



GCE A level

555/02

RELIGIOUS STUDIES RS 5b

EASTERN RELIGIONS

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

P.M. FRIDAY, 6 June 2008

1½ hours

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) Examine the role of the monastic sangha in Buddhism. [15]
 (b) 'Nirvana is only for monks.'
 Evaluate this contention. [10]

2. (a) Explain the significance in Buddhism of regular religious practice. [15]
 (b) 'It's what someone thinks, not what they do, that makes them a Buddhist.'
 Assess this view. [10]

3. (a) Explain the popularity of the Friends of the Western Buddhist Order. [15]
 (b) 'Unless Buddhism adapts itself to Western society, it will never survive.'
 Evaluate this view. [10]

SECTION B: Studies in Hinduism

Answer **two** questions.

1. (a) Explain the importance of the Vedas in Hinduism. [15]
 (b) 'Modern Hinduism has little to do with the Vedas.'
 Evaluate this contention. [10]

2. (a) Give an account of the main themes of the Bhagavad Gita. [15]
 (b) 'You can't make sense of the Bhagavad Gita unless you are a Hindu.'
 Evaluate this contention. [10]

3. (a) Explain the role of women in modern Hinduism. [15]
 (b) 'Life for modern Hindu women gets better.'
 Evaluate this statement. [10]

Section C: Studies in Sikhism

Answer two questions.

- 1.** (a) Explain the meaning and significance of the Mul Mantra. [15]
- (b) 'The unity of God is the most important item of Sikh belief.'
Assess this view. [10]
- 2.** (a) Outline the main events in Sikh history in the 20th Century. [15]
- (b) 'More than any other event in recent history, the Partition of the Punjab impacted on Sikh identity.'
Evaluate this view. [10]
- 3.** (a) Explain the concepts of miri and piri. [15]
- (b) 'The Sikh view of the connection between miri and piri is entirely logical and reasonable.'
Evaluate this contention. [10]