

# Commentary on candidate evidence

The candidate evidence has achieved the following marks for each question of the question paper.

## Candidate 1

### Question 1

The candidate was awarded **5 marks**.

The first sentence on its own would be worth a mark, but the candidate went on to unpack what the three marks of existence are and what they mean, so marks were given later in the answer to avoid double marking. **2 marks** were awarded at 'grief' for a developed point (a definition followed by examples). There is **1 mark** for giving the meaning of anicca and **2 additional marks** for developing the meaning further and giving examples of what it applies to. **1 mark** was awarded for the idea of no soul with an **additional mark** for the idea that instead it is kamma that passes from life to life. This means that the candidate exceeded the available marks by 2 marks.

### Question 2(a)

The candidate was awarded **6 marks**.

There is **1 mark** for a correct definition, with an **additional 2 marks** for the second bullet point. There is **1 mark** for the idea of no more suffering, a **second mark** for needing good kamma to achieve it and a **third mark** for saying how they can do this ('through skilful actions like meditating'). At this point the candidate has achieved full marks, but there could have been additional marks awarded for how the Buddha achieved enlightenment under the Bodhi tree and nibbana as a goal achieved through many lifetimes. The definition of the middle path is not quite right, so would not have been awarded a mark.

## Question 2(b)

The candidate was awarded **4 marks**.

The candidate has identified six ways in which belief about nibbana might affect Buddhists. Marks were not awarded for additional knowledge about nibbana. 1 mark was awarded for each bullet pointed example: try to be kinder; avoid eating meat; feel they have a purpose in life; they might dedicate their whole life to pursuing it. At this point the candidate has achieved full marks but they give two additional correct points: let go of the root poisons; let go of worldly cravings.

## Question 3(a)

The candidate was awarded **4 marks**.

This is a straight knowledge and understanding question, and although the candidate went beyond what it was asking and included points about their impact, it is difficult to see how else points about the precepts could be developed. **2 marks** were awarded for not using hate speech or talking in a way that could cause harm, and **2 marks** were awarded for not taking alcohol and drugs and then linking the precept to tanha.

## Question 3(b)

The candidate was awarded **8 marks**.

The candidate offered a two-sided evaluation. They took 'relevance' to mean the extent to which the precepts fit with the world as it is today, and although this was not its intended meaning, it is not an unreasonable reading, so marks were awarded where they identified how the modern world does or does not reflect the precepts.

**1 mark** was awarded for the idea that hate speech is everywhere, **1 mark** was given at 'age limit', **1 mark** was given at 'Ukraine', and **1 mark** was awarded for the idea that it is not easy to be truthful all the time.

**1 mark** was awarded for the idea that lots of Buddhists do follow the precepts and **1 mark** was awarded for not killing as a universal norm. There was **1 mark** for the recognition that some choose not to use drugs or alcohol and a final **1 mark** at the end of the answer for stealing generally being seen as a bad thing to do.