

**OXFORD CAMBRIDGE AND RSA EXAMINATIONS**

**Advanced Subsidiary GCE**

**RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

**2766**

**EASTERN RELIGIONS 1**

Tuesday

**17 JANUARY 2006**

Morning

1 hour

Additional materials:

8-page answer paper

**TIME** 1 hour

**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

Write your name, Centre number and candidate number in the spaces provided on the 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 from **one** section.

**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 the importance for Buddhists of the Three Marks of Existence. [33]  
(b) 'Dukkha is a pessimistic concept.' Discuss. [17]
- 2 (a) Explain the importance for Buddhists of the Noble Eightfold Path. [33]  
(b) 'Morality is the most important aspect of the Noble Eightfold Path.' Discuss. [17]
- 3 (a) Explain how desire leads to dukkha in Buddhist teachings. [33]  
(b) 'It is human nature to want more, so nibbana will never be achieved.' Discuss. [17]

**Part 2**

Answer **one** question from this part.

- 4 (a) Explain the relationship between the Dhamma and the Sangha. [33]  
(b) 'The Dhamma cannot be relied upon because for many years it was passed on by word of mouth.' Discuss. [17]
- 5 (a) Explain why the example of the Buddha is important to Buddhists. [33]  
(b) 'Buddhists must not simply copy the Buddha, but find the way for themselves.' Discuss. [17]
- 6 (a) Explain the differences between nibbana in this life and the final nibbana reached at death. [33]  
(b) 'There is no point talking about nibbana.' Discuss. [17]

Answer question 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 role of puja as a form of communication between the worshipper and Brahman. [33]  
(b) 'There is no point to puja as the deity and the worshipper are one.' Discuss. [17]
- 8 (a) Explain what the term Brahman means to Hindus. [33]  
(b) 'Brahman cannot be both a personal God and an impersonal concept.' Discuss. [17]
- 9 (a) Explain how Vishnu has revealed himself. [33]  
(b) 'Vishnu is creator and destroyer of the world, as well as the preserver.' Discuss. [17]

**Part 2**

Answer **one** question from this part.

- 10 (a) Explain why dharma must be performed with detachment, according to the Bhagavad Gita. [33]  
(b) 'Belief in dharma takes away a person's ability to make free choices.' Discuss. [17]
- 11 (a) Explain the importance of bhakti in the teachings of Ramanuja. [33]  
(b) 'Total surrender to God is more important than religious practices in the teachings of Ramanuja.' Discuss. [17]
- 12 (a) Explain the Hindu concept of karma. [33]  
(b) 'If you believe in the grace of God, following the path of karma is pointless.' Discuss. [17]

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