



GCE AS/A level

1346/01

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

RS1/2 ER - Introduction to Eastern Religions

A.M. THURSDAY, 26 May 2011

1¼ hours

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

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

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Use black ink or ball-point pen.

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

Write your answers in the separate answer book provided.

Write the number of each question you answer both alongside your answer and on the front cover of the answer book.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

Each question carries 45 marks.

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

Part (*a*) of each question tests your knowledge and understanding.

Part (*b*) of each question tests your skills of reasoning and evaluation.

You are reminded of the need for good English and orderly, clear presentation in your answers. All questions should be answered in continuous prose. Assessment will take into account the quality of written communication in all your answers.

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

Section A: Introduction to Buddhism

Answer two questions.

1. (a) Examine some of the religious and social beliefs and practices in Northern India at the time of the Buddha's birth. [30]
(b) 'The Buddha completely rejected the teachings and practices of his background.'
Assess this view. [15]
2. (a) Explain the Three Marks of Existence in Buddhism. [30]
(b) 'Buddhism has a very realistic outlook on life.'
Assess this view. [15]
3. (a) Explain the five lay precepts and how they might influence Buddhist lifestyle. [30]
(b) 'Buddhism is a religion for the individual and not for society as a whole.'
Assess this view. [15]
4. (a) Examine the main features and purpose of puja in Buddhism. [30]
(b) 'Without doubt, puja is a form of worship.'
Assess this view. [15]

Section B: Introduction to Hinduism

Answer two questions.

1. (a) Examine the Hindu tradition of bhakti. [30]
(b) 'It is impossible to worship an impersonal god.'
Assess this view. [15]

2. (a) Explain the Hindu concept of varnashramadharma. [30]
(b) 'Varnashramadharma is Hinduism.'
Assess this view. [15]

3. (a) Explain why goddesses are so important in Hinduism.' [30]
(b) 'Gods and goddesses are good role models for Hindus.'
Assess this view. [15]

4. (a) Examine the role of festivals in Hinduism. [30]
(b) 'Taking part in festivals shows a Hindu's commitment to the religion.'
Assess this view. [15]

Section C: Introduction to Sikhism

Answer two questions.

1. (a) Examine the social and religious background from which Sikhism emerged. [30]
(b) Assess the view that all Sikh teaching comes from other religions. [15]

2. (a) Explain the role and importance of the Guru Granth Sahib in Sikh daily life. [30]
(b) 'Sikhs worship the Guru Granth Sahib.'
Assess this view. [15]

3. (a) Examine the nature and importance of the Khalsa in Sikhism. [30]
(b) 'Membership of the Khalsa is the most important way of expressing Sikh identity.'
Assess this view. [15]

4. (a) Examine the nature of festivals in Sikhism. [30]
(b) 'Festivals are the most important part of Sikhism.'
Assess this view. [15]