



**General Certificate of Education
Advanced Subsidiary/Advanced**

551/02

**RELIGIOUS STUDIES RS 1b
EASTERN RELIGIONS
An Introduction to either
Buddhism or Hinduism or
Sikhism**

A.M. WEDNESDAY, 16 January 2008
(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.

Sangha is the word for the community of those who follow the Buddhist path. Often, Sangha refers to the monastic community – the monks and nuns who have abandoned a worldly life to lead an exemplary life of virtue. But these days the term refers to lay people as well, ordinary people who have jobs, families, and other social responsibilities.

Buddhism – Dominique Side

- (a) Describe the main features of the monastic sangha in Buddhism. [10]
- (b) Explain the importance of the three jewels in Buddhism. [10]
2. (a) Explain the importance of **three** of the main events in the life of the Buddha. [10]
- (b) ‘The Buddha is far more important than his teaching.’
Assess this view. [10]
3. (a) Outline Buddhist teaching on the three marks of existence. [10]
- (b) ‘Buddhism is a very depressing religion.’
Assess this view. [10]

SECTION B: An Introduction to Hinduism

Answer Question 1 and one other question.

1.

One aspect of Hinduism which everyone seems to have heard about is the caste system – the practice of differentiating people in society into different groups. Caste is an aspect of Hinduism which is often misunderstood.

Hinduism – Beliefs and Practices – Jeaneane Fowler

(a) Explain the concept of varna in Hinduism. [10]

(b) Explain the role played by varnashramadharma in the daily lives of many Hindus. [10]

2. (a) Describe the main features of Shaivism. [10]

(b) ‘Vaishnavism and Shaivism are not two different forms of Hinduism, but two quite different religions.’
Assess this view. [10]

3. (a) Explain the main features of a Hindu marriage. [10]

(b) ‘Rites of passage have no place in today’s society.’
Assess this view with reference to Hinduism. [10]

SECTION C: An Introduction to Sikhism

Answer Question 1 and one other question.

1.

The Rahit Maryada says that, in whatever way it is learned in the family and the community, “gurdwaras are laboratories for teaching the practice of sewa”. But it adds, ‘the real field is the world abroad. Service recognises no barriers ...’

- (a) Explain the main features of the gurdwara. [10]
- (b) Explain the Sikh practice of sewa. [10]
2. (a) Explain the contribution of Guru Gobind Singh to Sikhism. [10]
- (b) Assess the view that Sikhism owes more to Guru Gobind Singh than to Guru Nanak. [10]
3. (a) Explain the importance of celebrating Gurburbs to Sikh identity. [10]
- (b) ‘Celebrating historical events has no value in the modern world.’
Assess this view with reference to Sikhism. [10]