

Ministry of Religious Affairs  
**International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University**  
Yangon, Myanmar  
(Entrance Examination for Diploma in Buddha Dhamma)  
January, 2008

**Paper I English Grammar and Composition Time allowed : two hours**

Answer all questions

**1. Join the following sentences with given conjunctions**

a. Yasa goes forth for the teaching of the Buddha.  
His friends go forth for the teaching of the Buddha. (as well as)

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b. A tortoise is a slow-going reptile.  
It wins the race against the hare. (although)

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c. Sakka often suggested to his son Suvira to launch a march against Asuras.  
Suvira ignored it.

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d. He went forth and practiced meditation.  
Very soon he became an Arahant.

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e. Ananda was a half-brother of the Lord Buddha.  
Ananda was a personal assistant of the Lord Buddha.

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**2. Supply the correct propositions**

- a. The police accused them \_\_\_\_\_ murder.
- b. You must take \_\_\_\_\_ account the fact that he was very young.
- c. It is the question \_\_\_\_\_ finding the right man.
- d. He poured coffee \_\_\_\_\_ our cups.
- e. He always seems to be \_\_\_\_\_ a hurry.
- f. I asked the waitress to take \_\_\_\_\_ the dirty dishes.
- g. The sign said, "Keep \_\_\_\_\_ the grass."
- h. There is someone knocking \_\_\_\_\_ the door.
- i. This car belongs \_\_\_\_\_ his brother.

j. The man fell \_\_\_\_\_ his horse and broke a leg.

**3. A. Change the following sentences into Passive Voice**

a. You must iron their dress for tonight.

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b. A sudden increase in water pressure would break the dam.

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c. Somebody will meet the visitors at the station.

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d. The police are sure to ask you that question.

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e. A new company has taken the business over.

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**B. Rewrite the following, putting the words in the brackets into the correct tense.**

1. If King Ajarasattu (not put) \_\_\_\_\_ to death his father, the first stage of Enlightenment (arise) \_\_\_\_\_ in him.
2. After Devadatta (be) \_\_\_\_\_ ill for nine months, he (speak) \_\_\_\_\_ to his disciples to take him to Buddha.
3. We (be ) \_\_\_\_\_ but mind and matter, and each of these (be) \_\_\_\_\_ a flux.
4. All health (end ) \_\_\_\_\_ in sickness, and pomp and splendor, fame and honor all (wilt) \_\_\_\_\_ before the face of death.
5. A man (reap) \_\_\_\_\_ even as he (sow) \_\_\_\_\_

**4. Write a letter to your parents who live in another town, telling them that you decided to join the international Theravada Buddhist Missionary University.**

**5. Write an essay on ONE of the following**

- a. The Buddha's Memorable Places in India.
- b. The Profundity of the Dhamma.
- c. Full Moon Night and Its Scene.
- d. A remarkable Person.

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**Paper II      General Knowledge      Time allowed : two hours**

**Answer all the question**

1. Can the world survive without religion? Give reasons for your answer.
2. Justify that Buddhism is not pessimistic.
3. What are the characteristics that signify a Buddhist? Explain.
4. "Morality is a good foundation the human society." Justify this statement.
5. Write an essay on one of the following:
  - a. The Four Noble Truths
  - b. Eight Noble Path
  - c. An Invaluable Life.

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**Paper I      English Grammar and Composition      Time allowed : two hours**

**Answer all questions**

**1. Read the passage**

If any one offers anything to a monk **who** even for a moment cultivates all embracing kindness, the merit, acquired by **him** through that offering, will be immeasurable. And how much more will **it** be in the case of a monk who continuously cultivates that great kindness. Thus, Subhuti, a great monk, when **he** went before house for alms, use to fall at once into a trance of meditation on all-embracing kindness till the alms were brought to **him**, and then to accept it after emerging first from the mental absorption. This he did so as to increase the amount of merit due to the giver of alms.

**Answer the following questions**

(a) What do the underlined words in the passage refer to?

1. who \_\_\_\_\_      2. him \_\_\_\_\_      3. it \_\_\_\_\_  
4. he \_\_\_\_\_      5. him \_\_\_\_\_

(b) Say whether the following statements are True or False.

- (i) Merit one gets from the offering of anything to a monk is immeasurable.
- (ii) The greater all-embracing kindness of a monk who accepts the offering, the more immeasurable the merit acquired by a donor.
- (iii) Subhuti used to cultivate all embracing kindness in front of a house for alms.
- (iv) He emerged from mental absorption just before he accepted the offering.
- (v) He increased the amount of the merit of a giver of alms in this way.

(c) Match the word in column (a) with its meaning in column (b)

**Column (a)**

- 1. acquired
- 2. brought
- 3. immeasurable
- 4. trance
- 5. absorption

**Column (b)**

- a. took
- b. infinite
- c. obtained
- d. fascination
- e. a state of one-pointedness of mind

(d) Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

(i) Who will get the merit?

\_\_\_\_\_

(ii) What merit will be much more immeasurable?

\_\_\_\_\_

(iii) Who was Subhuti?

\_\_\_\_\_

(iv) How did he accept the offering?

\_\_\_\_\_

(v) Why did he do so?

