



**GCE AS/A level**

551/02

**RELIGIOUS STUDIES RS 1b**

**EASTERN RELIGIONS**

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

P.M. TUESDAY, 3 June 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.**



- (a) Describe Buddhist teaching on the Noble Eightfold Path. [10]
- (b) Explain the importance of the Noble Eightfold Path to Buddhists today. [10]
- 2.** (a) Explain the symbolism found in the Buddhist wheel of life. [10]
- (b) 'Buddhists do not believe in life after death.'  
Assess this view. [10]
- 3.** (a) Give an account of the social and religious conditions in Northern India at the time of the Buddha. [10]
- (b) 'The Buddha did not really have any new ideas of his own.'  
Assess this view. [10]

**SECTION B: An Introduction to Hinduism**

*Answer Question 1 and one other question.*

1.



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

(b) Explain, with examples, the Hindu concept of *avatar*. [10]

2. (a) Explain the four ashramas in Hinduism. [10]

(b) 'The way you behave is much more important in Hinduism than what you believe.'  
Assess this view. [10]

3. (a) Explain the main features of Durga Puja. [10]

(b) 'Goddesses are just as important as gods in Hinduism.'  
Assess this view. [10]

### SECTION C: An Introduction to Sikhism

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

1.



- (a) Describe the contribution of Guru Arjan to Sikhism. [10]
- (b) Examine what the term guru means to Sikhs. [10]

2. (a) Explain the main features of the Khalsa. [10]
- (b) ‘Sikhs put too much emphasis on what you wear rather than what you do.’  
Assess this view. [10]

3. (a) Explain Sikh teaching on equality. [10]
- (b) ‘The teaching on equality is the most important feature of Sikhism.’  
Assess this view. [10]