



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

**HINDUISM**

**8058/01**

Paper 1

**October/November 2012**

**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 'Indra the Generous remained victorious for all time to come.' (Rig Veda 1.32.13)

On what grounds do the Vedic poets justify this high praise of Indra?

- 2 'Creation stories are told not only to explain the origins of the universe, but also to make sense of life in human societies.'

Discuss with reference to Vedic texts you have studied.

- 3 According to the Upanishads, what are the characteristics of an ideal seeker after truth?

**Section B**

- 4 'It is a mistake to consider Yudhistira and Duryodhana as simply the hero and the villain.'

Discuss.

- 5 'Arjuna had to understand Krishna's teaching about the immortal soul. Without this understanding he could not fulfil his dharma.'

Discuss.

- 6 Explore the significance of the relationship between Rama the avatara and his brothers Lakshmana and Bharata in the Ramayana.

**Section C**

- 7 On what grounds are the traditional Alvars honoured as 'saints' by Hindus today?
- 8 'The legends surrounding the life of Tulsidas are of no importance in assessing the religious value of his writings.'
- Discuss.
- 9 'The bhakti of Surdasa offers the worshipper intimate access to God.'
- Discuss with reference to the poems and imagery of Surdasa.

**Section D**

- 10 Explain what M.K.Gandhi meant by the term *satyagraha* and how he endeavoured to reform public opinion by acting on this principle.
- 11 Assess critically the achievements of the Brahma Samaj as a reforming movement in 19th century India.
- 12 'That country alone prospers where Brahmacharya is properly practised, knowledge is keenly sought after and the teachings of the Vedic religion followed.' (Swami Dayananda Saraswati: The Light of Truth Ch 3)
- Discuss with reference to the Swami's views on education.

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