

WRAP Exams · wrapexams.com

Prelims PYQ, Mains model answers, and copy evaluation. Write to the desk for this paper, a doubt, or the AI waitlist.

ask@wrapexams.com · +91 85951 84903 · wrapexams.com

Q9

**Consider the following statements: 1. Deification of the Buddha
2. Trading the path of Bodhisattvas 3. Image worship and rituals
Which of the above is/are the feature/features of Mahayana Buddhism? (a) 1 only (b) 1 and 2 only (c) 2 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3 Official key: D.**

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2019 · General Studies · 2 marks · Art and Culture

Indian art, architecture, culture - Prelims GS Paper I.

Explanation**(a)**

(a) 1 only. Deification of the **Buddha** is a Mahayana marker, but path-of-the-**bodhisattva** and image worship are also Mahayana features, so 1 only is not the key.

(b)

(b) 1 and 2 only. Both are Mahayana, yet statement 3 (image worship and rituals) is also a Mahayana development against early aniconic practice, so dropping 3 is not the key.

(c)

(c) 2 and 3 only. Those two hold, but deification (statement 1) is equally Mahayana, so this pair is not the key.

(d) Official key

(d) 1, 2 and 3. Mahayana treats the **Buddha** as a transcendent/deified figure, centres the **bodhisattva** path, and develops image worship and ritual. All three listed features belong, so this is the official key.

Summary

Official key is (d) 1, 2 and 3. Mahayana ('Great Vehicle') deifies the **Buddha**, asks the aspirant to follow bodhisattvas toward Buddhahood, and supports images and puja. Early/Nikaya practice was more aniconic and arhat-centred. Honour the stored letter (d).

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Bodhisattva

One who delays nirvana to save others

Aniconic phase

Symbols (wheel, footprints) before images

Askable twin

Hinayana / Theravada as exam contrast

Council often cited

Fourth council (Kashmir) and Mahayana growth

Prajnaparamita

Perfection of wisdom texts

WRAP Exams · Write. Read. Analyse. Practice. · <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/prelims/gs/2019/consider-the-following-statements-1-deification-of-the-buddha-2-trading-the-path-of-bodhisattvas-3-image-worship-and-rituals-which-of-the-above-is-are-the-feature-features-of-mahayana-buddhism/> · ask@wrapexams.com · wrapexams.com