



SOMAIYA
VIDYAVIHAR UNIVERSITY

K J Somaiya Institute of Dharma Studies

Syllabus

Diploma in Buddhist Sanskrit: Language and Literature

Academic Year 2020 – 21

Revision 2

**Centre for Buddhist Studies
K. J. Somaiya Institute of Dharma Studies
Somaiya Vidyavihar, Vidyavihar (E.), Mumbai-77
(Constituent Academic Unit of SVU)**

Preamble: From around 2nd century CE onwards, most Buddhist schools began to compose their literature in Sanskrit; this is a collection of philosophical, doctrinal, religious treatises as well as narrative texts that profoundly influenced the dissemination of Buddhism in Asia. Knowledge of Buddhist Sanskrit literature is key not just for those interested in Tibetan and Chinese Buddhism but also for students of Southeast Asian Buddhism who wish to undertake comparative studies.

This Diploma addresses the learning needs of students of Buddhism by drawing upon Buddhist literature and context from the very beginning. The objective is to equip students with materials and skills to read Buddhist Sanskrit texts as early as possible

Eligibility: HSC or equivalent examination

Duration: Two Semesters

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Credit Scheme

Course Code	Course Name	Teaching Scheme (Hrs.) TH – W – TUT	Total (Hrs.)	Credits Assigned TH – W – TUT	Total Credits
Semester I					
232N48C 101*	Grammar and Comprehension	04 – 00 – 00	04	04 – 00 – 00	04
232N48 W101#	Workshop: Brahmi Script	00 – 01 – 00	01	00 – 02 – 00	02
		04-01-00	05	04-02-00	06
Semester II					
232N48C 201*	Translation and Critical Appreciation	04 – 00 – 00	04	04 – 00 – 00	04
232N48 W201@	Workshop: Introduction to Prakrit Grammar	00 – 01 – 00	01	00 – 02 – 00	02
	Total	04-01-00	05	04-02-00	06

This workshop will be common to the students of Diploma in Buddhist Studies, Diploma in AIC and Diploma Pali Grammar

@ This workshop will be common to Diploma in Pali Grammar

Examination Scheme

Course Code	Course Name	Examination Scheme Marks			
		CA	TW	ESE	Total
Semester I					
232N48C 101*	Grammar and Comprehension	50	--	50	100
232N48 W101#	Workshop: Brahmi Script	50	--	--	50
		100	--	50	150
Semester II					
232N48C 201*	Translation and Critical Appreciation	50	--	50	100
232N48 W201@	Workshop: Introduction to Prakrit Grammar	50	--	--	50
Total		100	--	50	150

This workshop will be common to the students of Diploma in Buddhist Studies, Diploma in AIC and Diploma Pali Grammar

@ This workshop will be common to Diploma in Pali Grammar

Continuous Assessment (CA) may include combinations of – presentations, viva, journal, assignments etc. The combinations will be informed to the students at the beginning of the course by respective teachers.

Syllabus

Semester I

Course Objectives

To introduce students to –

- Study of Buddhist Sanskrit literature, vocabulary and peculiarities of grammar

Course Outcomes (CO)

At the end of successful completion of the course the student will -

CO.1. Get an insight into the rich heritage of the Buddhist Sanskrit literature

CO.2. Be able to read simple passages, with basic grammatical tools

Paper / Course Code	Paper / Course Title			
232N48C101*	Grammar and Comprehension			
	TH	W	TUT	Total
Teaching Scheme(Hrs.)	04	00	--	04
Credits Assigned	04	00	--	04
Examination Scheme	Marks			
	CA	ESE	Total	
	50	50	100	

Unit No.	Description	Hrs.
	Selections from Udāna varga, Bodhicaryāvatāra, Buddhacaritam and Saudaranandam	
1.1	Introduction to Buddhist Sanskrit vocabulary	02
1.2	Strengthening the foundation of grammar with focus on noun declensions	10

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1.3	Use of Tenses and Moods	10
1.4	Use of Gerunds and Infinitives	06
1.5	Use of adjectives, <i>upasargas</i> , indeclinables	06
1.6	Use of participles (Past, Present, Potential) along with Active / Passive voice	10
1.7	Revision of Sandhi rules	06
1.8	Revision of Compounds	10
	Total	60

Recommended Books:

