

551/02

**RELIGIOUS STUDIES RS 1b**

**EASTERN RELIGIONS**

**An Introduction to either Buddhism  
or Hinduism or Sikhism**

A.M. TUESDAY, 17 January 2006

(1 hour)

**ADDITIONAL MATERIALS**

In addition to this examination paper, you will need an 8 page answer book.

**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

Answer questions from **one** section only, **either** Section A **or** Section B **or** Section C.

Write your answers in the separate answer book provided.

**INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES**

All questions carry 20 marks. The number of marks is given in brackets at the end of each question or part-question.

You are reminded of the need for good English and clear presentation in your answers.

All questions should be answered in continuous prose. Quality of Written Communication will be assessed in all questions.

Answer questions from **one** section only, **either** Section A **or** Section B **or** Section C.

**SECTION A: An Introduction to Buddhism**

Answer **Question 1** and **one** other question.

**1.**



A Shrine built under a Bodhi tree in Thailand.

- (a) Describe the main events in the life of the Buddha. [10]
- (b) Explain the importance of the Buddha's life to Buddhists. [10]
- 2.** (a) Explain how a Buddhist might follow the Eightfold Path. [10]
- (b) 'It's impossible to follow the Eightfold Path without being a member of the Sangha.'  
Assess this view. [10]
- 3.** (a) Explain what the wheel of life teaches Buddhists. [10]
- (b) 'Buddhism puts far too much emphasis on suffering.'  
Assess this view. [10]

**SECTION B: An Introduction to Hinduism**

*Answer Question 1 and one other question.*

1.



The goddess Durga is worshipped on the eighth day of the Navaratri festival.

- (a) Explain the main features of Durga. [10]
- (b) Explain the importance of Hindu goddesses to Hindu women. [10]
2. (a) Explain the concept of dharma in Hinduism. [10]
- (b) 'Nothing in Hinduism is more important than dharma.'  
Assess this view. [10]
3. (a) Explain the term 'avatar' and give an account of a story of one avatar of Vishnu. [10]
- (b) 'It is clear that Hinduism is a religion which worships more than one God.'  
Assess this view. [10]

### SECTION C: An Introduction to Sikhism

Answer **Question 1** and **one other question**.

1.



Guru Gobind Singh is frequently shown on horseback with a hawk.  
The sword, bow and quiver full of arrows are also typical.

- (a) Explain the importance of Guru Gobind Singh's contribution to Sikhism. [10]
- (b) Explain the importance of celebrating Gurburbs to Sikhs. [10]
2. (a) Explain the main features of the Sikh festival of Diwali. [10]
- (b) 'Festivals are the most important part of any religion.'  
Assess this view. [10]
3. (a) Explain Sikh teaching and practice concerning equality. [10]
- (b) 'There is no such thing as true equality.'  
Assess this view with reference to Sikhism. [10]