



**GCE AS/A level**

**1346/01**

**RELIGIOUS STUDIES – RS1/2 ER**

**Introduction to Eastern Religions**

**A.M. THURSDAY, 14 May 2015**

**1 hour 15 minutes plus your additional time allowance**

## **ADDITIONAL MATERIALS**

**In addition to this examination paper, you will need an 8 page answer book.**

## **INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

**Use black ink, black ball-point pen or your usual method.**

**Answer TWO 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: AN INTRODUCTION TO BUDDHISM**

**Answer TWO questions.**

- 1(a) Explain the importance of the four sights and the enlightenment in the life of the Buddha. [30]**
- (b) ‘The Buddha’s experiences led him to a very pessimistic view of the world.’  
Assess this view. [15]**
- 2(a) Examine the role of the Three Jewels in the life of Buddhists. [30]**
- (b) ‘The Dhamma is the most important of the Three Jewels.’  
Assess this view. [15]**

- 3(a) Examine the main features of Buddhist monastic life. [30]**
- (b) Assess the view that Buddhist monastic life is selfish. [15]**
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- 4(a) Explain how meditation and puja are practised in Buddhism. [30]**
- (b) Assess the claim that meditation is the most important practice in Buddhism. [15]**

**SECTION B: AN INTRODUCTION TO HINDUISM**

**Answer TWO questions.**

- 1(a) Explain the Hindu idea of avatars and their importance in the worship of Vishnu. [30]**
- (b) 'There is nothing more important in Hindu life than bhakti.'**  
**Assess this view. [15]**
- 2(a) Examine Hindu beliefs about the impact of people's actions upon their life in the future. [30]**
- (b) 'Karma is the main focus of a Hindu's life.'**  
**Assess this view. [15]**

- 3(a) Explain the significance in Hinduism of the stories and worship of Parvati and Ganesh. [30]**
- (b) 'In Hinduism gods are role models for men and goddesses are role models for women.'  
Assess this view. [15]**
- 4(a) Explain the main features of Durga Puja. [30]**
- (b) 'Festivals are an essential feature of Hinduism.'  
Assess this view. [15]**

**SECTION C: AN INTRODUCTION TO SIKHISM**

**Answer TWO questions.**

- 1(a) Examine the contributions of Guru Tegh Bahadur and Guru Gobind Singh as defenders of Sikhism. [30]**
- (b) 'Without doubt Guru Nanak is the most important of the Ten Gurus.'  
Assess this view. [15]**
- 2(a) Examine Sikh teachings about God. [30]**
- (b) 'Teachings about God are the most important feature of Sikhism.'  
Assess this view. [15]**



- 3(a) Examine the practice of sewa in the life of Sikhs. [30]**
- (b) 'Serving in the gurdwara is a clearer sign of Sikh identity than wearing the five 'k's.' Assess this view. [15]**
- 4(a) Explain the main features of the Sikh festival of Diwali. [30]**
- (b) 'Celebrating festivals has no real religious value.' Assess this view with reference to Sikhism. [15]**

**END OF PAPER**