

551/02

RELIGIOUS STUDIES RS 1b

EASTERN RELIGIONS

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

A.M. WEDNESDAY, 17 January 2007

(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.

The Buddha's first sermon is known as the Deer Park Sermon, or the Setting in Motion of the Wheel of the Law. In this sermon the Buddha explained what he had discovered in terms of Four Truths, which function as a kind of doctor's diagnosis of the human condition.

Buddhism – Denise Cush

- (a) Explain the four noble truths. [10]
- (b) Explain the importance of the four noble truths to Buddhists today. [10]
- 2.** (a) Explain the importance of the Four Sights to the Buddha's enlightenment. [10]
- (b) 'The Buddha's experience of the Four Sights is the most important event in Buddhism.' Assess this view. [10]
- 3.** (a) Explain the nature of puja in Buddhism. [10]
- (b) 'There is no real purpose to puja in Buddhism.' Assess this view. [10]

SECTION B: An Introduction to Hinduism

Answer Question 1 and one other question.

1.

Hindu religion is rich in life, colour and emotion. Its festivals, in particular, are characterized by happiness, music, perfumed fires, countless candles, gaily decked elephants, and so on. Life is to be enjoyed for the world is the joyous creation of God.

Hinduism – Beliefs and Practices – Jeaneane Fowler

- (a) Explain, with examples, the importance of festivals in Hinduism. [10]
- (b) Explain the tradition of bhakti in Hinduism. [10]
- 2.** (a) Explain Hindu beliefs about karma and reincarnation. [10]
- (b) ‘The teaching of karma and reincarnation is the most important teaching in Hinduism.’
Assess this view. [10]
- 3.** (a) Explain some of the beliefs about the divine which are found within Hinduism. [10]
- (b) ‘The gods, which are expressions of Brahman, are more important to Hindus than Brahman.’
Assess this view. [10]

SECTION C: An Introduction to Sikhism

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

1.

In Sikhism the authority of the Guru Granth Sahib is never challenged. It is not open to interpretation by religious leaders. What is important is the message contained in the book, which is considered to be the word of God. It is the basis of Sikh beliefs about God, the soul and rebirth.

Sikhism – W. Owen Cole

- (a) Explain the role and importance of the *Guru Granth Sahib* in Sikhism. [10]
- (b) Explain Sikh teaching about the *soul and rebirth*. [10]
2. (a) Describe the social and religious background from which Sikhism emerged. [10]
- (b) ‘All Sikh teaching is taken from other religions.’
Assess this view. [10]
3. (a) Explain, with examples, how festivals contribute towards Sikh identity. [10]
- (b) ‘Celebrating festivals does not necessarily show any commitment towards a religion.’
Assess this view with reference to Sikhism. [10]