



GCE A level

1348/06

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

RS3 ER - Studies in Eastern Religions

A.M. MONDAY, 13 June 2011

1³/₄ hours

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

In addition to this examination paper, you will need a 12-page answer book.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Use black ink or black ball-point pen.

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

Write your answers in the separate answer book provided.

Write the number of each question you answer both alongside your answer and on the front cover of the answer book.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

Each question carries 50 marks.

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

Part (*a*) of each question tests your knowledge and understanding.

Part (*b*) of each question tests your skills of reasoning and evaluation.

You are reminded of the need for good English and orderly, clear presentation in your answers. All questions should be answered in continuous prose. Assessment will take into account the quality of written communication in all your answers.

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

Section A: Studies in Buddhism

Answer **two** questions.

1. (a) Describe the instructions for the sangha to be found in the Vinaya. [30]
 (b) 'Buddhism owes its success as much to the rules for monks and nuns as to the teachings of the Buddha.'
 Evaluate this view. [20]
2. (a) Explain Mahayana beliefs about the bodhisattva. [30]
 (b) 'The bodhisattva path is much closer to the Buddha's teachings than the arhat path.'
 Assess this contention. [20]
3. (a) Explain the practices of koan, nembutsu, daimoku and gohonzon. [30]
 (b) 'Practices are more important than beliefs in Buddhism.'
 Assess this view. [20]
4. (a) Examine the history and lifestyle of the Friends of the Western Buddhist Order (FWBO). [30]
 (b) 'Evaluate the view that the FWBO may be better described as a new religion than as a form of Buddhism. [20]

Section B: Studies in Hindism

Answer two questions.

1. (a) Examine the contents and significance of the Vedas. [30]
(b) 'Aside from the Upanishads, Vedic literature has no real relevance in Hinduism today.'
Evaluate this contention. [20]

2. (a) Explain with reference to the text, what the Bhagavad Gita teaches about bhakti yoga. [30]
(b) 'Evaluate the view that bhakti devotion is at the heart of Hinduism. [20]

3. (a) Examine the distinctive characteristics of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON). [30]
(b) 'Swami Prabhupada was more concerned with attracting western converts than with preserving core features of Hinduism.'
Assess this view. [20]

4. (a) Explain the significance in the lives of Hindu women of both dharma and ritual purity. [30]
(b) 'It is surprising that Hinduism treats women so badly when it has female goddesses.'
Evaluate this contention. [20]

Section C: Studies in Sikhism

Answer two questions.

1. (a) Examine the history of the composition of the Guru Granth Sahib.. [30]
(b) 'Sikhs are book worshippers.'
Evaluate this view. [20]
2. (a) Examine the contribution made to Sikh history by Maharaja Ranjit Singh. [30]
(b) Assess the view that Sikh identity suffered under Ranjit Singh's reign. [20]
3. (a) Explain the concepts of miri and piri. [30]
(b) Evaluate the view that violence is justified in Sikhism. [20]
4. (a) Explain the challenges faced by Sikhs living in the UK. [30]
(b) Evaluate the view that Sikhism in Britain has been successful. [20]