

Exploring the Buddhist Faith: Assessment Paper

Learning objective: To demonstrate knowledge and understanding of Buddhist beliefs, the life of Siddhartha Gautama, and the significance of the Eightfold Path.

Read each question carefully. Answer in full sentences where required. Ensure your spelling is accurate and you use your best handwriting.

Buddhism began in ancient India with a man named Siddhartha Gautama. After leaving his life of luxury, he sought the truth about why people suffer. Through deep meditation under a Bodhi tree, he reached a state of deep understanding known as Enlightenment. He spent the rest of his life teaching the Dharma, or the truth of the universe, to help others find peace.

Word bank: Siddhartha Gautama · Enlightenment · Dharma · Eightfold Path · Nirvana · Meditation · Shrine · Sangha

1. Who was Siddhartha Gautama before he became known as the Buddha? (2 marks)

2. Explain what the term 'Enlightenment' means to a Buddhist. (3 marks)

3. Identify two items often found in a Buddhist home shrine and explain why they are used. (4 marks)

4. Why is the 'Eightfold Path' considered a guide for living a good life? Give two examples of how a Buddhist might follow it. (4 marks)

5. What is the 'Sangha' and why is it an important part of the Buddhist community? (3 marks)

6. Imagine you are explaining the concept of 'Nirvana' to a friend. Write a short paragraph explaining what it is and how Buddhists aim to achieve it. (5 marks for clear explanation and use of terminology). (5 marks)

7. Why do many Buddhists practice meditation? (1 mark for recall, 3 marks for application of the concept). (4 marks)

Draw: Draw a symbolic representation of the Eightfold Path. You might choose to draw a wheel with eight spokes, labelling each spoke with a virtue, such as 'Right Speech' or 'Right Action'.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Think about the 'Five Precepts'. If you were writing a set of rules for a peaceful classroom, which of the Five Precepts would you include and why? Write your answer on a separate sheet.