



General Certificate of Education  
Advanced Subsidiary Examination  
January 2010

## Religious Studies

## RSS09

Unit J World Religions 1: Buddhism OR Hinduism OR Sikhism

Wednesday 13 January 2010 9.00 am to 10.15 am

**For this paper you must have:**

- an 8-page answer book.

### Time allowed

- 1 hour 15 minutes

### Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Examining Body** for this paper is AQA. The **Paper Reference** is RSS09.
- Choose **one** Section only.  
Section A Buddhism page 2  
Section B Hinduism page 3  
Section C Sikhism page 4
- Answer **two** questions.
- Do all rough work in your answer book. Cross through any work that you do not want to be marked.

### Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 90.
- In each question, part (a) tests your knowledge and understanding, while part (b) tests your skills of reasoning and evaluation.
- You will be marked on your ability to:
  - use good English
  - organise information clearly
  - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

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**SECTION A BUDDHISM**

Answer **two** questions.

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- 1 (a) Explain Buddhist teachings about death and rebirth. *(30 marks)*
- (b) Assess the view that Buddhist teaching on rebirth has little effect on the way that Buddhists live their lives. *(15 marks)*
- 2 (a) Outline the Buddhist concept of tanha (craving) and explain how tanha leads to suffering. *(30 marks)*
- (b) ‘Tanha is the only cause of suffering.’
- Assess this view. *(15 marks)*
- 3 (a) Examine the meaning and purpose of right understanding and right thought in the Eightfold Path. *(30 marks)*
- (b) ‘Without the wisdom of right understanding and right thought, following the Eightfold Path is pointless.’
- Assess this view. *(15 marks)*
- 4 (a) Examine the nature of the Sangha as a refuge for the lay and monastic community. *(30 marks)*
- (b) ‘Today, the way of life of the lay Buddhist is more important than the monastic way of life.’
- How far do you agree? *(15 marks)*

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**SECTION B HINDUISM**

Answer **two** questions.

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- 5 (a) Explain why the personal deities of Krishna and Ganesh have special meaning for Hindus. *(30 marks)*
- (b) Assess the view that personal deities are more important to Hindus than the impersonal concept of Brahman. *(15 marks)*
- 6 (a) Examine the relationship between atman and Brahman. *(30 marks)*
- (b) ‘The relationship between atman and Brahman can be fully known only through meditation.’
- Discuss how far you agree. *(15 marks)*
- 7 (a) Examine the nature and purpose of havan, yajna and festival celebrations in temple worship. *(30 marks)*
- (b) To what extent is worship an essential aspect of the Hindu way of life? *(15 marks)*
- 8 (a) Examine the nature and role of holy men in Hinduism. *(30 marks)*
- (b) ‘In Hinduism, the path of the holy man is the only way to achieve final liberation.’
- Assess this view. *(15 marks)*

**Turn over for Section C**

**Turn over ▶**

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**SECTION C SIKHISM**

Answer **two** questions.

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- 9** (a) Explain how both Guru Arjan and Guru Har Gobind contributed to the development of Sikhism during their lifetime. *(30 marks)*
- (b) Assess the view that the contributions of Guru Arjan and Guru Har Gobind have little significance for Sikhs today. *(15 marks)*
- 10** (a) Give an account of the way in which Vaisakhi is celebrated and explain its significance for Sikhs today. *(30 marks)*
- (b) ‘Vaisakhi has lost its religious meaning.’
- How far do you agree? *(15 marks)*
- 11** (a) Examine the nature and role of the gurdwara. *(30 marks)*
- (b) ‘The gurdwara has more of a social role than a religious role in Sikhism today.’
- Discuss how far you agree. *(15 marks)*
- 12** (a) Explain the concept of sewa and how it is practised today. *(30 marks)*
- (b) ‘There is nothing more important in Sikhism than sewa.’
- Assess this view. *(15 marks)*

**END OF QUESTIONS**