\_\_\_\_\_

**2. Join the following sentences with given conjunctions**

(a) The King Suddhodana prevented his son from renouncing the throne.  
He wanted his son to become the universal king. (because)

\_\_\_\_\_

(b) Prince Siddhatta renounced the throne.  
He renounced his family and possession. (as well as)

\_\_\_\_\_

(c) Patacari was in despair on the loss of the parents and family.  
She became a Noble person after hearing the teachings of Buddha.  
(despite)

\_\_\_\_\_

(d) The Lord Buddha is a Noble One. (not only ... but also)  
The Lord Buddha is an Enlighten One, who realized Nibbana by himself

\_\_\_\_\_

(e) The rich man named Anathapindika met Lord Buddha.  
He became a Noble person. (as soon as)

\_\_\_\_\_

**3. (A) Change the following sentences into Passive Voice.**

(a) The teacher brings several essay books.

\_\_\_\_\_

(b) You must take care of your parents.

\_\_\_\_\_

(c) The boss has increased the working hours.

\_\_\_\_\_

(d) My father will punish the elder brother.

\_\_\_\_\_

(e) The Buddhist monk gives dhamma talk to his disciples.

\_\_\_\_\_

**4. Give the opposites of the following words.**

Happiness \_\_\_\_\_ hatred \_\_\_\_\_ dead \_\_\_\_\_  
Evil \_\_\_\_\_ safe \_\_\_\_\_ later \_\_\_\_\_  
More \_\_\_\_\_ clean \_\_\_\_\_ clever \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Write a letter to your friend about your plan of joining this University.**

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**Paper II**

**General Knowledge**

**Time allowed : two hours**

**Answer all questions**

1. Describe the following
  - (a) The Noble Truth
  - (b) The Noble Paths
2. Explain the three Universal Characteristics according to Theravada Buddhist perspective.
3. State clearly why the propagation and promotion of Buddhism is necessary.
4. What are the means and ways to become a good Buddhist?
5. Write an essay on one of the followings.
  - (a) Five Precepts for lay people
  - (b) The Birthday of Lord Buddha.
  - (c) My Missionary Work a Overseas

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**Paper 1      English Grammar and Composition      Time allowed : two hours**

**Answer all questions**

**1. Explain any two of the following**

(a) Action speaks louder than words.

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(b) When in Rome, do as the Roman.

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(c) Prevention is better than cure.

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**2. Write one word for each of words given below (The first letter of each word is given)**

Example:

increase the speed .....(a) = accelerate

- (a) resting on the surface of water or in air \_\_\_\_\_ (f)  
(b) motor van for carrying wounded or sick people \_\_\_\_\_ (a)  
(c) the lowest part of anything \_\_\_\_\_ (b)  
(d) put in the ground and cover with earth \_\_\_\_\_ (b)  
(e) costing very little money \_\_\_\_\_ (c)  
(f) a person's female child \_\_\_\_\_ (d)  
(g) money paid as a penalty \_\_\_\_\_ (f)  
(h) fail to remember or recall \_\_\_\_\_ (f)  
(i) make or produce good on a large scale \_\_\_\_\_ (m)  
(j) person who has received or receiving medial treatment \_\_\_\_\_ (p)

**3. Rewrite the following sentences, using the conjunctions given in brackets.**

(a) If we are attached to our lives, we will not be free from suffering . (Unless)

(b) However rich one is, he must leave everything one day. (Although)

---

(c) Buddhist people meditate for the purpose of attaining the bliss of Nibbana. (so that)

---

(d) Unless you are contented with what you get, you cannot live a happy live. (Either ... or)

---

(e) Sloth and indolence are the roads to death. (not only ... but also)

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**4. Fill in the blanks with correct prepositions.**

(a) Look \_\_\_\_\_ me and listen to me carefully.

(b) We should be afraid \_\_\_\_\_ suffering Samsara.

(c) Meditators must depart \_\_\_\_\_ unsuitable place for meditation practice.

(d) It is advisable for all of us not to associate \_\_\_\_\_ fools.

(e) Meditation teachers look \_\_\_\_\_ their trainees all time.

(f) It is dark in here. Please turn \_\_\_\_\_ the light.

(g) Man's life consist \_\_\_\_\_ ups and downs.

(h) The man ran \_\_\_\_\_ thief but could not catch him.

(i) You should take \_\_\_\_\_ your shoes at the gate.

(j) The teacher has advised him to abstain \_\_\_\_\_ smoking.

**5. Write an essay on one of the following**

(a) Buddha, the Founder of Buddhism

(b) A Successful Life.

(c) Loving-kindness.

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**Paper 2            General Knowledge            Time allowed : two hours**

**Answer all questions**

1. What are the Five Precepts? Mention the importance of the Five Precepts in our daily life.
2. Do you believe in Cause and Effect? Why?
3. How do you understand good deeds and bad deeds? Explain.
4. Write an essay on “Religion and Society”
5. How do you understand about the term Buddhism?

OR

State the main differences between Thevarāda Buddhism and Mahāyāna Buddhism.

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**Paper I                      English Grammar and Composition                      Time allowed : two hours**

**Answer all questions**

1. Read the passage

This monk, after using any piece of furniture (such as a couch bench or stool) belonging to the monastery, would leave it outside in the compound, thus exposing it to rain, sun and white ants. When other monks chided him for his irresponsible behavior, he would retort, "I do not have the intention to destroy those things; after all, very little damage has been done," and so on and so forth and he continued to behave in the same way. When the Buddha came to know about this, he sent for the monk and said to him, "Monk, you should not behave in this way; you should not think lightly of an evil action, however small it may be; because, it will grow big if you do it habitually."

