

Department of Examinations, Sri Lanka
Catholic Dharmacharya Certificate Examination – 2026

Statute and Syllabus

Applications are hereby called for Catholic Dharmacharya Certificate Examination for year 2024 and 2025, and arrangements have been made to conduct the examination in the month of November 2026.

2. Examination Centers: - Examination centers will be established in each district as per the Schedule 01 according to the number of applicants. If there is no sufficient number of applicants for an examination center, such centers will be cancelled and the relevant candidates will be directed to a nearby examination center.
3. Language Medium: - This examination will be held in Sinhala, Tamil and English languages. However, a candidate will be allowed to appear only in one language medium according to his/her consent.
4. Qualifications: - All applicants applying for this examination should have acquired at least one of the following qualifications.
 - 4.1 Should have passed Catholic Daham Pasal Final Certificate Examination conducted by the Department of Examinations, Sri Lanka.
 - 4.2 Should have passed Dharmacharya Examination or Dharmacharya Special Examination or Honors in Dharmacharya Examination conducted by the National Catechetic Center.
 - 4.3 Should have passed G.C.E. (A.L.) Examination conducted by the Department of Examinations, Sri Lanka with three subjects including either Christianity or Christian Civilization.
 - 4.4 Should have passed 06 subjects in G.C.E. (O.L.) Examination including Credit Pass for Catholicism in not more than two sittings or should have passed Senior School Certificate Examination or National General Certificate in Education with Credit Pass for Catholicism in not more than two sittings and be a teacher with the experience in teaching for not less than one year in a Catechism School registered under the Department of Christian Religious Affairs.

Note: - All applicants should submit application with the affirmation of the Head Teacher of Catechism Schools approved by the Department of Christian Religious Affairs or with the affirmation of Parish Priest of respective mission as to the candidate has acquired at least one of the qualifications stipulated in para 4 above.

5. Method of Application: -
 - 5.1 These applications which should be submitted only through the Head of the registered Catechism Schools have been sent to the Catechism Schools by post. Application can also be downloaded from the department's web site www.donets.lk
 - 5.2 Applicants will not be permitted to appear as external candidates. However, applicants who have fulfilled the qualifications in Para 4 above may apply for the examination by paying an examination fee of Rs. 200/- through the Catechism School nearest to the applicant's residence. Instructions in this regard will be sent to the Heads of all Catechism Schools.

- 5.3 Name of the applicant in the application should be written in accordance with the name mentioned in the birth certificate of the applicant and apart from printing errors, the requests for name revisions will not be considered after issuing results. Information given in applications should be clear and accurate. Applications submitted contrary to the instructions will be rejected without any notification.
- 5.4 Computer number assigned for the Catechism School and the address should be accurately mentioned and changes in the address of Catechism School should be informed with the contact number which will be convenient to contact the Head Teacher of the Catechism School.
- 5.5 The Head Teacher or Parish Priest certifying the application and applicant's qualifications will be responsible for the attestation in this regard.
- 5.6 The closing date of applications will be 14th of September, 2026. Applications should reach the Commissioner General of Examinations, Institutional Examinations Organization Branch, Department of Examinations, Sri Lanka, Pelawatta, Battaramulla on or before the closing date.
6. Examination Fee: - The prescribed examination fee for this examination will be Rs. 200/-. Applicants appearing for this examination for the first time are exempted from the examination fee. The examination fee for an under passed subject will be Rs.50/-.
- 6.1. Payment of examination fee: - Examination fees of all applicants of the respective Catechism School should be collected by the principal and should be paid through any Post Office on the island to be credited to the revenue head 20-03-02-13 of the Department of Examinations, Sri Lanka and the receipt obtained for the total payment should be firmly affixed to the application. (Keeping a photocopy of the receipt may be useful.)
- 6.2. Examination fee paid for this examination will not be refunded or transferred to any other examination.
7. Admission Card: - The Commissioner General of Examinations will issue an Admission Card for each candidate applied for this examination to receive through the Head Teacher of the respective Catechism School who has submitted applications.
- 7.1 Candidates appearing for this examination should handover their duly attested Admission Cards to the Supervisor of the Examination at the initial moment of appearing for the examination. The candidacy of any applicant who refrains from handing over the Admission Card or appearing for the examination in an examination center where the Commissioner General of Examinations has not assigned for the candidate will be suspended.
- 7.2 The signature of the candidate in the Admission Card should be attested by the Head Teacher of Catechism School or the Parish Priest of respective mission.
- 7.3 If the admission card is not received before 07 days to the scheduled date of the examination should be notified in that regard to the Commissioner General of Examinations by the respective Head Teacher of the Catechism School without any delay. Such notices should carry the following details together with a photocopy of registration receipt.
1. Name of the examination
 2. Name of the Catechism School
 3. Address of Religious School
 4. Computer number assigned for the Catechism School
 5. Full name of the applicant
 6. Examination center/ town applied

8. Identity: - Candidates should be in a position to prove their identity to the Supervisor of the Examination when appearing for each paper. Any of the following documents would be sufficient in this regard.

