

How to prepare for upcoming exam

I've thought about this, and I do understand that, it will be difficult for most of you to read all seven chapters in its entirety as a preparation for the exam. I am going to give you a set of sample questions. You prepare for the exam from them. 80% to 90% of the questions in the exam will be somewhat connected or related to these sample questions.

In the sample questions, there will be a section which requires you to answer whether the statements made are true or false. The way to study is based on these sample questions. But the point is not to merely have a minor discussion [with yourself or with others] whether it is true or false, and you are happy with that. That is wrong. You must be able to [give reasons] why it is true or false.

Above this, related to the statement, you should come out with another example, by changing the subject of the statement, you then think about it and then give the answer. For example, the 1st question is:

***Our body is an object of abandonment,
because it arose from the ignorance belonging to the twelve links of dependent origination.***

It is not enough merely to ask someone whether this is true or false and leave it as that. If you think that this is sufficient for your preparation, you will not be able to pass the exam.

In this question, the subject of inquiry is "our body", after you have answered true or false, with the reasons for your answer, you should then substitute the subject by thinking, for example:

***Our mind is an object of abandonment,
because it arose from the ignorance belonging to the twelve links of dependent origination.***

Since the subject has changed, then does the answer remains the same or not? I am merely giving an example. I am not saying that the actual exam question will be the second example. I am merely highlighting how you should think and learn.

What I wish from you is that, you should know the purpose of having these sample questions.

The point is for you to learn, think, analyze and discuss [on what you've learnt].

Of course, you still have to take the exam, but this is not about passing or failing, this is about educating yourself, about learning. While this is the main thing, having said that, it is also not right to do away with the exam as well. This is because, if we don't have the exam, then most people will merely close the text after [the last lesson], and that's it, not going to look at the text [again]. so, there is no choice, we have to have the exam.

When I say that, 80% to 90% of the questions in the exam will revolve around [these sample questions], I am not saying that, you will get exactly the same statements that you find here, that I am merely changing the subject with the remaining statements unchanged. Please keep in mind that, this is not the case. If you misunderstand what I am saying here, then there is the danger that, I may end up receiving a lot of complains after the exam!

It is entirely possible that, perhaps there are maybe about 10% of the exam questions that are not connected to what you find in these sample questions.

Khenrinpoche: It is a possibility, but I am not sure. I have not decided on the questions yet, so there's [still] no idea [yet]. So, those who want to take the exam, you can study the questions. That's the whole point, that you get more [knowledge].