



**GCE A level**

1348/06

**RELIGIOUS STUDIES – RS3 ER**  
**Studies in Eastern Religions**

A.M. THURSDAY, 6 June 2013

1¾ 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 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]
4. (a) Examine Sikh life in the UK. [30]  
(b) Evaluate the view that practising Sikhism in the UK is difficult. [20]