



**GCE AS/A level**

1346/01



S16-1346-01

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

A.M. THURSDAY, 19 May 2016

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 **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 how events in the Buddha's life influenced his teaching. [30]  
(b) 'The Buddha's enlightenment is not really important to Buddhists.'  
Assess this view. [15]
  
2. (a) Explain how the wheel of life illustrates the concept of pratitya samutpada (connectedness). [30]  
(b) Assess the view that the wheel of life expresses all that is important in Buddhism. [15]
  
3. (a) Explain how the Noble Eightfold Path is related to the Four Noble Truths. [30]  
(b) 'Following the Noble Eightfold Path is the only way to enlightenment.'  
Assess this view. [15]
  
4. (a) Explain the purposes of the various practices in Buddhist puja. [30]  
(b) Assess the view that it is impossible for Buddhist puja to be worship. [15]

**Section B: An Introduction to Hinduism**

*Answer two questions.*

1. (a) Examine the relationship between atman and Brahman in Hindu thought. [30]  
(b) Assess the view that labels like 'polytheism' and 'monism' are useless in describing Hinduism. [15]
  
2. (a) Explain how the duties of Hindus in daily life vary according to their varna and stage of life. [30]  
(b) Assess the view that Hinduism is, above all, a religion of duty. [15]
  
3. (a) Explain various reasons why Hindus value stories about gods and goddesses. [30]  
(b) 'Gods and goddesses are not relevant role models in the modern world.' Assess this view with reference to Hinduism. [15]
  
4. (a) Examine ways in which Hindus worship. [30]  
(b) Assess the view that all forms of worship are of equal importance in Hinduism. [15]

**Section C: An Introduction to Sikhism**

*Answer two questions.*

1. (a) Examine the contribution made to the development of Sikhism by any **two** of the Ten Gurus. [30]
- (b) 'The Gurus changed Sikhism until in the end it looked nothing like the religion of Guru Nanak.'  
Assess this view. [15]
2. (a) Explain how Sikh teachings on equality affect life at home and in the gurdwara. [30]
- (b) Assess the view that the teaching on equality is the only unique teaching in Sikhism. [15]
3. (a) Explain the origin and symbolic significance of the five 'k's'. [30]
- (b) 'Symbols are a weak way of expressing identity.'  
Assess this view with reference to Sikhism. [15]
4. (a) Examine ways in which Sikhs worship. [30]
- (b) 'Festivals are of little importance as a way of Sikh worship.'  
Assess this view. [15]

**END OF PAPER**