

# PRESENTING THE PATH

## Suggested Public Exam Questions

1. Life story of Buddha. Who was the Buddha? What are some of the main events of his life?
2. Correct way to listen to the teachings. Identify the mistaken ways of listening to the teachings. Why are they mistaken? How does one prevent it?
3. The Three Scopes. What are the three scopes of beings? What are their individual motivations for practicing Dharma?
4. Lower Scope. What defines a Precious Human Rebirth? Do we have a Precious Human Rebirth? How does one differentiate Precious Human Rebirth from a regular human rebirth?
5. Lower Scope. What is the main practice of a practitioner of the lower scope who is trying to secure a happy future life? (abiding by the law of cause and effect – purification and accumulation)
6. Middle Scope. What are the three main sufferings of samsara? (suffering, change, all-pervasive compounded)
7. Middle Scope. What is Renunciation? What is it based on?
8. Middle Scope. What are the three higher trainings of a Middle Scope practitioner?
9. Higher Scope. What is Bodhichitta?
10. Higher Scope. Can you have Bodichitta without Renunciation? Why or why not?
11. What are the Three Principles of the Path and how do they relate to the Three Motivational Scopes?

12. Emptiness. What is your understanding of emptiness? How can we improve our understanding of emptiness? (listen, reflect, meditate)

**Practicing the Path:  
Assessment Questions**

1. What is the correct way to listen to the teachings? Explain the “three pots.”
2. What are the three preliminary contemplations?
3. What is the name of the text that the lam-rim is based on? Who is the author? What century did he write it in? What country did he live in when he wrote it?
4. What are the Four Opponent Powers?

**THE LOWER SCOPE**

5. What are the three main points about death that Atisha gets us to contemplate? Write a sentence or two about each.
6. Why does Atisha want us to meditate on the suffering of the lower realms? How does this relate to Refuge?
7. What does the word “karma” mean? What is the law that karma refers to? What are the four ways that karma ripens and write a sentence about each; and using killing as the example, how would it ripen in these four ways ?

**MEDIUM SCOPE**

8. What is the second kind of suffering in the First Noble Truth? Write a sentence or two about why it is suffering, using an example.
9. Besides karma, what is the other main cause of suffering mentioned in the Second Noble Truth? Explain it in a sentence or two, using the example of being harmed by another.
10. What are the three root delusions? And what are two of the characteristics of delusions, or negative states of mind and what other names do they have?
11. What is renunciation?

**HIGHEST SCOPE**

12. What is bodhicitta? What are the two main methods, or packages of teachings, for achieving it?
13. Explain equanimity. Why do we need to develop equanimity in relation to friends, enemies and strangers?
14. What is self-cherishing?

15. What is the meaning of tong-len and describe briefly how to do this meditation.
16. List the first four of the Six Perfections and write a few sentences about Patience.
17. What are the last two of the Six Perfections and list the three kinds of dependent arising.
18. Describe the analogy of the thief and how it relates to understanding the emptiness of the "I"