Write the new sentence by using the underlined words

- a) after using
  - b) and so on and so forth
  - c) in the same way
  - d) should not behave
  - e) An evil action
2. (a) Fill in the blanks with suitable words
- a) Prices have \_\_\_\_\_ steeply since last August.
  - b) Three old trees will have to be \_\_\_\_\_ because they are dangerous.
  - c) My lost his balance and \_\_\_\_\_ heavily.
  - d) My grandfather \_\_\_\_\_ this film in 1924.
  - e) The United Nations was \_\_\_\_\_ in 1945.

(b) Finish each sentence in such a way that it means exactly the same as the sentence given

- a) 'I wish to speak to your father,' said the teacher to the boy.  
The teacher told \_\_\_\_\_
- b) People are not allowed to walk on the grass in public garden.  
No one \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Yangon is the most popular city in Myanmar.  
No other \_\_\_\_\_
- d) 'Who has stolen my watch?' she asked.

- She wanted to know \_\_\_\_\_
- f) His father beat him for not attending class regularly  
He \_\_\_\_\_
3. Construct correct sentences using the following
- a) not only ..... but also
  - b) no sooner ..... than
  - c) whether ..... or
  - d) so .... that
  - e) either ..... or
4. Write the letters to your friend telling him / her how you are planning to join the International Theravāda Buddhist Missionary University.
5. Write an essay on **one** of the following (about 200 words)
- a) A religious festival in our country.
  - b) The subject I enjoy learning most.
  - c) The Three precious Gems.

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**Paper 2**

**General Knowledge**

**Time allowed : two hours**

**Answer all questions**

1. Write a short paragraph on a brief history of the Buddha.
2. “Morality is a good foundation for the human society.” Justify this statement.
3. Give a brief account on four major religions.
4. What is the final goal of the Buddhists?
5. Do you agree the statement “A religion is necessary for a person’s social and moral life”. Why?

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**Paper 2    English Grammar and Composition    Time allowed : two hours**

**Answer all questions**

1. Read the passage

Sīla (morality) is not a set of commandment handed down by the Buddha, and it need not be confined to Buddhist teachings. It is actually derived from a basic sense of humanity. For example, suppose we have a spurt of anger and want to harm another being. If we put ourselves in that other being's place, and honestly contemplate the action we have been planning, we will quickly answer "No, I wouldn't want that done to me. That would be cruel and unjust." If we feel this way about some action that we plan, we can be quite sure that the action is unwholesome (akusalakamma). In this way, morality can be understood as a manifestation of our sense of oneness with other beings.

Write the new sentences by using the underlined words

- a) handed down
- b) derived from
- c) cruel and unjust
- d) can be understood
- e) sense of oneness

2. Choose the correct preposition

- a) I was angry **to / with/ of** myself for making such a stupid mistake.
- b) You are not very good **of / at/ with** explaining things.
- c) Are you afraid **to / of / with** unwholesome deeds?
- d) Parents are delighted **at / to / of** hearing the news of children's success.
- e) Yangon in Myanmar is famous **to / for / at** its Shwedagon Pagoda.

3. Reorder the following

- 1) for /criteria/ livelihood/ are/ two /there /right.
- 2) attachment / of /process /occurs /if /arises /becoming /the.
- 3) generate /ignorance /by /of /aversion /and /action /craving /we /blinded.
- 4) earn /my /is /money /how /much /business/I.
- 5) at /lunch /one /o'clock /ready /usually /I /get /the.
- 6) did /the /do /chance /it /to /the /guests /have?
- 7) have / the motorists/ to /care /take /warned/ extra/ police.

- 8) promised /boss /workers /rise /a /the /pay /the.  
9) be /going /to /cattle /by /sold /peasants /are /the /the.  
10)the /class /go /like /would /to /not /you /yoga /to?

4. Write a letter to your friend telling him or her how you have been studying the Buddha Dhamma. OR  
Write a letter to your friend explaining him or her about the practice of Buddhism in daily life.
5. Write an essay on one of the following (about 200 words)
- Blessings, the Cause of Happiness
  - What is the best Buddhism can render to the global village.
  - Theravāda Buddhism in your perspective.
  - New year in my land.

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**Paper 2**

**General Knowledge**

**Time allowed : two hours**

**Answer all questions**

- How will you explain Sīla (morality), that is, the basic sense of humanity?
- Buddhism accepts the idea of mental and physical phenomena. How do you think it is strong and solid or not? Explain.
- How do you understand the law of Kamma in Buddhism?
- How do you ally the Buddha's teaching for peaceful life according to the three training (Sikkhā)?
- How do you understand that " the meditation is a practical way to be happy in life"?

