



GCE A level

1348/06

RELIGIOUS STUDIES – RS3 ER

Studies in Eastern Religions

P.M. WEDNESDAY, 10 June 2015

1 hour 45 minutes 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 Vinaya. [30]**
- (b) Assess the view that Mahayana Buddhism has abandoned the rules for the sangha. [20]**
- 2(a) Examine the notions of buddha-nature and enlightenment for all. [30]**
- (b) 'The notion of enlightenment for all is not consistent with the Buddha's teaching.' Evaluate this view. [20]**

- 3(a) Explain the meaning and significance of THREE Buddhist practices. [30]**
- (b) 'Buddhists should practise only those practices taught by the Buddha.' Assess this view. [20]**
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- 4(a) Examine the history and lifestyle of any TWO Buddhist groups in the UK. [30]**
- (b) 'Buddhism is popular in Britain because it is a religion of personal experience.' Evaluate this view. [20]**

SECTION B: STUDIES IN HINDUISM

Answer TWO questions.

1(a) Examine Indus Valley religion and society. [30]

(b) 'The Aryan Culture was totally different from the Indus Valley Culture that it replaced.' Evaluate this contention. [20]

2(a) Examine the ways in which Krishna is portrayed in the Bhagavad Gita. [30]

(b) 'The only possible interpretation of the Bhagavad Gita is as an historical account of actual events.' Evaluate this view. [20]

3(a) Examine the significance of the life and work of A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada. [30]

(b) 'ISKCON is a modern movement with little connection to traditional Hinduism.' Assess this view. [20]

4(a) Examine the religious and social roles of women in Hinduism. [30]

(b) 'Discrimination against women in Hinduism can never change.' Evaluate this contention. [20]

SECTION C: STUDIES IN SIKHISM

Answer TWO questions.

- 1(a) Examine the significance in Sikhism of the Japji of Guru Nanak. [30]**
- (b) 'The Japji is the best expression of Sikh beliefs.' Evaluate this view. [20]**
- 2(a) Examine the consequences for Sikh identity of the Vaisakhi Massacre (1919), Partition (1947) and Operation Bluestar (1984). [30]**
- (b) Assess the view that the message received and taught by Guru Nanak has been less important in the development of Sikhism than the response to persecution. [20]**

- 3(a) Explain the relationship between the spiritual (piri) and the temporal (miri) in Sikhism. [30]**
- (b) Assess the view that Sikhism offers a set of teachings which enable Sikhs to solve moral problems. [20]**
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- 4(a) Examine the relationship between religion and culture in British Sikhism. [30]**
- (b) Assess the view that there is no single Sikh identity in Britain. [20]**

END OF PAPER