



**GCE AS/A level**

1346/01

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

A.M. TUESDAY, 15 January 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, either Section A or Section B or Section C.*

**Section A: Introduction to Buddhism**

*Answer two questions.*

1. (a) Explain the events surrounding the enlightenment of the Buddha. [30]  
(b) 'The enlightenment of the Buddha is the most important event in Buddhism.'  
Assess this view. [15]
  
2. (a) Explain the importance of the Three Jewels to Buddhists. [30]  
(b) 'Buddhists worship the Buddha.'  
Assess this view. [15]
  
3. (a) Examine the Noble Eightfold Path and its influence on Buddhist lifestyle. [30]  
(b) 'The Noble Eightfold Path is an impossible path to follow.'  
Assess this view. [15]
  
4. (a) Examine the purpose and practice of meditation in Buddhism. [30]  
(b) 'Meditation only encourages Buddhists to be self centred.'  
Assess this view. [15]

**Section B: Introduction to Hinduism**

*Answer two questions.*

1. (a) Examine Hindu beliefs about Brahman. [30]  
(b) 'Hinduism is, without doubt, a monotheistic religion.'  
Assess this view. [15]
  
2. (a) Explain the notion of varna and how it affects the lives of Hindus. [30]  
(b) 'Practices based upon varna create a fair and just society.'  
Assess this view. [15]
  
3. (a) Examine the significance of stories associated with Rama and Sita. [30]  
(b) 'Stories about gods and goddesses have no value in today's world.'  
Assess this view. [15]
  
4. (a) Examine the practice of daily worship in the Hindu home. [30]  
(b) 'Puja is the most important aspect of a Hindu's life.'  
Assess this view. [15]

**Section C: Introduction to Sikhism**

*Answer two questions.*

1. (a) Examine Guru Nanak's influence on Sikh beliefs and practices. [30]  
(b) 'The teachings of the Gurus are not relevant today.'  
Assess this view. [15]
  
2. (a) Explain the role of the Guru Granth Sahib in Sikhism. [30]  
(b) 'Human leadership is far more effective than that of a holy book.'  
Assess this view with reference to Sikhism. [15]
  
3. (a) Examine the founding and role of the Khalsa in Sikhism. [30]  
(b) 'Sikh identity can be shown only through the Khalsa.'  
Assess this view. [15]
  
4. (a) Examine the nature of worship in the gurdwara. [30]  
(b) 'Worshipping in the gurdwara is the most important Sikh duty.'  
Assess this view. [15]