Sr. No.	Name/s of Author/s	Title of Book	Name of Publisher with country	Edition and Year of Publication
1.	Ānandajoti Bhikkhu	<i>A Comparison of the Pāli Udānas and the Sanskritised Udānavarga</i>	Online edition	July, 2003
2.	Dhammajoti KL	<i>Reading Buddhist Sanskrit Texts: an Elementary Grammatical Guide</i>	Foreign Language Teaching and Research Press, Beijing	2015, 1 st ed
3.	Edgerton Franklin	<i>Buddhist Hybrid Sanskrit Grammar and Dictionary, Volume 1: Grammar</i>	MLBD, Delhi	1 st ed., New Haven 1953 Reprint, Delhi 1993
4.	Edgerton Franklin	<i>Buddhist Hybrid Sanskrit Grammar and Dictionary, Volume 2: Dictionary</i>	MLBD, Delhi	1 st ed., New Haven 1953 Reprint, Delhi 1993
5.	Edgerton Franklin	<i>Buddhist Hybrid Sanskrit Reader</i>	MLBD, Delhi	1 st ed., New Haven 1953 Reprint Delhi 1996
6.	Johnston E. H.	<i>Aśvaghoṣa's Buddhacarita or acts of the Buddha</i>	MLBD, Delhi	1936, 1 st ed, Reprint, Delhi 2004
7.	Tripathi R. S. (editor)	<i>Special Discourse by His Holiness Dalai Lama on Bodhicaryāvatāra of Ācārya Śāntideva</i>	Central University of Tibetan Studies, Sarnath, Varanasi	1 st ed. 1983, 4 th ed. 2015
8.	Tripathi Ramshankar	<i>Saundaranand Mahākāvya of Ācārya Aśvaghoṣa with Tibetan and Hindi Translations</i>	Central University of Tibetan Studies, Sarnath, Varanasi	1 st ed. 1999

Paper / Course Code	Paper / Course Title
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232N48W101#	Workshop: Brahmi Script			
	TH	W	TUT	Total
Teaching Scheme(Hrs.)	--	01	--	01
Credits Assigned	--	02	--	02
Examination Scheme	Marks			
	CA 50		Total 50	

Workshop1: Brahmi script

Brahmi is the most widely used script in ancient India, and after the Indus script, is the most ancient. It has left its mark on not just Indian but Southeast Asian palaeography, as most modern scripts are derived from it. In addition, it was used extensively in Sanskrit as well as Pali, Prakrit inscriptions, making the knowledge of Brahmi indispensable for anyone interested in epigraphy.

The workshop will introduce students to reading and writing the script, with demonstrations of how other scripts evolved from it. In addition, students will also read some inscriptions in different versions of Brahmi.

Semester II

Course Objectives

To enable students to –

- Comprehend the Buddhist Sanskrit Literature by applying the grammatical Tools learnt in Semester I
- Appreciate the varieties of Genre available in Sanskrit language with the help of selected Buddhist Sanskrit texts

Course Outcomes (CO)

At the end of successful completion of the course the student will -

CO.1. Get an insight into the rich heritage of the Buddhist Sanskrit literature

CO.2. Be able to read simple passages, with comparative analysis

CO.3. Appreciate distinct features of Hybrid Sanskrit grammar with elementary aspects of translation

Paper / Course Code	Paper / Course Title			
232N48C201*	Translation and Critical Appreciation			
	TH	W	TUT	Total
Teaching Scheme(Hrs.)	04	00	--	04
Credits Assigned	04	00	--	04

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Examination Scheme	Marks		
	CA	ESE	Total
	50	50	100

Unit No.	Description	Hrs.
	Translation & Critical Appreciation of Selected texts	
1.1	• Selections from Reading Buddhist Sanskrit Texts by KL Dhammajoti	04
1.2	• Sanskrit Buddhist inscription from Cambodian inscription of Jayavarman VII th / Kanheri	04
1.3	• Selection from Divyavadana – discussion on language, style, shift in thoughts	08
1.4	• Selection from Buddhacaritam Kavya	08
T1	• Reading Practice and Translation	02
1.5	• Introduction to the linguistic features of Buddhist Hybrid Sanskrit • BHS - Peculiarities in Noun and pronoun forms	04
1.6	• BHS - Peculiarities in verb forms • BHS - Peculiarities of Sandhis	04
1.7	• Selection from Mahavastu Avadana (peculiarities of BHS and characteristics of the passage)	08
1.8	• Selection from Lalitavistara	08
1.9	• Selection from Saddharma Pundarika Sutra	08
T2	• Reading Practice and Translation	02
	Total	60

Recommended Books:

