

**OXFORD CAMBRIDGE AND RSA EXAMINATIONS**

**Advanced Subsidiary GCE**

**RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

**2766**

**EASTERN RELIGIONS 1**

Thursday

**9 JUNE 2005**

Afternoon

1 hour

Additional materials:  
Answer paper

**TIME** 1 hour

### **INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

Write your name, Centre number and candidate number in the spaces provided on the answer paper/ answer booklet.

Write your answers on the separate answer paper provided.

If you use more than one sheet of paper, fasten the sheets together.

Answer **two** questions, one from each part. Answer questions from **one** alternative only.

Do **not** answer two questions from the same part.

### **INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES**

The number of marks available is given in brackets [ ] at the end of each question or part question.

The quality of your written communication will be taken into account.

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**This question paper consists of 3 printed pages and 1 blank page.**

Answer questions from **one** alternative only.

**Alternative A – Buddhism**

Answer **two** questions, **one** from Part 1 and **one** from Part 2.

**Part 1**

Answer **one** question from this part.

- 1 (a) Explain why the Triple Refuge is important to Buddhists. [33]  
 (b) 'The Triple Refuge is really just three ways of saying the same thing.' Discuss. [17]
- 2 (a) Explain why Buddhists turn to the Buddha as a refuge. [33]  
 (b) 'If the Buddha is dead there is no point turning to the Buddha for refuge.' Discuss. [17]
- 3 (a) Explain how joining the monastic Sangha may help a Buddhist follow the Noble Eightfold Path. [33]  
 (b) 'It is impossible to follow the Noble Eightfold Path without joining the monastic Sangha.' Discuss. [17]

**Part 2**

Answer **one** question from this part.

- 4 (a) Explain what ceases when nibbana is attained according to Buddhists. [33]  
 (b) 'Nibbana cannot be described.' Discuss. [17]
- 5 (a) Explain the relationship between kamma and samsara in Buddhist teaching. [33]  
 (b) 'Kamma is an unfair teaching.' Discuss. [17]
- 6 (a) Explain how failure to understand the concept of anatta causes dukkha, according to the teaching of the Buddha. [33]  
 (b) 'Dukkha is the most important of the Three Marks of Existence.' Discuss. [17]

Answer questions from **one** alternative only.

**Alternative B – Hinduism**

Answer **two** questions, **one** from Part 1 and **one** from Part 2.

**Part 1**

Answer **one** question from this part.

- 7 (a) Explain the main concepts of the Advaita system of Sankara. [33]  
(b) 'For most Hindus Sankara's system is too hard to follow.' Discuss. [17]
- 8 (a) Explain the importance of Vishnu for Hindus. [33]  
(b) 'Hinduism is monotheistic.' Discuss. [17]
- 9 (a) Explain the importance of Rama and Krishna for Hindus. [33]  
(b) 'The variety of gods in Hinduism is confusing.' Discuss. [17]

**Part 2**

Answer **one** question from this part.

- 10 (a) Explain the relationship between karma and samsara in Hindu teaching. [33]  
(b) 'Karma is an unfair teaching.' Discuss. [17]
- 11 (a) Explain the concept of dharma in the Bhagavad Gita. [33]  
(b) 'Following one's dharma is the most important teaching in the passage of the Bhagavad Gita which you have studied.' Discuss. [17]
- 12 (a) Explain the Hindu concept of bhakti. [33]  
(b) 'Bhakti is an easier path than jnana to God.' Discuss. [17]

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