

555/02

**RELIGIOUS STUDIES RS 5b**

**EASTERN RELIGIONS**

**Studies in either Buddhism or Hinduism or Sikhism**

A.M. WEDNESDAY, 13 June 2007

(1 hour 30 minutes)

**ADDITIONAL MATERIALS**

In addition to this examination paper, you will need a 12 page answer book.

**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

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

Write your answers in the separate answer book provided.

**INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES**

All questions carry 25 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: Studies in Buddhism

Answer **two** questions.

1. (a) Explain Mahayana beliefs about the bodhisattva. [15]
- (b) 'The Lotus Sutra is the only scripture Buddhists need.'  
Evaluate this contention. [10]
2. (a) Explain the significance in Buddhism of going for refuge. [15]
- (b) 'Concepts such as Buddha, dhamma and sangha cannot provide genuine refuge in the modern world.'  
Assess this view. [10]
3. (a) Explain the growth of Buddhism in Britain. [15]
- (b) 'Buddhism in Britain is very different from Buddhism practised in Buddhist countries.'  
Evaluate this view with reference to some communities you have studied. [10]

### SECTION B: Studies in Hinduism

Answer **two** questions.

1. (a) Explain, with reference to examples, Indus Valley religion. [15]
- (b) 'It is impossible to identify any of the features of Indus Valley religion in modern Hinduism.'  
Evaluate this contention. [10]
2. (a) Explain the meaning of the following passage:  
  
'Not by refraining from action does man attain freedom from action. Not by mere renunciation does he attain supreme perfection.' (Bhagavad Gita 3, 4). [15]
- (b) 'The main theme of the Bhagavad Gita is the nature of action.'  
Evaluate this contention. [10]
3. (a) Give an account of the beliefs and practices of members of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON). [15]
- (b) 'The Hare Krishnas are not true Hindus.'  
Evaluate this contention. [10]

**Section C: Studies in Sikhism**

*Answer two questions.*

1. (a) Explain the history of the composition of the *Guru Granth Sahib*. [15]  
(b) 'Sikhs are worshippers of scriptures.'  
Assess this view. [10]
  
2. (a) Explain the effect of persecution on Sikh life and identity. [15]  
(b) 'If Sikh history had been peaceful, Sikhs would be pacifists.'  
Evaluate this view. [10]
  
3. (a) Examine the notion of codes of conduct (rahits) in Sikhism. [15]  
(b) Evaluate the view that good personal conduct is the most important value in Sikhism. [10]