



GCE AS/A level

1346/01

RELIGIOUS STUDIES – RS1/2 ER
Introduction to Eastern Religions

A.M. FRIDAY, 17 January 2014

1 hour 15 minutes

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) Examine the key events in the life of the Buddha which contributed to his spiritual development. [30]
(b) 'For Buddhism the most important event in the Buddha's life was his experience of the four sights.'
Assess this view. [15]
2. (a) Explain the role **and** significance of the historical Buddha for Buddhists. [30]
(b) 'Assess the view that there is nothing more important than the Buddha in Buddhism.' [15]
3. (a) Explain the Four Noble Truths. [30]
(b) Assess the view that the Four Noble Truths are not relevant to life in the modern world. [15]
4. (a) Explain the main features of **two** types of Buddhist meditation. [30]
(b) 'Meditation is a selfish practice.'
Assess this view with reference to Buddhism. [15]

Section B: Introduction to Hinduism

Answer two questions.

1. (a) Examine beliefs and practices associated with Vishnu. [30]
(b) Discuss to what extent Vaishnavism can be regarded as a religion in itself. [15]

2. (a) Explain the role played by varnashramadharma in the daily life of Hindus. [30]
(b) Assess the view that a Hindu's life is totally limited by varna. [15]

3. (a) Examine the significance of stories about Durga and Kali. [30]
(b) Assess the view that goddesses in Hinduism provide positive role models for modern Hindu women. [15]

4. (a) Examine the nature of festivals in Hinduism. [30]
(b) 'Festivals are an unnecessary part of Hinduism.'
Assess this view. [15]

Section C: Introduction to Sikhism

Answer two questions.

1. (a) Examine the importance of Guru Gobind Singh to Sikhism. [30]
(b) Assess the view that there was nothing new in the teaching of the Ten Gurus. [15]
2. (a) Explain how and why the Guru Granth Sahib affects the daily life of Sikhs. [30]
(b) 'Sikhs worship the Guru Granth Sahib.'
Assess this view. [15]
3. (a) Examine the roles of the gurdwara and of the langar in Sikh society. [30]
(b) 'The gurdwara is essential to Sikhism.'
Assess this view. [15]
4. (a) Examine the nature and importance of gurburbs to Sikhism. [30]
(b) 'Festivals are the most important way to show identity.'
Assess this view with reference to Sikhism. [15]

END OF PAPER