



Name:

Date:

Grade:

Homework, Class One

1) Give the Sanskrit and Tibetan words for Buddhist discipline, and explain the literal meaning of the term. (Tibetan track answer all in Tibetan.)

2) Describe the relationship between Buddhist discipline, and Lord Buddha and his teachings.

3) Explain the role of the extraordinary training of an ethical way of life in the development of the other two extraordinary trainings, especially as explained by Je Tsongkapa in his *Epistle on Ethics*.

4) Name the two root sutras for the subject of Buddhist discipline. (Tibetan track in Tibetan.)

a)

b)

5) Name the early Sanskrit commentary which forms the basis for the study of Buddhist discipline in Tibetan monasteries; give also the author, and his approximate date. (Tibetan track in Tibetan.)

6) Name the three Tibetan commentaries which we will use for our study of Buddhist discipline; give also their authors, and their dates. (Tibetan track in Tibetan.)

a)

b)

c)

7) Describe the motivation with which one should engage in a study of Buddhist discipline.

Meditation assignment: Spend 15 minutes per day in an analytical meditation, contemplating first on the possible wrong motivations a person could have for maintaining an ethical way of life, and then focussing on the correct motivation.

Meditation dates and times (must be filled in, or homework will not be accepted):



Name:
Date:
Grade:

Homework, Class Two

1) Give the three major divisions of the "actual commentary" section of Chone Drakpa Shedrup's explanation of the *Sutra on Discipline (Vinaya Sutra)*. (Tibetan track answer in Tibetan.)

a)

b)

c)

2) Explain why the texts on the subject of Buddhist discipline often open with a review of the life of the Buddha.

3) Name the three sections of Chone Drakpa Shedrup's commentary which are included in the actual explanation of the root text, but come before the actual commentary begins. (Tibetan track in Tibetan.)

a)

b)

c)

4) Name the four major parts of the section on how to keep your vows from being damaged.

a)

b)

c)

d)

5) Quote the opening line of instructions from the *Sutra on Discipline* concerning the painting of the Wheel of Life; then name seven components of the painting which the sutra advises must be included. (Tibetan track quote the opening line in Tibetan, and optionally name the seven components in Tibetan also.)

Opening line:

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

f)

g)

Meditation assignment: 15 minutes per day, analytical meditation going carefully through each of the seven components of the Wheel of Life painting, contemplating on the meaning of each part.

Meditation dates and times (must be filled in, or homework will not be accepted):



Name:
Date:
Grade:

Homework, Class Three

1) Give the text of the benediction of Je Tsongkapa's *Essence of the Ocean of Discipline*, and explain its significance. (Tibetan track give benediction in Tibetan.)

2) In the opening lines of his text, Je Tsongkapa mentions that the vows of individual freedom constitute the subject matter of the scriptures on Buddhist discipline. Explain why these vows are given this name. (Tibetan track in Tibetan.)

3) Name the six categories by which Je Tsongkapa explains the vows of individual freedom. (Tibetan track in Tibetan.)

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

f)

4) Give a general description of the vows of individual freedom by quoting directly the relevant two and a half lines of Je Tsongkapa's root text. (Tibetan track in Tibetan.)

5) What does the word "basis" in these lines refer to?

6) Describe the two basic positions taken by different Buddhist schools of ancient India regarding the essential nature of these vows, and then name the schools which hold each position.

<i>Position</i>	<i>Names of schools</i>
a)	
b)	

7) Name the eight groups of individual-freedom vows. (Tibetan track in Tibetan).

- a)
- b)
- c)
- d)
- e)
- f)
- g)
- h)

Meditation assignment: 15 minutes per day, on what it would be like to achieve nirvana, total peace of the mind without any mental afflictions of any kind, by taking and keeping the vows of individual freedom.

Meditation dates and times (must be filled in, or homework will not be accepted):



Name:
Date:
Grade:

Homework, Class Four

1) Name the two general groups into which all eight sets of the vows of individual freedom can be placed, and then list which of the eight belong in each group. (Tibetan track in Tibetan.)

a)

b)

2) Name the four primary rules of the one-day freedom vow. (Tibetan track in Tibetan.)

a)

b)

c)

d)

3) Name the four secondary rules of the one-day freedom vow, in English.

a)

b)

c)

d)

4) Explain briefly the difference between the one-day freedom vow, and the one-day Mahayana vow.

5) Name the five rules, and one additional part, of the lifetime layperson's vow. (Tibetan track in Tibetan.)

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

Additional part:

6) Name the three groups of novice vows that contribute to a total of thirteen basic vows. (Tibetan track in Tibetan.)

a)

b)

c)

Meditation assignment: Review daily with an analytical meditation the five vows and one additional part of the layperson's lifetime vow. See how close you might have come to committing any of these in the last 24 hours, and then also rejoice in how far away you might have acted (for example, by protecting life).

Meditation dates and times (must be filled in, or homework will not be accepted):



Name:
Date:
Grade:

Homework, Class Five

1) Describe in a very general way the nature of the vows of an intermediate nun.

2) Give the number of the full nun's vows by naming each of the six groups of actions to be given up, and stating the number of vows in each group. (Tibetan track name the groups in Tibetan.)

- a)
- b)
- c)
- d)
- e)
- f)

3) Give the number of the full monk's vows by naming each of the six groups of actions to be given up, and stating the number of vows in each group. (Tibetan track name the groups in Tibetan.)

