



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS
General Certificate of Education Advanced Subsidiary Level

HINDUISM

8058/01

Paper 1

October/November 2011

3 hours

Additional Materials: Answer Booklet/Paper



READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

If you have been given an Answer Booklet, follow the instructions on the front cover of the Booklet.

Fill in the grid on the front page of the answer booklet to show which questions you have answered.

Write your Centre number, candidate number and name on all the work you hand in.

Write in dark blue or black pen.

Do not use staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.

Answer **five** questions.

Answer at least **one** question from **each** section.

Read the questions **carefully**. Try to understand exactly what is being asked of you.

You are reminded of the need for good English and clear presentation in your answers.

At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.

All questions in this paper carry 20 marks.

This document consists of **3** printed pages and **1** blank page.



Answer any **five** questions, choosing at least **one** from each section.

Section A

- 1 'Of the Vedic gods, only Varuna upholds morality.'

Discuss.

- 2 'Even an age of science and reason should not reject the insights of the past.'

Discuss with reference to one or more of the Hindu 'creation' texts you have studied.

- 3 'The Upanishads discuss abstract ideas; they do not give practical guidance.'

How far do you agree? Use material from Upanishads you have studied to support your view.

Section B

- 4 'Tales of ancient battles have little value for Hindus today.'

Discuss with reference to your study of the Mahabharata.

- 5 Discuss the significance in Hindu belief and practice of Krishna's saying that he comes into being for the establishment of righteousness from age to age.

- 6 'As the shadow to the substance ...'

To what extent should the words and actions of wives and mothers, as they are portrayed in the Ramayana, be considered as guidance for women today?

Section C

- 7 'The success of bhakti movements in medieval India suggests that devotion is the only path to salvation.'

Discuss.

- 8 'Tulsidasa fails to emphasise the ultimate victory of truth over the forces of evil.'

Discuss.

- 9 Explore the significance of the love of Radha and Krishna in the poetry of Surdasa.

Section D

- 10 Discuss the significance for 19th and 20th century Hinduism of Ramakrishna Paramahansa's belief that all religions lead to God.

- 11 'M.K. Gandhi left his mark on world history, not because he believed in ahimsa, but because he set himself to practise it.'

Discuss.

- 12 'Swami Dayananda Saraswati's desire for a reformed India was a noble one, but his ideas for achieving reform were flawed.'

To what extent do you agree? Give reasons to support your view.

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