



**GCE AS/A level**

1346/01

**RELIGIOUS STUDIES – RS1/2 ER**  
**Introduction to Eastern Religions**

A.M. MONDAY, 13 May 2013

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 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 religious beliefs and practices in Northern India that the Buddha accepted and the ones he rejected. [30]  
(b) Assess the view that it makes no difference to Buddhism whether the Buddha's story is myth or history. [15]
2. (a) Examine the meaning to Buddhists of karma and the wheel of life. [30]  
(b) 'Belief in life after death is not important in Buddhism.'  
Assess this view. [15]
3. (a) Examine the lay and monastic precepts and their influence on Buddhist lifestyle. [30]  
(b) Assess the view that the monastic Sangha takes advantage of lay Buddhists. [15]
4. (a) Outline the main features of meditation and puja in Buddhism. [30]  
(b) 'Puja is a better way to enlightenment than meditation.'  
Assess this view. [15]

**Section B: Introduction to Hinduism**

*Answer two questions.*

1. (a) Examine beliefs and practices associated with devotion to Shiva. [30]  
(b) Assess the view that Shaivites worship only Shiva. [15]
  
2. (a) Examine Hindu teaching about karma and reincarnation. [30]  
(b) 'The teaching about karma is the most important teaching in Hinduism.'  
Assess this view. [15]
  
3. (a) Explain the significance of Parvati and Lakshmi in Hinduism. [30]  
(b) Assess the view that goddesses in Hinduism are not really important. [15]
  
4. (a) Examine ways in which Ganesh is worshipped by Hindus. [30]  
(b) 'Hindu festivals are social events rather than religious ones.'  
Assess this view. [15]

**Section C: Introduction to Sikhism**

*Answer two questions.*

1. (a) Examine the social and religious background influencing Sikhism in the time of Guru Nanak. [30]  
(b) 'Sikhism was shaped as much by Hindu and Muslim influences as by anything that the Ten Gurus taught.'  
Assess this view. [15]
  
2. (a) Explain the importance of equality in Sikh belief and practice. [30]  
(b) 'The Sikh goal of equality is completely unrealistic.'  
Assess this view. [15]
  
3. (a) Examine the nature and significance of the amrit samskar and the five 'k's in Sikhism. [30]  
(b) Assess the view that only symbols can truly express Sikh identity. [15]
  
4. (a) Examine the nature and role of festivals in Sikhism. [30]  
(b) 'Taking part in a Sikh festival shows commitment to Sikh beliefs.'  
Assess this view. [15]