



GCE A level

1348/06



S16-1348-06

RELIGIOUS STUDIES – RS3 ER
Studies in Eastern Religions

A.M. WEDNESDAY, 15 June 2016

1 hour 45 minutes

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.

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) Explain the main themes and concepts of the Lotus Sutra. [30]
- (b) 'The themes of the Lotus Sutra exemplify all the main differences between Theravada and Mahayana Buddhism.'
Evaluate this view. [20]
2. (a) Examine the contributions of the Dalai Lama and of Thich Nhat Hanh to Buddhist understandings of enlightenment. [30]
- (b) 'Buddhists learn far more about enlightenment from the lifestyle of living Buddhist teachers than from the Pali Canon.'
Assess this view. [20]
3. (a) Explain the meaning and significance of mudra, mantra and mandala. [30]
- (b) 'Tibetan Buddhism offers the most powerful practices in the Buddhist world.'
Assess this view. [20]
4. (a) Examine reasons why Buddhism has grown in the UK. [30]
- (b) 'Until it learns to speak the language of Western culture, Buddhism will not be established in the West.'
Evaluate this view. [20]

Section B: Studies in Hinduism

Answer two questions.

1. (a) Give an account of the origins controversy of Hinduism. [30]
- (b) 'Vedic literature contains the essence of Hinduism.'
Evaluate this contention. [20]
2. (a) Examine Krishna's teaching about karma in the Bhagavad Gita. [30]
- (b) 'The Bhagavad Gita is just a poem, with nothing much to offer on how to live life.'
Evaluate this view. [20]
3. (a) Give an account of the lifestyle of members of the Swaminarayan Movement. [30]
- (b) Assess the view that Swaminarayan was more innovative than traditional. [20]
4. (a) Examine the issues of female foeticide, infanticide and sati in Hinduism. [30]
- (b) 'Because the divine is female, women have a special place in Hinduism.'
Assess this view. [20]

Section C: Studies in Sikhism

Answer two questions.

1. (a) Examine the significance in Sikhism of the Guru Granth Sahib. [30]
- (b) 'The transition from Adi Granth to Guru Granth Sahib is the most important moment in the history of this text.'
Evaluate this view. [20]
2. (a) Examine the historical relationship between Hinduism and Sikhism in the Punjab. [30]
- (b) 'By Hinduising Sikhism, Maharaja Ranjit Singh failed to protect it.'
Assess this view. [20]
3. (a) Explain Sikh attitudes to gender equality. [30]
- (b) Evaluate the view that the Guru Granth Sahib is the most important source for Sikh ideas about equality. [20]
4. (a) Examine issues faced by Sikhs as a religious minority living in Britain. [30]
- (b) 'Punjabi language and culture are crucial for the survival of Sikhism in the UK.'
Evaluate this view. [20]

END OF PAPER