

## Candidate 1 evidence

### Analyse the purpose of the Sangha for Buddhists.

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The Sangha refers to the community of monks, nuns, and laypeople who follow the teachings of the Buddha. In traditional Buddhist practice, the Sangha, along with the Buddha and the Dhamma (the teachings), forms the three jewels. The Monastic Sangha live according to strict monastic rules, such as the 10 Precepts, and serve as spiritual guides and teachers for the lay community. The Lay Sangha do not live as monks or nuns, but they contribute to the Sangha through their practice and support, e.g. donating food. The Noble Sangha includes those who have attained enlightenment or have achieved higher stages of realisation, such as Arhats or Bodhisattvas.

One key purpose of the Sangha is by living according to the monastic rules and engaging in study and meditation, the Sangha ensures that the Dhamma is accurately maintained and passed down to future generations. This helps maintain the integrity of Buddhist teachings and practices over time. Another purpose is by adhering to strict codes of conduct, monks and nuns serve as living examples of virtuous behaviour, inspiring lay Buddhists to follow similar ethical standards in their own lives. This helps promote a community that upholds the values of compassion, mindfulness, and integrity.