

OXFORD CAMBRIDGE AND RSA EXAMINATIONS

Advanced Subsidiary GCE

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

2766

EASTERN RELIGIONS 1

Thursday

8 JUNE 2006

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.

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 suffering is a poor translation of the Buddhist term dukkha. [33]
(b) 'Dukkha is the least important of the Three Marks of Existence.' Discuss. [17]
- 2 (a) Explain how following the Four Noble Truths may lead to nibbana in Buddhist thought. [33]
(b) 'Understanding of the Second Noble Truth is all that is needed to attain nibbana.' Discuss. [17]
- 3 (a) Explain what is meant when Buddhists say all life is dukkha. [33]
(b) 'The existence of happiness means that all life cannot be dukkha.' Discuss. [17]

Part 2

Answer **one** question from this part.

- 4 (a) Explain the problems Buddhists might face in belonging to the monastic sangha. [33]
(b) 'It is impossible to follow Buddhist monastic rules in the modern world.' Discuss. [17]
- 5 (a) Explain how the monastic rules reflect the Buddhist ideal of the Middle Way. [33]
(b) 'Buddhist monks should live alone, not in communities.' Discuss. [17]
- 6 (a) Explain why Buddhists take refuge in the Dhamma. [33]
(b) 'The Dhamma would not exist without the Buddha.' 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 importance of practising puja. [33]
(b) 'Practising puja at home instead of going to the temple is selfish.' Discuss. [17]
- 8 (a) Explain the importance of Lakshmi for Hindus. [33]
(b) 'Goddesses are less important than gods in Hinduism.' Discuss. [17]
- 9 (a) Explain why many Hindus worship Ganesha before worshipping other deities. [33]
(b) 'For Hindus, praying is just a way of expressing hopes and wishes.' Discuss. [17]

Part 2

Answer **one** question from this part.

- 10 (a) Explain how Ramanuja developed the Advaita Vedanta of Sankara. [33]
(b) 'Ramanuja was a monotheist, rejecting Sankara's atheism.' Discuss. [17]
- 11 (a) Explain how the teaching about God in the Bhagavad Gita differs from that in the Vedas. [33]
(b) 'Hinduism is polytheistic.' Discuss. [17]
- 12 (a) Explain what ends when moksha is reached according to Hindus. [33]
(b) 'Fulfilling your dharma is more important than seeking moksha.' Discuss. [17]

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