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Sr. No.	Name/s of Author/s	Title of Book	Name of Publisher with country	Edition and Year of Publication
1.	Ānandajoti Bhikkhu	<i>A Comparison of the Pāli Udānas and the Sanskritised Udānavarga</i>	Online edition	July, 2003
2.	Bagchi S.	<i>Mahāvastu Avadāna</i> , Vol. I	The Mithila Institute of Post-graduate studies and Research in Sanskrit Learning, Darbhanga	1970 1 st ed. 2003, 2 nd ed.
3.	Basak Radhagovind	<i>Mahāvastu Avadāna</i> , Vol. II	The Mithila Institute of Post-graduate studies and Research in Sanskrit Learning, Darbhanga	2003
4.	Basak Radhagovind	<i>Mahāvastu Avadāna</i> , Vol. III	The Mithila Institute of Post-graduate studies and Research in Sanskrit Learning, Darbhanga	2004
5.	Cowell E. B. Neil R. A.	<i>The Divyāvadāna: A Collection of Early Buddhist Legends</i>	Indological Book House, Delhi, Varanasi	1987 2 nd ed.
6.	Dhammajoti KL	<i>Reading Buddhist Sanskrit Texts: an Elementary Grammatical Guide</i>	Foreign Language Teaching and Research Press, Beijing	2015, 1 st ed
7.	Edgerton Franklin	<i>Buddhist Hybrid Sanskrit Grammar and Dictionary, Volume 1: Grammar</i>	MLBD, Delhi	1 st ed., New Haven 1953 Reprint, Delhi 1993
8.	Edgerton Franklin	<i>Buddhist Hybrid Sanskrit Grammar and Dictionary, Volume 2: Dictionary</i>	MLBD, Delhi	1 st ed., New Haven 1953 Reprint, Delhi 1993
9.	Edgerton Franklin	<i>Buddhist Hybrid Sanskrit Reader</i>	MLBD, Delhi	1 st ed., New Haven 1953 Reprint Delhi 1996
10.	Gokhale Shobhana	<i>Kanheri Inscriptions</i>	Deccan College Post Graduate and Research Institute, Pune	1991, 1 st ed.
11.	Johnston E. H.	<i>Aśvaghoṣa's Buddhacarita or acts of the Buddha</i>	MLBD, Delhi	1936, 1 st ed, Reprint, Delhi 2004
12.	Mitra Rajendralal	<i>The Lalita Visatara or Memoirs of the Early Life of Sakya Sinha</i> , Vol. I & II	Cosmo Publications, New Delhi	2004
13.	Singh Paramanand (Ed.)	<i>Saddharma Puṇḍarīka Sūtra (Text with Hindi Translation)</i>	Bauddha Akar Granthamala, Kashi	1993, 1 st ed

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			Vidyapith, Varanasi	
14.	Tripathi R. S. (editor)	<i>Special Discourse by His Holiness Dalai Lama on Bidhicaryāvatāra of Ācārya Śāntideva</i>	Central University of Tibetan Studies, Sarnath, Varanasi	1 st ed. 1983, 4 th ed. 2015
15.	Tripathi Ramshankar	<i>Saundaranand Mahākāvya of Ācārya Aśvaghoṣa with Tibetan and Hindi Translations</i>	Central University of Tibetan Studies, Sarnath, Varanasi	1 st ed. 1999
13.	Kapur Pradeep Kumar, Sahai Sachchidanand	<i>Ta Prohm: A Glorious Era in Angkor Civilization</i>	White Lotus Press, Thailand	2007

Paper / Course Code	Paper / Course Title			
232N48W201 @	Workshop: Introduction to Prakrit Grammar			
	TH	W	TUT	Total
Teaching Scheme(Hrs.)	--	01	--	01
Credits Assigned	--	02	--	02
Examination Scheme	Marks			
	CA 50		Total 50	

Workshop 2: Introduction to Prakrit Grammar

The term Prakrit refers to a group of closely related literary languages extensively used in ancient Indian inscriptions, literature and religious texts. Most of the Jain texts were composed in Ardhamagadhi Prakrit. Some of the ancient Buddhist texts used a peculiar form of Sanskrit which shows immense influence of Prakrit languages. Some Buddhist inscriptions and literature from Gandhara region has preserved the Gandhari Prakrit. Thus the knowledge of Prakrit is essential for better understanding of the ancient Indian society.

This workshop aims at introducing the students to salient features of Prakrit languages and their linguistic structure. This will include preliminary reading of some Prakrit texts.