



**GCE A level**

**1348/06**

**RELIGIOUS STUDIES - RS3 ER**

**STUDIES IN EASTERN RELIGIONS**

**A.M. THURSDAY, 6 June 2013**

**1¾ hours plus your additional time allowance**

## **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 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 50 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: STUDIES IN BUDDHISM**

**Answer TWO questions.**

**1(a) Examine the teachings to be found in the Lotus Sutra. [30]**

**(b) Assess the view that the Lotus Sutra is the most important of the Buddhist scriptures. [20]**

**2(a) Explain beliefs about the arhat in Buddhism. [30]**

**(b) 'The arhat is a better expression of Buddhist teachings than the bodhisattva.'  
Assess this contention. [20]**

**3(a) Examine the practices of Tibetan Buddhism. [30]**

**(b) 'Tibetan practices are more powerful than meditation as expressions of Buddhist teachings.' Assess this view. [20]**

**4(a) Examine possible reasons for the growth of Buddhism in Britain. [30]**

**(b) 'Buddhism is a foreign religion, not relevant to British society.' Assess this view. [20]**

**SECTION B: STUDIES IN HINDUISM**

**Answer TWO questions.**

- 1(a) Examine Vedic religion and society. [30]**
- (b) ‘The beliefs and practices of the Indus Valley are rightly seen as the origins of Hinduism.’  
Evaluate this contention. [20]**
- 2(a) Explain, with reference to the text, what the  
Bhagavad Gita teaches about karma yoga. [30]**
- (b) Evaluate the view that the Bhagavad Gita is too  
complex and mysterious to be useful to modern  
Hindus. [20]**

- 3(a) Examine the contribution made to Hinduism by modern movements. [30]**
- (b) Assess the view that modern movements in Hinduism are more concerned with social issues than with religion. [20]**
- 4(a) Explain how women's roles are changing in Hinduism. [30]**
- (b) 'The teachings of ritual impurity lead to discrimination against women.'  
Evaluate this contention with reference to Hinduism. [20]**

**SECTION C: STUDIES IN SIKHISM**

**Answer TWO questions.**

**1(a) Examine the contents and the significance of the Dasam Granth in Sikhism. [30]**

**(b) 'In comparison to the Guru Granth Sahib, the Dasam Granth is insignificant as a source of Sikh belief.'  
Evaluate this view. [20]**

**2(a) Examine the consequences of British Rule and subsequent Partition for Sikhism. [30]**

**(b) Assess the view that Sikhs accept foreign rule.  
[20]**



- 3(a) Explain the Sikh attitude to equality. [30]**
- (b) Evaluate the view that the Rahit Maryada is the most important source for Sikh ideas about equality. [20]**
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- 4(a) Examine Sikh life in the UK. [30]**
- (b) Evaluate the view that practising Sikhism in the UK is difficult. [20]**