

50 QUESTIONS ON BUDDHISM

For those who are keen to learn Buddhism



Forward

This document contains 50 carefully curated questions designed to assess comprehensive knowledge of the **Thripitaka**, the foundational scriptures of Buddhism. The questions encompass all three sections of the Thripitaka—**Vinaya Pitaka**, **Sutta Pitaka**, and **Abhidhamma Pitaka**—ensuring that an individual demonstrates an adequate understanding of Buddhist teachings, ethics, and philosophy.

The scope of these questions includes:

- 1. Vinaya Pitaka: Emphasis on monastic rules and ethical discipline.
- 2. **Sutta Pitaka**: Teachings of the Buddha, focusing on the Four Noble Truths, Noble Eightfold Path, and other discourses.
- 3. Abhidhamma Pitaka: Analytical and philosophical aspects of the Dhamma.

This assessment serves as a key performance indicator (KPI) for evaluating an individual's knowledge and understanding of Buddhism, aiming to certify them as proficient in the core principles and teachings of the Buddha.

50 Questions on the Thripitaka

Vinaya Pitaka

- 1. What are the **227 rules** of the Bhikkhu Patimokkha?
- 2. What is the **Bhikkhuni Patimokkha**, and how does it differ from the Bhikkhu rules?
- 3. Describe the significance of the **Pārājika** rules.
- 4. What is the purpose of the **Sanghadisesa** rules?
- 5. Explain the process of **Upasampada** ordination.
- 6. What is the **Katina ceremony**, and why is it important in monastic life?
- 7. How is **monastic discipline** maintained within a Sangha?
- 8. What are the roles of a **Kammavācā** during monastic decision-making?
- 9. Discuss the **four requisites** (robes, food, lodging, medicine) for monks and nuns.
- 10. What is the role of the Vinaya Pitaka in preserving monastic harmony?

Sutta Pitaka

- 11. What are the **Four Noble Truths**, and why are they fundamental?
- 12. Describe the **Noble Eightfold Path** in detail.
- 13. Explain the teaching of **Dependent Origination (Paticca Samuppada)**.
- 14. What are the **Five Precepts**, and how do they apply to laypeople?
- 15. What is the **Dhammapada**, and what type of teachings does it contain?
- 16. Which Sutta outlines the qualities of a good friend (Kalyana Mitta)?
- 17. Discuss the significance of the **Sigalovada Sutta** for householders.
- 18. What does the **Satipatthana Sutta** teach about mindfulness?
- 19. Explain the **Maha Parinibbana Sutta** and its importance in Buddhist history.
- 20. What are the **Jataka tales**, and how do they relate to the Buddha's past lives?

Abhidhamma Pitaka

- 21. What is the **Abhidhamma**, and how does it differ from the Sutta Pitaka?
- 22. Explain the concept of **rupa** (matter) and **nama** (mind) in Abhidhamma.
- 23. What are the **four ultimate realities (Paramattha Dhamma)**?
- 24. Describe the **52 mental factors (cetasika)**.

- 25. How does the Abhidhamma define **consciousness (citta)?**
- 26. What is the **Wheel of Life (Bhavachakra)**, and how is it explained in Abhidhamma?
- 27. Discuss the **seven books** of the Abhidhamma Pitaka.
- 28. What is the role of the **Patthana** in understanding conditional relations?
- 29. How does the Abhidhamma explain the process of rebirth?
- 30. What is the importance of **meditation** (bhavana) according to Abhidhamma?

Buddhist Philosophy and Practice

- 31. What is the **concept of Anicca (impermanence)** in Buddhism?
- 32. How is **Dukkha (suffering)** explained in Buddhist teachings?
- 33. What does the Buddha teach about **Anatta (non-self)?**
- 34. How does meditation contribute to achieving **Nibbana**?
- 35. What are the **ten fetters (Samyojana)**, and how are they overcome?
- 36. What is the role of the **Five Aggregates (Panca Skandha)** in the understanding of self?
- 37. Describe the Brahmaviharas (Four Sublime States).
- 38. What is the significance of **Merit (Punna)** in Buddhism?
- 39. How does Buddhism approach the concept of karma and its results?
- 40. What are the **three marks of existence**, and why are they central to Buddhist thought?

Buddhist History and Culture

- 41. Who were the **first five disciples of the Buddha**, and what role did they play?
- 42. How did the First Buddhist Council contribute to preserving the Thripitaka?
- 43. What role did **King Ashoka** play in spreading Buddhism?
- 44. Explain the historical significance of the **Third Buddhist Council**.
- 45. What are the **Bodhisattva ideals**, and how are they practiced in Mahayana Buddhism?
- 46. How is Theravada Buddhism different from Mahayana Buddhism?
- 47. What is the role of **Stupas** in Buddhist practice and history?
- 48. How is the **Vesak festival** celebrated in Buddhist cultures?

- 49. Who are the **Arhats**, and how do they differ from Bodhisattvas?
- 50. What is the importance of the **Pali Canon** in Buddhist studies?

These questions ensure a holistic understanding of the teachings and principles of Buddhism as encapsulated in the Thripitaka.