

551/02

RELIGIOUS STUDIES RS 1b

EASTERN RELIGIONS

**An Introduction to either Buddhism or
Hinduism or Sikhism**

P.M. THURSDAY, 8 June 2006

(1 hour)

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

In addition to this examination paper, you will need an 8 page answer book.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Answer questions from **one** section **only**, either Section A or Section B or Section C.

Write your answers in the separate answer book provided.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

All questions carry 20 marks. The number of marks is given in brackets at the end of each question or part-question.

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

All questions should be answered in continuous prose. Quality of Written Communication will be assessed in all questions.

Answer questions from **one section only, either Section A or Section B or Section C.**

SECTION A: An Introduction to Buddhism

Answer **Question 1** and **one other question.**

1.

One of the first things the Buddha did after he had become enlightened was to set out what he saw as the human condition. According to Buddhists there are only three things of which we can be completely sure. We cannot know whether the world was created by God, whether there is life after death or anything like that. All we can be sure about is that there are three marks of existence – Dukkha, Anicca and Anatta.

Buddhism for AS students – Wendy Dossett.

- (a) Explain, with examples, the Buddhist concept of *Anatta*. [10]
- (b) Explain the other two *marks of existence*. [10]
2. (a) Explain the role and significance of the three jewels in Buddhism. [10]
- (b) ‘The Buddha is the most important of the three jewels.’
Assess this view. [10]
3. (a) Outline the social and religious background from which Buddhism emerged. [10]
- (b) ‘The Buddha turned his back on all the religious teaching of his age.’
Assess this view. [10]

SECTION B: An Introduction to Hinduism

Answer Question 1 and one other question.

1.

There are three gods which Hindus believe are the most important. They are Brahman the creator, Vishnu the preserver and Shiva the destroyer. The three gods are known as the Trimurti. They work together in a never ending pattern. Everything is made, lasts for a time and is then destroyed.

Hinduism – Sue Penny

- (a) Explain the main features of *Shiva*. [10]
- (b) Explain the main features of Vaishnavism. [10]
- 2.** (a) Explain how puja is performed in Hinduism. [10]
- (b) ‘The daily puja is the most important practice in Hinduism.’
Assess this view. [10]
- 3.** (a) Explain the concept of varna in Hinduism. [10]
- (b) ‘The varnas create an unequal and unfair society.’
Assess this view. [10]

SECTION C: An Introduction to Sikhism

Answer **Question 1** and **one other question**.

1.

Guru Gobind Singh told the people that because the men had been prepared to die for what they believed they should be called the *panj piare* – the beloved ones.

Not all Sikhs are members of the *Khalsa*. Some feel that they cannot keep the rules for living which it expects of them. When a Sikh joins the *Khalsa*, there is a special ceremony called the amrit ceremony.

Sikhism – Sue Penny

- (a) Explain the importance of the *panj piare* in Sikhism. [10]
- (b) Explain how a Sikh is accepted into the *Khalsa*. [10]
2. (a) Explain the main features of a gurdwara. [10]
- (b) ‘The langar is the most important feature of the gurdwara.’
Assess this view. [10]
3. (a) Explain the contribution made by Guru Arjan to Sikhism. [10]
- (b) ‘The Ten Gurus of Sikhism are equal in status.’
Assess this view. [10]