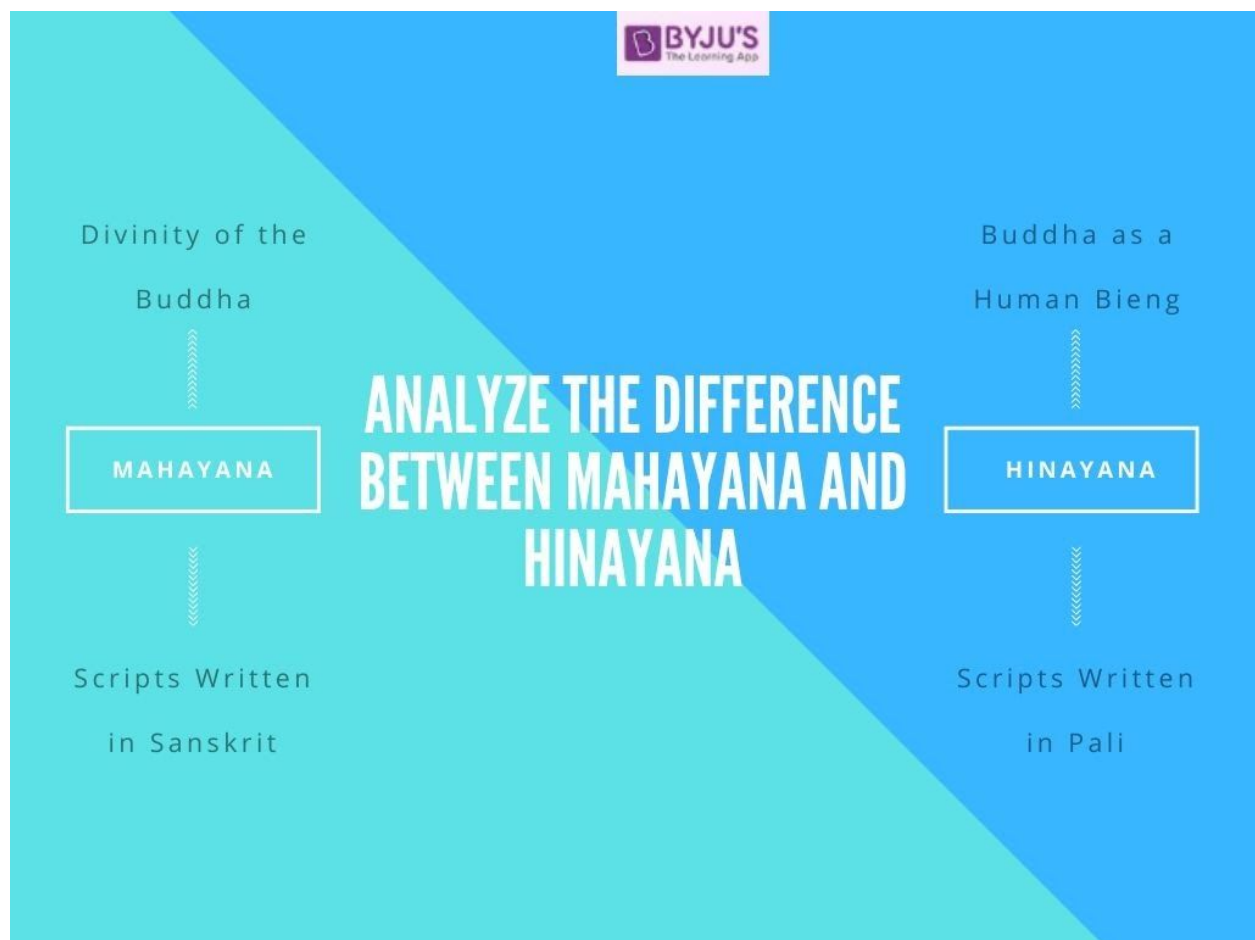


Difference Between Mahayana and Hinayana

Upon the death of Gautama Buddha in 400 BC, Buddhism divided into two sects: Mahayana and Hinayana

The Mahayana sect, which means 'Great Vehicle' in Sanskrit, believed in the divinity of the Buddha. The sect encouraged idol worship in Buddhism

The Hinayana sect, meaning 'Small Vehicle' in Sanskrit, did not believe in the divinity of the Buddha. It stressed on individual salvation through self-discipline and mediation.



Keeping the IAS Exam in mind, this article will further discuss the difference between Mahayana and Hinayana Buddhism

Differences between Mahayana and Hinayana

Mahayana	Hinayana
Mahayana Buddhism consider Gautama Buddha to be a divine being who will help his followers to attain nirvana	Hinayana Buddhist consider Gautama Buddha as an ordinary human being who attained Nirvana
Followers of Mahayana Buddhism can be found in China, (South) Korea, Japan and Tibet	Hinayana Buddhism is followed in Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia and Laos
Scriptures of Mahayana Buddhism were written Sanskrit	Scriptures of Hinayana Buddhism were written in Pali
<p>The three bodies of a Buddha are accepted in Mahayana Buddhism. They are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nirmanakaya • Sambhogakaya • Dharmakaya 	Hinayana does not believe in the three bodies of a Buddha as they believe an individual must find its own path to salvation
<p>The ten-far reaching attitude in Mahayana is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generosity • Self-Discipline • Patience • Perseverance • Mental Stability • Wisdom • Skills in Means • Aspirational Prayers • Strengthening • Deep Awareness 	<p>The ten-far reaching attitude in Hinayana is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generosity • Self-Discipline • Patience • Perseverance • Being True to one's words • Wisdom • Renunciation • Resolution • Love • Equanimity
In Mahayana Buddhism, immeasurable joy is the wish that others have the joy of unending enlightenment	In Hinayana Buddhism, immeasurable joy means rejoicing in the happiness of others without any jealousy and not expecting anything in return
Mahayana Buddhism began to flourish around 500 BC	Hinayana Buddhism started to flourish around 250 BC

