### Quick Tip

“The Light of Asia” is the title of the book, and Edwin Arnold is its author—this is a commonly asked exam point.

