1 Explore the key teachings of Zen Buddhism. (8)

**Exam Questions**

**Buddhism**

2 Assess the importance of ahimsa for Buddhists. (12)

Section 3

Read the following passage before answering the questions.

*The bodhisattva is endowed with wisdom of a kind whereby he looks on all beings as though victims going to the slaughter. And immense compassion grips him. His divine eye sees… innumerable beings, and he is filled with great distress at what he sees, for many bear the burden of past deeds which will be punished in purgatory, others will have unfortunate rebirths which will divide them from the Buddha and his teachings, others must soon be slain, others are caught in the net of false doctrine, others cannot find the path [of salvation], while others have gained a favourable rebirth only to lose it again. So he pours out his love and compassion upon all those beings, and attends to them, thinking, “I shall become the saviour of all beings, and set them free from their suffering”.*

*(Source: adapted from A.L.Basham, ‘The Bodhisattva’ (1969) in The Buddhist Tradition in India, China and Japan, edited by William de Bary, (Knopf Doubleday Publishing Group 2011).*

3 (a) Clarify Buddhist teachings about the characteristics of bodhisattvas with reference to this passage. **You must**

**refer to the passage in your response**. (10)

(b) Analyse the extent to which bodhisattvas are significant for Buddhists. (20)

4 Evaluate the meaning and significance of the social context of the Buddha to his life and work.

In your response to this question, you must include how developments in Buddhism have been influenced by

one of the following:

• Philosophy of Religion • Religion and Ethics • New Testament Studies. (30)

1 Explore the stages to becoming an arahant in Theravada Buddhism. (8)

2 Assess the view that vipassana is the most effective form of meditation. (12)

Section 3

Read the following passage before answering the questions.

*“Lord, I have heard that… ‘When a warrior strives and exerts himself in battle, if others then strike him down and slay him… he is reborn in the company of devas slain in battle.’ What does the Blessed One have to say about that?” “…I will simply answer you. When a warrior strives and exerts himself in battle, his mind is already seized, debased, and misdirected by the thought: ‘May these beings be struck down or slaughtered or annihilated or destroyed. May they not exist.’ If others then strike him down and slay him while he is thus striving and exerting himself in battle, then with the breakup of the body, after death, he is reborn in the hell called the realm of those slain in battle… Now, there are two destinations for a person with wrong view, I tell you: either hell or the animal womb. (Source: Quote from ‘Yodhjiva Sutta: ‘To Yodhajiva ( The Warrior) ©1998 Thanissaro Bhikkhu.)*

3 (a) Clarify the ideas illustrated in this passage about Buddhist teachings about ahimsa with reference to this passage**. You must refer to the passage in your response**. (10)

(b) Analyse the difficulties a Buddhist may face with putting ahimsa into practice. (20)

4 Evaluate the importance of the bodhisattva doctrine for Buddhists in the writings of Arthur Basham and Walpola Rahula.

In your response to this question, you must include how developments in Buddhism have been influenced by one of the following:

• Philosophy of Religion • Religion and Ethics • New Testament Studies. (30)