- a)
- b)
- c)
- d)
- e)
- f)

4) Give the literal explanations for the names of the six groups of deeds mentioned above.

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

f)

Meditation assignment: 15 minutes per day, on the closest you have come to committing one of the ten harmful deeds, and then on the closest you have come to their opposites; memorize the names and order of these ten.

Meditation dates and times (must be completed, or homework will not be accepted):



Name:
Date:
Grade:

Homework, Class Six

1) Name seven kinds of persons who cannot take the vows of individual freedom.
(Tibetan track in Tibetan.)

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

f)

g)

2) Name five things which can cause any of the vows of individual freedom to be lost.
(Tibetan track in Tibetan.)

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

3) If a person commits a downfall, does he or she lose their individual-freedom vows?

4) Describe the two results of keeping these vows. (Tibetan track in Tibetan.)

a)

b)

5) Explain why Je Tsongkapa named his root text the *Essence of the Ocean of Discipline*.

6) Explain where the name "Tsongkapa" comes from. (Tibetan track in Tibetan.)

Meditation assignment: 15 minutes per day, analytical meditation on why taking and keeping the vows of individual freedom is related to achieving nirvana and Buddhahood.

Meditation dates and times (must be completed, or homework will not be accepted):



Name:

Date:

Grade:

Homework, Class Seven

1) Name the ten non-virtues, or paths of karma, which provide the basis for what is to be abandoned by following the vows of individual liberation, and describe them each briefly. (Tibetan track name in Tibetan and describe in English.)

(1)

(2)

(3)

(4)

(5)

(6)

(7)

(8)

(9)

(10)

2) Name the three "ripened" results for each of the above ten.

a)

b)

c)

3) Name the two "consistent" consequences for each of the ten, following the *Sutra on the Ten Levels* and similar works.

(1)

(2)

(3)

(4)

(5)

(6)

(7)

(8)

(9)

(10)

4) Great Lamas of the past have described the "consistent" consequence in a different way. Describe it.

5) Describe the "environmental" consequence of performing each of the ten.

(1)

(2)

(3)

(4)

(5)

(6)

(7)

(8)

(9)

(10)

Meditation assignment: 15 minutes per day, analytical meditation on the one object in your life that you are least happy about, and which of the paths of karma you committed to bring it to you.

Meditation dates and times (must be filled in, or homework will not be accepted):



Name:
Date:
Grade:

Homework, Class Eight

1) Give the name of the text that we will use for our study of the steps of the path to enlightenment; give also the name of its author and his dates. Then give the same for the commentary to this work that we will study. (Tibetan track answer in Tibetan.)

a)

b)

2) Why does Je Tsongkapa bow down to Gentle Voice, Manjushri, at the very beginning of his work?

3) Describe briefly the personages of the lineage who are presented in each of the first five verses of Je Tsongkapa's text.

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

4) Explain the metaphors of the wish-giving jewel and the ocean.

a)

b)

5) Name and briefly explain the four special qualities of the teachings on the steps to enlightenment. (Tibetan track name in Tibetan and describe in English.)

a)

b)

c)

d)

6) Explain one of the major benefits of teaching and learning the steps of the path.

Meditation assignment: 15 minutes per day, analytical meditation on the four special qualities of the teachings on the steps to enlightenment.

Meditation dates and times (must be filled in, or homework will not be accepted):



Name:
Date:
Grade:

Homework, Class Nine

1) Finding a proper relationship with one's Lama is considered the foundation of the entire Buddhist path. Name and briefly describe the ten qualities of a qualified Lama, from the classic source—the *Ornament of the Sutras*. (Tibetan track name in Tibetan and describe in English.)

(1)

(2)

(3)

(4)

(5)

(6)

(7)

(8)

(9)

(10)

2) Explain the karmic cause of these ten qualities for the Lama.

3) Explain the karmic cause of these ten qualities for the disciple.

4) Name and briefly describe the eight spiritual leisures. (Tibetan track name in Tibetan and describe in English.)

(1)

(2)

(3)

(4)

(5)

(6)

(7)

(8)

5) Describe briefly the essence of the actual Buddha Jewel, Dharma Jewel, and Sangha Jewel, to which we go for refuge.

a)

b)

c)

6) Je Tsongkapa mentions that it is "essential to purify ourselves" by "depending on the four forces, continually." Name and briefly describe these four. (Tibetan track name in Tibetan and describe in English.)

a)

b)

c)

d)

Meditation assignment: 15 minutes per day, analytical meditation on the two karmic causes of the qualities of a qualified Lama.

Meditation dates and times (must be filled in, or homework will not be accepted):



Name:
Date:
Grade:

Homework, Class Ten

1) List the four arya (“noble”) truths according to the order in which they are understood; then give two divisions of each truth. (Tibetan track give truths and divisions in Tibetan.)

(1)

a)

b)

(2)

a)

b)

(3)

a)

b)

(4)

a)

b)

2) Explain the metaphor of the alchemical elixir in terms of the ultimate meaning of dependent origination.

3) Name and describe the three types of giving. (Tibetan track in Tibetan.)

a)

b)

c)

4) Give the classical definition of quietude (*shamata*). (Tibetan track in Tibetan.)

5) Give the classical definition of the “extraordinary vision” of emptiness (*vipashyana*). (Tibetan track in Tibetan.)

Meditation assignment: 15 minutes per day, analytical meditation on the way in which quietude and the extraordinary vision of emptiness are combined.

Meditation dates and times (must be filled in, or homework will not be accepted):