

SGI-UK Study Department
QUESTIONS FOR THE 2004 ENTRANCE LEVEL EXAM

(In the examination only 1 or 2 questions from each section will be selected for your answer)

A. The Life of Nichiren Daishonin

1) Answer the following questions concerning events in Nichiren Daishonin's life:

1. When and where was Nichiren Daishonin born?
2. When was the first proclamation of his teaching?
3. When and to whom did he submit the treatise entitled *On Establishing the Correct Teaching for the Peace of the Land*?
4. When was he first exiled and where to?
5. When did the Tatsunokuchi Persecution take place?
6. When did the exile to Sado Island begin and end?
7. When and to whom did he make his last admonition to the ruling government?
8. When did he inscribe the Dai-Gohonzon?
9. When and where did Nichiren Daishonin die?

2) Write a brief essay (300 words) about the following events:

1. Briefly explain the significance of the first proclamation of Nam-myoho-enge-kyo
2. Briefly explain why he submitted the treatise entitled *On Establishing the Correct Teaching for the Peace of the Land*.
3. Briefly explain why he inscribed the Dai-Gohonzon

B. The new preamble to the Rules and Regulations of the Soka Gakkai

1. Write about the reason the Soka Gakkai exists and its standpoint in the history of Buddhism
2. What is the aim and mission of the Soka Gakkai?
3. What is the 'Soka Gakkai Spirit'? (the basic attitude of the Soka Gakkai)
4. The Soka Gakkai honours the three presidents, Makiguchi, Toda and Ikeda as our eternal mentors. Briefly describe the actual contribution to kosen-rufu of each one.
5. Name the four important tenets of the Soka Gakkai and give a short explanation of each one.

C. Basic principles – The Mutual Possession of the Ten Worlds

1. Briefly explain this principle.
2. Why is this concept so important?
3. Why can it be claimed that all ten worlds contain all the other nine worlds? Using the example of the world of humanity, explain how you experience this principle in your daily life.

4. Our life condition is constantly changing. How is it possible for one to change to a positive life condition? Explain this process based on the principle of the mutual possession of the ten worlds.

D. From Nichiren Daishonin's Writing 'The Opening of the Eyes'

1. Under what circumstances did Nichiren Daishonin write this work?
2. What are the most important principles in this work?
3. Based on President Ikeda's explanation in the World of Nichiren Daishonin's Writings discuss how one can overcome difficulties in life.

E. The Priesthood Issue

1. What are the three treasures? How does the Soka Gakkai interpret each of these treasures?
2. Nikken claims: 'The SGI humiliates the official high priest with the statement that a high priest is not the object of worship. That is a great, slanderous statement against the deep teachings on the unity of the three treasures.' Why is this claim incorrect?
3. The Nikken sect claims that those who do not directly worship the Dai-Gohonzon have no faith and will not attain Buddhahood. Why is this claim incorrect?
4. Nikken claims: '...the heritage of Buddhism exists in the high priest's venerable life that is one with the Dai-Gohonzon of the High Sanctuary of True Buddhism.' Why is this claim incorrect?

Sources of Exam Material:

1. **The Life of Nichiren Daishonin**
2. **The Rules and Regulations of the Soka Gakkai**
3. **The World of Nichiren Daishonin's Writings 1 and 2**
4. **Confirming our path of faith: issued by SGI-USA**
(To receive all the material by e-mail, please e-mail a request to akemi.baynes@sgi-uk.org)

Note: Extra study material: Article on 'The three thousand worlds in a moment of life' in The Art of Living November 2003 issue