



GCE AS/A level

1346/01

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

RS1/2 ER - INTRODUCTION TO EASTERN RELIGIONS

A.M. WEDNESDAY, 16 May 2012

1¼ hours plus your additional time allowance

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 or your usual method.

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 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, EITHER Section A OR Section B OR Section C.

SECTION A: INTRODUCTION TO BUDDHISM

Answer TWO questions.

1. (a) **Examine the significance of the birth stories in Buddhism. [30]**
- (b) **Assess the view that the Buddha's life story is a myth. [15]**

2. (a) **Examine the Buddhist concept of anatta. [30]**
- (b) **'The three marks of existence give a realistic view of life.'**
Assess this view. [15]

3. (a) Examine the role and importance of the monastic sangha in Buddhism. [30]
- (b) 'Without the sangha there would be no Buddhism.'
Assess this view. [15]
4. (a) Explain the main features of vipassana and samatha meditation. [30]
- (b) 'Meditation is the only way to enlightenment.'
Assess this view. [15]

SECTION B: INTRODUCTION TO HINDUISM

Answer TWO questions.

1. (a) **Examine the main features of Vaishnavism. [30]**
- (b) **Assess to what extent the notion of avatar makes sense in the modern world. [15]**

2. (a) **Explain the role of the key rites of passage in Hinduism. [30]**
- (b) **'Rites of passage are no longer relevant in today's world.'**
Assess this view with reference to Hinduism. [15]

3. (a) Explain the distinctive features of TWO Hindu goddesses. [30]
- (b) 'Goddesses are just as important as gods in Hinduism.'
Assess this view. [15]
4. (a) Examine the significance of what Hindus do when performing puja. [30]
- (b) 'Daily puja is far more important in Hinduism than observing festivals.'
Assess this view. [15]

SECTION C: INTRODUCTION TO SIKHISM

Answer TWO questions.

1. **(a) Examine the life and teaching of Guru Nanak. [30]**

- (b) ‘Guru Nanak’s successors are seen today as more important than Guru Nanak.’ Assess this view. [15]**

2. **(a) Explain Sikh teaching on the soul and rebirth. [30]**

- (b) ‘The teaching on the soul and rebirth is the only unique Sikh teaching.’ Assess this view. [15]**

3. (a) **Examine the role of the langar in the Sikh gurdwara. [30]**
- (b) **‘The Sikh way of life would be impossible without the gurdwara.’
Assess this view. [15]**
4. (a) **Examine the importance of gurburbs in Sikhism. [30]**
- (b) **‘Sikh identity cannot be expressed without festivals.’
Assess this view. [15]**