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January, 2013

**Paper 1      English Grammar and Composition      Time allowed : two hours**

**Answer all questions**

**1. Read the passage**

The theory of *Kamma* is different from “moral justice” or “reward and punishment”. The idea of moral justice is the conception of supreme being i.e. God, who is a law-giver and sits in judgment, deciding what is right and wrong. *Kamma* is a law in itself. But it does not follow that there should be a law giver. Inherent in *Kamma* is the potentiality of producing its due effect. The cause naturally produces the effect. *Kamma* is like a seed that produces the fruit. Therefore, *Kamma* is a natural law and it has nothing to do with the ideas of justice that is governed by God or other mighty-beings. The law of action, according to which good or appropriate acts give rise to good effects, and bad or inappropriate acts give rise to bad effects, is impelling a chain of successive births, each life’s condition being explained by actions in the previous life. Every physical event has its cause and every cause will have its determinate effects. The theory of *Kamma* extends the concept of causation to include moral and spiritual life as well. Therefore, the theory of *Kamma* is easy to understand thus,

“ As a man sows, so shall he reap.”

Write the new sentences by using the underlined words.

- (a) who is
- (b) its due
- (c) has nothing to do with
- (d) according to
- (e) is easy to

**2. (a) Join two clauses, using RELATIVE PRONOUN**

1. A lay adherent does not observe five precepts. He lives the home-life without self-confidence.
2. Nibbāna is our ultimate goal. Why do we want to attain to it?
3. Bagan is traditionally known to be founded in the 9<sup>th</sup> century. It reached the zenith of its political and cultural progress during the dynasty of “Temple builders”.

4. Myanmar is situated in Southeast Asia. It is a predominantly Theravāda Buddhist country.
5. Our Rector Sayadaw is a learned one. He is now 72 years old.

**(b) Rewrite the following, omitting RELATIVE PRONOUN**

1. Everyone loves a person who disseminates loving-kindness impersonally.
2. One day we have to leave everything which we possess.
3. A person who is much knowledge may make mistakes when lacking a good sense.
4. A person who offers only lip-service will lose other's admiration
5. Tears which are differently dependent on individuals as cool or hot are said to be medicinal.

**3. (a) Change the Voice in the following sentences:**

1. Shall I ever forget those happy days?
2. By whom was this jug broken?
3. One cannot gather grapes from thistles.
4. Without effort nothing can be gained.
5. Subject him to a severe examination.

**(b) Report the following in Indirect Speech:**

1. He said, "I am glad to be here this evening."
2. "Where do you live?" asked the stranger.
3. He said, "Be quiet and listen to my words."
4. She said, "How clever I am!"
5. He said, "I have passed the examination."

4. Write a letter to your friend telling him or her why you want to attend the International Theravāda Buddhist Missionary University.

5. Write the essay on one of the following

- (a) Buddhism
- (b) What I want to do in life

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**Paper II**

**General Knowledge**

**Time allowed : two hours**

**Answer all questions**

1. How do you understand the teaching of the Buddha ? Explain.
2. The role of religion is great in a society. Explain
3. What are differences between the nature of Cittas (consciousness) and Cetasika (mental states)?
4. Buddhism never encourages blind-faith. Explain.
5. Do you think that you can attain peace of mind by meditation? Explain



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**Paper 1    English Grammar and Composition    Time allowed : two hours**

**Answer all questions**

**1. Read the passage**

Walk, monks, on tour for the blessing of many folk, for the happiness of the many folk out of compassion for the world, for the welfare, the blessing, the happiness of *devas* and men. Let not two of you go by one way. Monks, teach *dhamma* which is lovely at the beginning, lovely in the middle, lovely at the ending. Explain with the spirit and the letter, the Brahma-faring completely fulfilled, wholly pure. There are beings with little dust in their eyes, who, not hearing *dhamma*, are decaying, but if they are learners of *dhamma*, they will grow. And I, monks, will go along to *Uruvela*, to the Camp township, in order to teach *dhamma*.

Write the new sentence by using the underlined words

- (a) monks
- (b) compassion
- (c) middle
- (d) spirit
- (e) dust

**2. Complete the following sentences**

- (a) Many tourists are \_\_\_\_\_ to Myanmar by its pagodas.
- (b) Because of the supply of teak, \_\_\_\_\_ houses are found everywhere in Myanmar.
- (c) Developing countries \_\_\_\_\_ first develop their agriculture resources.
- (d) Other traditional crafts \_\_\_\_\_ wood carving are admired by the visitors.
- (e) The Great Wall is in \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Rewrite the following sentences with the correct forms of the verbs given in brackets**

- (a) Queen Māyā (have) \_\_\_\_\_ many beautiful necklaces and some  
(make)\_\_\_\_\_ of diamonds.
- (b) Teacher sometimes (teach) \_\_\_\_\_ while (use) \_\_\_\_\_ the power-point.
- (c) We (just, come) \_\_\_\_\_ back from the convocation; I (not, see)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Ven Nāyaka.
- (d) Mr. Zaw Tun (use) \_\_\_\_\_ this computer for three years and he (decide)  
\_\_\_\_\_ to buy a new one.
- (e) I (plan) \_\_\_\_\_ to start a small enterprise; I (hope) \_\_\_\_\_ I can  
manage it well.

4. Write a letter to your friend telling him or her why you become much interested in Buddhism and that you have decided how to spend most of your time studying it.

5. Write an essay on **one** of the following (about 200 words)

- (a) Buddha Ratanā and the **Nine** Supreme Virtues of the Buddha.
- (b) Dhamma Ratanā and the **Six** Supreme Virtues of the Dhamma.
- (c) Saṅgha Ratanā and the **Nine** Supreme Virtues of the Saṅgha.