- National Identity Card
- Valid passport
- Valid Sri Lankan Driving License

Candidates should enter the examination hall without covering their face and ears in order to prove their identity. Further, any Candidates who refuses to assist for proving his/her identity will not be allowed to enter the examination hall. The candidates should remain the examination hall from the time of entering to the time of leaving the examination hall without covering face and ears enabling the examination authorities to identify the candidate.

9. Pass marks and issuing of results: -

9.1 Number of prescribed subjects of this examination is five and candidates should pass all five subjects to receive pass grade. However, if a candidate failed only in one subject out of the total five subjects will be considered as an underpass candidate. The underpass subject should be passed by the candidate within three (3) consecutive examinations from the initial sitting. To complete the underpass subject, the candidates should appear for the underpass subject only.

9.2 Each question paper of each subject carries 100 marks and the marks range, grading and relevant symbol given for passing stages are as follows.

Marks Range	Grade	Symbol
0-34	Failure	F
35-54	Pass	S
55-69	Credit Pass	C
70-100	Distinction Pass	D

9.3 Results schedules of the candidates will be sent by post to the Heads of the Catechism Schools.

10. Certificates: - Action will be taken by the Department of Examinations to issue a certificate to those who pass this examination. The relevant certificates will be sent by post to the Head Teacher of the Catechism School by the Department of Examinations. Any candidate who has passed the examination and have not received a certificate should inquire from the Department of Examinations through a letter signed by addressed to the Commissioner General of Examinations, Institutional Examinations Results Branch, the Department of Examinations, Sri Lanka, Pelawatta, Battaramulla.

11. Answer scripts re-scrutiny: - Re-scrutiny of answer scripts will be permitted only on a request by the Head Teacher of the Catechism School. Requests for re-scrutiny may be submitted by a specimen form issued by the Department of Examinations within 14 days from issuing of results. Charges in this regard would be revised from time to time and the prescribed charges

will be mentioned in the application. The applicants or their representatives will not be given permission under any circumstance to check the answer sheets.

12. Details of the Examination: - This examination will be comprising with five (5) papers. The allotted time for each paper will be three (3) hours. The question papers are as follows.

1. The Holy Bible
2. Liturgy and Sacraments
3. The Church History (Global and Sri Lanka Context)
4. Catechism
5. Social Doctrine of the Church

13. Structure of the question paper: -

- Each question paper will comprise three parts, i.e. Part I, Part II, Part III.
- Part I will comprise 10 questions requiring short answers and all questions should be answered. Four (4) marks will be given for each question. (Marks 4 X 10 = 40)
- Part II will comprise five (5) structured questions of which four (4) questions should be answered as per preference. Each question will carry twelve (12) marks. (Marks 12 X 4 = 48)
- Part III will comprise with 2 essay type questions. Only one question should be answered as per preference. Twelve (12) marks will be given for this part. (Marks 12 X 1 = 12)

14. Syllabus and Proto type question papers: - Forward your queries to “Director, National Catechetical Center, Balcombe Place, Kotta Road, Colombo 08 or to the contact number 0112685459 with regard to the Catholic Dharmacharya Certificate Examination scheduled to be organized and conducted by the Department of Examinations, Sri Lanka.

15. All applicants of the examination are bound by the regulations of this statute and syllabus sheet and any other fact not regulated herein shall be determined according to the discretion of the Commissioner General of Examinations.

16. In the event of any inconsistency between the Sinhala, Tamil and English texts of this notification, the Sinhala text shall prevail.

A.K.S. Indika Kumari Liyanage

Commissioner General of Examinations

On the 14th of August, 2026

At the Department of Examinations, Sri Lanka

Pelawatta, Battaramulla

SCHEDULE 01

District/ Town Number	District/ Town
01	Colombo
02	Gampaha
03	Kalutara
04	Kandy
05	Matale
06	Nuwara Eliya
07	Galle
08	Matara
09	Hambantota
10	Jaffna
11	Mannar
12	Vavuniya
13	Mullaitivu
14	Kilinochchi
15	Batticaloa
16	Ampara
17	Trincomalee
18	Kurunegala
19	Puttalam
20	Anuradhapura
21	Polonnaruwa
22	Badulla
23	Monaragala
24	Ratnapura
25	Kegalle