

2009 Buddhist Learning Review Questions

Name: _____

District: _____

Chapter: _____

Part I. Buddhist Concepts As Explained in “The Writings for Discussion Meetings”

For questions 1 through 4, please circle the most appropriate answer (5 points for each correct answer).

1. In “The True Aspect of All Phenomena” Nichiren Daishonin encourages practitioners to do which of the following?

- a) Adhere to the precepts of the Lotus sutra throughout life.
- b) Refute the principles of the pre-Lotus Sutra teachings.
- c) Exert ourselves in the two ways of practice and study based on faith.
- d) Study thoroughly and then practice based on understanding.

2. What are the “three proofs” set forth by Nichiren in “Three Tripitaka Masters Pray for Rain”?

- a) Shakyamuni, T’ien-t’ai and Nichiren himself proved the validity of Buddhism.
- b) Documentary, theoretical and actual.
- c) The Lotus Sutra, Great Concentration and Insight and the writings of Nichiren Daishonin.
- d) Appearance, nature and entity.

3. Happiness based on favorable external circumstances is called:

- a) Happiness of the Ten Worlds.
- b) Relative happiness.
- c) Selfless happiness.
- d) Absolute happiness.

4. The “devil king of the sixth heaven” is a metaphor for what?

- a) The tendency toward arrogance and disregard for others.
- b) The Judeo-Christian figure known as Satan.
- c) The Dragon King's daughter.
- d) The desire for money.

Part II. The Life of Nichiren Daishonin

For questions 5 through 9, please circle the most appropriate answer (5 points for each correct answer).

5. What is the significance of April 28, 1253, in the life of Nichiren Daishonin?

- a) He was born as a commoner to a family of fishermen.
- b) He was ordained as a priest.
- c) He established his teaching of chanting Nam-myoho-renge-kyo.
- d) He was exiled to the Izu Peninsula.

6. What happened to Nichiren at the beach in Tatsunokuchi on September 12, 1271?

- a) A failed attempt to execute him.
- b) He met his mentor, Dozen-bo.
- c) He wrote "The Opening of the Eyes."
- d) He opened a temple there.

7. Who accompanied Nichiren during his exile on Sado and shared in his hardships?

- a) Siddhartha
- b) Dozen-bo
- c) Nikko
- d) He had no companions.

8. What was the Atsuhara Persecution?

- a) An attempt to execute Nichiren Daishonin.
- b) Believers of Nichiren's teachings were severely harassed by authorities.

- c) The destruction of Nichiren school monasteries.
- d) The imprisonment of all samurai who had faith in Nichiren's teachings.

9. While living in the mountains of Minobu, what did Nichiren do?

- a) Evaded government search parties.
- b) Built a golden pagoda to secure his teachings.
- c) Trained his disciples and wrote letters and treatises.
- d) Met Nikko for the first time.

Part III. SGI President Ikeda's Lecture Series "Learning From the Writings: The Hope-filled Teachings of Nichiren Daishonin"

Lecture 5: "On the Buddha's Prophecy"

Questions 10 and 14 are short-answer questions (10 points maximum). For questions 11, 12, 13 and 15, please circle the most appropriate answer (5 points for each correct answer).

10. According to SGI President Ikeda's lecture on Nichiren's "On the Buddha's Prophecy," what is the teaching to be spread widely in the Latter Day of the Law and why?

11. What is Nichiren's prediction about the great Law of Nam-myoho-
renge-kyo in the future?

- a) It will lose power after 10,000 years.
- b) It will spread only to India, China and Japan.
- c) It will lead to a world of chaos and confusion.
- d) It will spread throughout the world.

Lecture 6: "Winter Always Turns to Spring"

12. What does Nichiren mean when he says, "Winter always turns to spring"?

- a) By overcoming trials through the power of faith, we can savor victory.
- b) If we wait long enough, good things will come our way.
- c) Buddhism is perfectly in tune with nature.
- d) Nothing stays the same.

13. What best describes the Buddhist attitude toward “winter,” or obstacles?

- a) We must use wisdom to “pick our battles.”
- b) Buddhahood is a result of challenging severe “winters.”
- c) “Winter” is punishment for bad behavior.
- d) “Spring,” or hope, will never come again.

Lecture 10: “Letter to Misawa”

14. According to SGI President Ikeda’s lecture on “Letter to Misawa,” what is fundamental darkness?

15. To vanquish our fundamental darkness, we must:

- a. develop supreme wisdom gained from faith in the Mystic Law.
- b. extinguish all desires.
- c. wait for the appearance of the lion king.
- d. follow the Buddhist commandments.

IV. Soka Spirit: The Errors of the Nichiren Shoshu Priesthood

For questions 16 through 18, please circle the most appropriate answer (5 points for each correct answer).

16. What religious policy did the Japanese government implement during World War II?

- a) Freedom of religion for the first time in Japanese history.
- b) All religions became illegal.

- c) All donations to religious organizations were sent to the government.
- d) All citizens had to accept the talisman of the State religion, Shinto.

17. What happened to the first and second Soka Gakkai presidents Tsunesaburo Makiguchi and Josei Toda when they opposed the government policies on religion?

- a) They were exiled to Sado Island.
- b) They were fired from their jobs as educators.
- c) They were imprisoned.
- d) They were drafted into military service.

18. Which of these are among the six points or errors mentioned in the article “The Errors of the Nichiren Shoshu Priesthood”?

- a) Conspiring to obstruct kosen-rufu.
- b) The misuse of rituals and ceremonies.
- c) Misinterpreting the “heritage of the Law.”
- d) All of the above.

EXTRA CREDIT QUESTIONS

Questions 19 and 20 are extra-credit questions (15 points maximum for each).

19. Based on SGI President Ikeda's lecture on "On the Buddha's Prophecy," what characterizes the Latter Day of the Law in regard to Shakyamuni's teachings and why does Nichiren state that being born at this time is a cause for rejoicing?

20. Based on SGI President Ikeda's lecture on "Letter to Misawa," what does the devil king abhor most and what do his "ten kinds of troops" represent?