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**Paper II**

**General knowledge**

**Time allowed : Two hours**

**Answer the questions**

1. Explain briefly in 250 words why you want to study in the International Theravāda Buddhist Missionary University.
2. How do you understand the Three Piṭakas and Five Nikāyas? Explain.
3. What are the basic teachings of the Buddha and in what way they will help the well-being of the human society?
4. Does Buddhism advocate the sacrifice of animals to gods? Explain.
5. Man now needs meditation more than ever. Why?

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**Oral Examination**

**All questions are to be asked for each student**

1. Talk about a brief history of the Buddha.  
For instance, tell where and when he was born.
2. How do you understand Sīla, Samādhi and Paññā?
3. How many kinds of noble Paths are there Buddhism? Count them.
4. Give three reasons why you want to join this University.
5. Do you consider Myanmar country to be a Golden Land and why?

Ministry of Religious Affairs  
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January, 2015

**Paper 1 English Grammar and Composition Time allowed : two hours**

**Answer all questions**

**1. Read the passage**

The Tathāgata made the King Suddhodana carry his alms-bowl and accompanied by the two chief Disciples, went into the parlour of the queen. On arrival at the chamber of Queen Yasodarā, the Tathāgata commanded “Let no one utter any word to hinder or restrain Princess Yadodarā while she is paying me homage to her heart’s content,” and then he took his seat at a place specially prepared for him in advance. Queen Yasodarā, came quickly into the presence of the Tathāgata and seizing his pair of insteps with both hands and all her strength she held them closely and tightly in her arms. She rested her forehead upon them, alternately left and right, and again and again obeisance to him to her heart’s content with deep, profound esteem and respect.

**Write the new sentence by using the underlined words.**

- (a) alms-bowl
- (b) the two chief Disciples
- (c) to her heart’s content
- (d) Queen Yasodarā
- (e) Obeisance

**2. Write down the correct tenses of the verbs given in the brackets**

Siddattha (be) \_\_\_\_\_ born on this earth as every man (be) \_\_\_\_\_, but through His own efforts He (become) \_\_\_\_\_ the Enlightened One. He (make) \_\_\_\_\_ no claim of divine birth or to be a messenger sent to this earth to save mankind from their sins. He simply (point) \_\_\_\_\_ out to men the path to a harmonious and dignified life and (guide) \_\_\_\_\_ them onto the eternal peace. He (tell) \_\_\_\_\_ them to rely on themselves and (say) \_\_\_\_\_ that there (be) \_\_\_\_\_ no need for them to look for help from outside but within to save them from the results of their sins. “Self (be) \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord of self,” (say) \_\_\_\_\_ He. If man (trust) \_\_\_\_\_ himself and (try) \_\_\_\_\_ to utilize his latent power and strength, he (attain) \_\_\_\_\_ anything possible for a man to achieve without restoring to any outside help. He indeed ( point) \_\_\_\_\_ out to them that they (make) \_\_\_\_\_ themselves for they (be) \_\_\_\_\_ the creators of their own

happiness and miseries and no one else. “Ye (reap) \_\_\_\_\_ what ye (sow) \_\_\_\_\_, “ He (add) \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Fill in the blanks with the correct forms of words.**

(understand) is (essential) an (enlighten) (insight) experience which can be termed “pattern-grasp”. The (practise) of objective techniques removes us from any (possible) of (gain) his grasp of events, by (oppose) us to events. Pattern-grasp arises, and can only arise, from the many (pull), and (push), (tug) and (shove), which give to events, amid events. This is not a (logic) procedure, for it has no (possible) of (be) (ultimate) abstracted from events and made (form) and objective; but neither is it logical in the sense of being (haphazard) insane, for it is not utterly (subject), being continuously (respond) to other events. Pattern-grasping involves, if you like, a totality of object and subject, and this is Holism for Scientist.

4. Write a letter to your friend telling him or her why you want to join the International Theravāda Buddhist Missionary University.

5. Write an essay on **one** of the following

(a) Theravāda and Mahāyāna Buddhism.

(b) Spread of Buddhism in Asian Countries.

(c) Mettā – the only way to live together peacefully .



Ministry of Religious Affairs  
**International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University**  
Yangon, Myanmar  
(*Entrance Examination for Diploma in Buddha Dhamma*)  
January, 2015

**Paper II      General Knowledge      Time allowed : two hours**

**Answer all questions**

1. Why does a Buddhist take the third refuge - Saṃgha? Explain.
2. What do you understand by the Middle way of Buddhism?
3. There are Three Piṭakas (baskets) in Theravāda Buddhist Scriptures.  
Explain.
4. How do you understand Law of Kamma in Buddhism?
5. Explain briefly in 250 words why you want to understand about the fully Enlightened One.

Ministry of Religious Affairs  
**International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University**  
Yangon, Myanmar  
(*Entrance Examination for Diploma in Buddha Dhamma*)  
January, 2016

**Paper I      English Grammar and Composition      Time allowed : two hours**

**Answer all questions**

**1.      Read the passage**

Holding the sāla branch, Queen Mahāmāyā stood majestically in a dress of gold-threaded brocade and draped down to the tip of her feet in a full-length white embroidered shawl with exquisite patterns resembling the eyes of a carp. At that very moment she felt the unmistakable signs of the impending birth. Her retinue cordoned off the area with curtains and withdrew.

