

**ENTRANCE EXAMINATION HELD THROUGHOUT SGI-USA
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On April 22, a total of 1,411 people took the SGI-USA Study Department's Entrance-level Examination in 139 locations around the United States, Guam and Okinawa. There were 1,171 English-language participants, with the rest of the total taking the exam in Chinese, Japanese, Korean and Spanish. Make-up exams were to be held throughout the following week, resulting in an anticipated total of more than 1,700 participants.

Many of the members that joined SGI-USA last year were able to take the exam. This means that these new members are already studying, an essential aspect of Buddhist practice and foundation of faith. Speaking on the importance of Buddhist study, SGI President Ikeda has said, "The purpose of practice is to assist and support faith, and the purpose of study is to support practice" (*Faith Into Action*, p. 166).

The test included works from *The Writings of Nichiren Daishonin*, such as "On Attaining Buddhahood in this Lifetime," "The Real Aspect of the Gohonzon" and "Happiness in this World," as well as material on the life of Nichiren Daishonin and the SGI's Soka Spirit movement. Those who passed this exam have reached the elementary level of the Study Department.

Next up is the Advanced-level Examination, to be held across the country on Oct. 21. Local study meetings for this exam are already underway. For more information on the SGI-USA Study Department's curriculum, please visit SGI-USA's Web site at <http://www.sgi-usa.org>.