



**GCE AS/A level**

1346/01

**RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

**RS1/2 ER - Introduction to Eastern Religions**

A.M. WEDNESDAY, 12 January 2011

1¼ hours

**ADDITIONAL MATERIALS**

In addition to this examination paper, you will need an 8 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 45 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: Introduction to Buddhism**

Answer **two** questions.

1. (a) Examine the importance of **three** of the main events in the life of the Buddha. [30]  
(b) ‘The Buddha’s life experiences influenced him more than his background.’  
Assess this view. [15]
2. (a) Explain the symbolism found in the Buddhist wheel of life. [30]  
(b) ‘Buddhists do not believe in life after death.’  
Assess this view. [15]
3. (a) Explain how a Buddhist could follow the Noble Eightfold Path. [30]  
(b) ‘It is impossible to follow the Noble Eightfold Path without being a member of the Sangha.’  
Assess this view. [15]
4. (a) Examine the main features of meditation in Buddhism. [30]  
(b) ‘Enlightenment is possible only through meditation.’  
Assess this view with reference to Buddhism. [15]

**Section B: Introduction to Hinduism**

*Answer two questions.*

1. (a) Examine the main features of Shaivism. [30]  
(b) 'Vaishnavism and Shaivism are not two different forms of Hinduism but two quite different religions.'  
Assess this view. [15]
2. (a) Explain Hindu beliefs about reincarnation. [30]  
(b) 'Gaining a better reincarnation is the main focus of a Hindu's life.'  
Assess this view. [15]
3. (a) Examine the main features of Durga and Kali. [30]  
(b) 'Hindu goddesses are positive role-models for Hindu women.'  
Assess this view. [15]
4. (a) Examine the main features and purpose of puja in Hinduism. [30]  
(b) 'Puja is not really a religious experience.'  
Assess this view. [15]

**Section C: Introduction to Sikhism**

*Answer two questions.*

1. (a) Examine the contribution of Guru Gobind Singh to Sikhism. [30]  
(b) Assess the view that Sikhism owes more to Guru Gobind Singh than to Guru Nanak. [15]
  
2. (a) Explain Sikh teaching on equality. [30]  
(b) 'Everyone is equal in Sikhism.'  
Assess this view. [15]
  
3. (a) Examine the main features of the gurdwara. [30]  
(b) 'The langar is the most important feature of the gurdwara.'  
Assess this view. [15]
  
4. (a) Examine the nature and significance of the Sikh festival of Diwali. [30]  
(b) 'Celebrating festivals has no meaning in today's world.'  
Assess this view with reference to Sikhism. [15]