As the flying precious jewel emerging from the top of Mount Vepulla hovers and then descends slowly on a readily placed receptacle, so the Bodhisatta magnificently adorned with major and minor physical marks, was delivered clean and pure from the stupa-like lotus-womb of Mahāmāyā Devī on Friday the full moon of Vesākha, a summer month in the year 68, Mahā Era, when the moon was in conjunction with the constellation Visākha.

a) Write the correct word or words to complete each sentence.

- 1) Queen Mahāmāyā stood seizing the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2) Queen Mahāmāyā experienced the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3) Retinue of \_\_\_\_\_ hastily cordoned off the area.
- 4) The flying jewel descends slowly on a readily placed receptacle from the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) The Bodhisatta was delivered in \_\_\_\_\_.

b) Answer each question in one sentence.

- 1) What kind of dress did Queen Mahāmāyā wear?
- 2) How did Queen Mahāmāyā feel?
- 3) What did the retinue do?
- 4) How was the Bodhisatta delivered?
- 5) When was the Bodhisatta born?

2. Complete the following sentences using the words shown in the brackets

- a) Kamma (be) action, and Vipīka, fruit or result, is (it) reaction.
- b) Just as every object is accompanied (to /by /from) a shadow, even so every volitional activity is (inevitable) accompanied by its due effect.

- c) Like potential seed (be) kamma. Fruit, arising (to /from / by) the tree, is the Vipāka.
  - d) Inherent (on / at/ in ) Kamma is the potentiality of producing its due effect.
  - e) The king was so desirous (for /in/ of) hearing the Dhamma
3. Put the following into Direct Speech
- a) The Mayor said, ‘ It gives me a great pleasure to open this new hospital.’
  - b) The health officer said, ‘Everyone has to be vaccinated against small pox.’
  - c) ‘Where can I get food and lodging for the night,’ the traveler inquired.
  - d) The friend asked, ‘Have you any message for me?’
  - e) The officer said to his man, ‘Don’t shoot till I give the word.’
4. Write a letter to your friend telling him what makes you to be interested in Buddhism meditation.
5. Write an essay on one of the following (about 200 words)
- a) Buddha Ratanā and the Nine Supreme Virtues of the Buddha.
  - b) A Visit to a Buddhist Land.
  - c) Buddhist Loving-kindness.

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Ministry of Religious Affairs  
**International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University**  
Yangon, Myanmar  
(*Entrance Examination for Diploma in Buddha Dhamma*)  
January, 2016

**Paper II**

**General Knowledge**

**Time allowed : two hours**

**Answer all questions**

1. Why do some people believe that Buddhism is extremism without giving any reason? Explain briefly in about 150 words.
2. What is the meaning of the three trainings in Buddhism? Write the classification of the three trainings and explain them why they are important for a Buddhist.
3. Write a short paragraph on 'Necessity of Religion.'
4. How do you understand the Noble Truths in Buddhism? Explain.
5. Give brief account of the Abhidhamma Pitaka (the basket of Buddhist Philosophy).

Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture  
**International Theravāda Buddhist Missionary University**  
Yangon, Myanmar  
(Entrance Examination for Diploma in Buddha Dhamma)  
January, 2017

**Paper I      English Grammar and Composition      Time allowed: Two hours**

**Answer all questions**

**1. Read the passage**

Of thing that proceed from a cause,  
Their cause the Tathāgata has told,  
And also their cessation:  
Thus teaches the Great Ascetic.

**Upatissa** was sufficiently enlightened to comprehend such a lofty teaching though succinctly expressed. He was only in need of a slight indication to discover the truth. So well did the Venerable **Assaji** guide him on his upward path that immediately on hearing the first two lines, he attained the first stage of Sainthood, *Sotāpatti*.

The new convert **Upatissa** must have been, no doubt, destitute of words to thank to his heart's content his venerable teacher for introducing him to the sublime teachings of the Buddha. He expressed his deep indebtedness for his brilliant exposition of the truth, and obtaining from him the necessary particulars with regard to the Master, took his leave.

Construct new sentences using the words given below

- |                 |                   |                           |
|-----------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| a) sufficiently | b) succinctly     | c) to his heart's content |
| d) indebtedness | e) with regard to |                           |

What do the underlined words in the passage refer to?

- |          |        |        |
|----------|--------|--------|
| a) their | b) him | c) his |
| d) his   | e) him |        |

**2. Complete the sentences using the correct tense**

- He (is / is being) very nice to me at the moment. I wonder why.
- Don't put the dictionary away. I (use) it.
- You look tired. (Have you worked / Have you been working) hard?
- He (read / has read) 30 pages so far.
- Maung Maung fell off a ladder yesterday but he is all right.  
He (could / could have hurt) himself badly.

**3. Change into direct speech**

- 'Please wait for me until I return', said U Ba
- He said to the shopkeeper, "Bring me a cup of tea."
- The teacher said, "Silence in the classroom.'

