

Course Examination: Mahayana View 1

Please answer 2 questions from “Heart of Daring” and 3 questions from “Everything is Mind.” In order to receive course credit from Nalandabodhi answers must be submitted in writing to the course facilitator.

Heart of Daring:

1. Why is impermanence said to be the most precious concept?
2. Why is Bodhichitta so important in the Mahayana Path?
3. How does the Mahayana view of emptiness and egolessness differ from the Hinayana view?
4. Explain the three-fold purity.
5. Why would Patrul Rinpoche suggest starting with neutral beings when practicing compassion?
6. Describe the three styles of generating compassion.
7. Discuss the relationship that exists between the six perfections and the bodhisattva bhūmis.
8. Explain why teaching the concept of Buddha nature is important on the Mahayana path.

Everything is Mind:

1. Discuss the quote, “There is not a single object appearing in exactly the same way to different individuals.”
2. Describe the six realms. What are the dominant emotions in each realm?
3. Explain the imaginary, dependent and real or perfected natures in Chittamātra philosophy.
4. According to the Chittamātra school, “Consciousness is said to have two simultaneously occurring facets – one externally oriented and one internally oriented.” Please explain.
5. Compare the Hināyāna view of the six consciousnesses to the Chittamātrin presentation of the eightfold collection of consciousness.
6. What is the basic mode of operation of the klesha mind? Explain the Ocean example of how the klesha mind stirs up the ālayavijñāna.
7. Are habitual tendencies virtuous, non-virtuous or neutral? Discuss.
8. Explain the three-stage process of sense perception and its conceptualization according to the view of the Seventh Karmapa.
9. What are the two main functions of the ālayavijñāna? Describe these functions using the tape recorder analogy. In what way are seeds uprooted from the ālayavijñāna on the path?