- d) “Take the food away”, he said to the waiter, “ It is not properly cooked.”  
e) She said, “I am praying for the day when my son will come back.”
4. People say that Buddhism is pessimistic religion. Do you agree with them and do you want to explain to them?
5. Write an essay on one of the following:  
a) Buddha, a good moral philosopher.  
b) Rain retreat  
c) As you sow, so shall you reap

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Ministry of Religious Affairs  
**International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University**  
Yangon, Myanmar  
(*Entrance Examination for Diploma in Buddha Dhamma*)  
January, 2017

**Paper I**

**General Knowledge**

**Time allowed: Two hours**

**Answer all questions**

1. The Buddha preached three training rules: morality (sīla), concentration (samādhi) and wisdom (paññā). Among them, what is the role of the first one? Explain.
2. Shwedagon is a great land mark of Myanmar which is well known in the world. Do you have any knowledge about it? Write an essay on its history.
3. Explain how the Buddha worked for the people of the world after his Enlightenment.
4. How do you understand the similarities and differences between the Theravāda and Mahāyāna Schools?
5. What is the meaning of Nibbāna? Is it that Samsāra and Nibbāna are same or not?

Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture  
**International Theravāda Buddhist Missionary University**  
Yangon, Myanmar  
(Entrance Examination for Diploma in Buddha Dhamma)  
January, 2018

**Paper I      English Grammar and Composition      Time allowed: Two hours**

**Answer all questions**

**1. Read the passage**

Lomahamsa, the Bodhisatta, when his parents died, gave all his properties in donation and went into a forest. Although he wished to become an ascetic, he did not have a desire to be praised by people. So he wandered around with a single set of clothing. He did not stay for a long time in a place where he was well treated and revered. When he reached a village, though he was jeered and mocked insolently by wicked children and drunkards, he was not angry with them. In a cemetery, he slept with his head in a skull. The wicked kids gathered, and insulted him by spitting and discharging excrement and urine on him. He neither got angry with the children nor blamed them, nor felt depressed. Some people offered him flowers, good food and drinks. But he did not feel affectionate towards them either. His attitude towards good and bad was different. He steadfastly maintained equilibrium of the mind (upekkhā) under any situation.

Match the words in column (a) with the words of same meaning in column(b)

Column (a)	Column (b)
1. Properties	(a) desire
2. Wander	(b) alcoholics
3. Drunkards	(c) possessions
4. Strong wish	(d) evil
5. Wicked	(e) move

Answer the following questions in complete sentences

- (a) Who gave all his properties in donation and went into a forest?
- (b) Where did he not stay for a long time?
- (c) What did he do in a cemetery?
- (d) How did the wicked kids insult him?
- (e) How did he maintain equilibrium of the mind under any situation?

**2. Combine the following individual sentences into single sentences using Relative pronouns “who, which and that”**

1. The last record (the record was produced by this company) became a gold record.
2. The professor (you spoke to the professor yesterday) is not here today.
3. He bought a camera. The camera has three lenses.
4. The doctor is with a patient. The patient's leg was broken in an accident.
5. This is the book. I have been looking for this book all year.

3. Change into **Passive Voice**

1. Ko ko bought a new television.
2. Who invented the car?
3. Someone stole my shoes last night.
4. He sold a car and bought a house.
5. The professor gave them a piece of advice.
6. No one stole anything from my purse.
7. They have not caught the thief yet.
8. Which color do you like the best?
9. Identity cards must be brought by all candidates to the examination hall.

4. Change into **Indirect speech**

1. Mother said to her daughter, "I will buy you a new bag tomorrow."
2. Thi Thi said, "Mya Mya, how many marks did you get in the last monthly test?"
3. The Thwesaid to Hla Hla, "Why were you late last night?"
4. The Doctor said to U Ba, "Take medicine after eating."
5. My boss said, "Have you done your work?"
6. "Will you lend me a pencil?" Lin Lin said to Nyi Nyi
7. "Be always polite and respectful," father said to his son.
8. The teacher said to Hla Hla, "You can sit here."
9. "Will you not sit down?" the teacher said to Zaw Zaw
10. "Shall I ever see her again?" He wondered.

5. Write a letter to your friend about your plan of joining the International Theravāda Buddhist Missionary University.

Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture  
**International Theravāda Buddhist Missionary University**  
Yangon, Myanmar  
(Entrance Examination for Diploma in Buddha Dhamma)  
January, 2018

**Paper II      English Grammar and Composition      Time allowed: Two hours**

**Answer all questions**

1. How do you understand the significance of the Four **Brahma-vihāra** (sublime states, or divine abodes)? What are the four sublime states?
2. Non-violence plays very important role in Buddhism. How do you understand it?
3. **Myanmar** is well-known as Golden Land in the world. Do you have any knowledge about it? Write an essay on it.
4. Two famous principles for all Buddhists:” **Buddhaṃ saraṇaṃ gacchāmi**” and “**Attāhi attano nātho**” are seemed to be contradictory to understand by non-Buddhists. How do you understand these two principles as a Buddhist?
6. Buddhism is known as a peaceful religion. Why do the people in worldwide think that it is extremism? Explain your view!

Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture  
**International Theravāda Buddhist Missionary University**  
Yangon, Myanmar  
(Entrance Examination for Diploma in Buddha Dhamma)  
January, 2020

Paper I    English Grammar and Composition    Time allowed: Two hours

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Answer all questions.

1. Use the most suitable tense (Present, Past, or Present perfect).

- (a) I (learn) English for the last two years, and now I (study) Russian, too.
- (b) I (not see) him for a long time. I (can) not remember when I last (see) him.
- (c) He (write) a lot of letters yesterday.
- (d) At present he (read) a Buddhist discourse; it is the third discourse he (read) this year.
- (e) He never (see) the sea. He (want) to go last year, but he (have) no money.

2. Put the following sentences into Passive Voice.

- (a) She showed the visitors the new baby.
- (b) They told him to be quick.
- (c) One cannot eat an orange if nobody has peeled it. (2 Passives)
- (d) I should love someone to take me out dinner. (Passive Infinitive)
- (e) Nobody has spoken to me like that before.

3. Read the passage.

There are many lives of the *Bodhisatta* in which he fulfilled the perfection of renunciation. Of them, the life of Prince *Ayoghara* is the most notable. After the birth of the Prince, he had to live only in an iron cage due to the danger of ogres. He had to learn lessons there up to the age of sixteen. When he was sixteen, his father arranged to give him the throne and he was taken out of the cage. At that time, the prince thought to himself: "I had been in my mother's womb for ten months and in the iron cage for sixteen years. Though I had escaped from them, I have not escaped from the death yet." So, he relinquished the royal throne and went to the forest to lead an ascetic life.

(A) What do the underlined words refer to? Answer them in order.

- (i) them    (ii) his    (iii) my    (iv) them    (v) he

To Page 2

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Answer all questions.

1. What is the special characteristic of Buddhism? Explain how it is different from other world religions.
2. Clarify the importance of the Order (*Samgha*) in the development of Theravāda Buddhism.
3. The morality (*Sīla*) is the first, the foundation and the very beginning of Buddha's dispensation. Give an explanation of how important it is.
4. Explain the connection between Noble Eightfold Path and Emancipation from suffering.
5. Write an essay on action (*Kamma*).

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### Oral Examination

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All questions are to be asked for each student. (100 Marks)

1. Why do you choose this university to study Buddhism?
2. What is *Pāramī*? How many perfections (*Pāramīs*) are there in Buddhism?
3. What are the three kinds of Buddhist dispensation (*Sāsana*)?
4. How many meditation methods are there in Theravāda Buddhism? Enumerate Ten *Kasiṇas* among them.
5. What will you do after graduating from this university?

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Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture  
**International Theravāda Buddhist Missionary University**  
Yangon, Myanmar  
(Entrance Examination for Diploma in Buddha Dhamma)  
January, 2022

**Diploma Entrance Examination (2022-2023)**

**Paper I English Grammar and Compositions**

**Time allowed: Two Hours**

- I. The Deva Setaketu, after making the five great observations, promised to be reborn in the human abode. Soon after he gave his promise, he passed away from the abode of Tusitā, and was duly conceived in the womb of Mahāmāyā Devī, the Chief Consort of King Suddhodhana. Right at the time of his conception, there broke out a violent earthquake. The date of his conception was Thursday, the full moon day of Waso (about July) in the year 67 Mahā Erā (624 B.C). while Mahāmāyā Devī was sleeping in her grand chamber, having observed eight precepts, she dreamed as follow: “The four kings of Devas bathed her in Lake Anotatta in the Himavanta and dressed her in celestial costumes. Next, she was put to sleep with her head towards the east in the golden mansion inside the silver mountain. At that time, she felt that a white elephant entered her womb through her right side.”

Read the passage and answer the following questions.

1. When did Deva Setaketu pass away from the abode of Tusitā?
  2. What broke out right at the time of his conception?
  3. When had Queen Mahāmāyā observed eight precepts?
  4. Whom did the four kings of Devas bathe in Lake Anotatta in the Himavanta?
  5. What did Queen Mahāmāyā know?
- II. Change the following sentences from the active voice to the passive voice.
- (a) People speak English all over the world.
  - (b) No one has noticed me for a long time.
  - (c) He has written an academic essay.
  - (d) A Buddhist devotee offered a set of robes to a monk.
  - (e) They are establishing a new foundation.

**III Write the following sentences using the correct words showing in the brackets.**

- (1) An ordinary man (have) to go through a very miserable ordeal at the time of (he) birth.
- (2) After (leave) the hands of the people, the Bodhisatta (stand) firmly on his feet.
- (3) The first sermon (be) preached by the Buddha on Saturday, full moon day of July, 103 Mahā Erā.
- (4) Eight handfuls of grass (be) offered to Bodhisatta (to/ by/ for) Sothiya.
- (5) When Bodhisatta (renounce) this world, he (be) twenty-nine years.

**IV Rewrite the following sentences using the structure 'have something done'.**

- (a) I asked someone to paint the gate yesterday.
- (b) Tell someone to translate it into English.
- (c) I ask someone to make new one.
- (d) Your hair wants cutting. You must.....
- (e) Tell him to take another photograph.

**V Write an essay on one of the following:**

- (a) How do you understand the statement "The monastic discipline is the life of Sāsanā" quoted from a Vinaya commentary? Write an essay with no less than 200 words.
- (b) The Compassionate One
- (c) The benefit of respecting elders, the wise and virtuous.
- (d) A daily life of a Buddhist.

**ORAL TEST:**

1. What is the first sermon preached by the Buddha? Where was it taught?
2. What is Sila? List the 5 precepts?
3. What is meditation? Differences between the 2 types of meditation?
4. What do you know about ITBMU?
5. How many pilgrimage places in the world?
6. Your introduction?

