

Teacher Resource Bank

GCSE Religious Studies (Specification A)

Additional Specimen Questions:

Unit 13 *Hinduism*

- Respect for Life



PART B

There are 24 marks for each question.

B Respect for Life

(a) Explain Hindu views on the issue of abortion. *(6 marks)*

(b) 'Hindus believe that abortion is always wrong.'

Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer, showing that you have thought about more than one point of view. Refer to Hinduism in your answer. *(6 marks)*

(c) Explain Hindu attitudes towards animals. *(6 marks)*

(d) 'The Hindu reverence for animals is outdated in the modern world.'

Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer, showing that you have thought about more than one point of view. Refer to Hinduism in your answer. *(6 marks)*



General Certificate of Secondary Education

Religious Studies
Full or Short Course
Specification A

Unit 13 *Hinduism*

Additional SPECIMEN Mark Scheme
Respect for Life

June series

B Respect for Life**(a) Explain Hindu views on the issue of abortion.****Target: Knowledge and understanding of Hindu views on abortion**

Levels	Criteria	Marks
0	Nothing relevant or worthy of credit.	0 marks
Level 1	Something relevant or worthy of credit.	1 mark
Level 2	Elementary knowledge and understanding, e.g. two simple points.	2 marks
Level 3	Sound knowledge and understanding.	3 marks
Level 4	A clear knowledge and understanding with some development and / or analysis.	4 marks
Level 5	A detailed answer with some development and / or analysis.	5 marks
Level 6	A full and coherent answer showing good development and / or analysis.	6 marks

Candidates may include some of the following points:

Following the principle of ahimsa means not to harm any living being at all / belief in the indwelling spirit means all forms of life are sacred / the Hindu view is that life starts at conception so abortion involves taking of life and this will bring karmic consequences / abortion is used widely as a method of birth control and has been encouraged by the government / compassion for the moral dilemma and physical suffering caused by abortion needs to be taken into account.

(6 marks) AO1

(b) 'Hindus believe that abortion is always wrong.'

Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer, showing that you have thought about more than one point of view. Refer to Hinduism in your answer.

Target: Evaluation of Hindu understanding of abortion

Level	Criteria	Marks	Quality of Written Communication
0	Unsupported opinion or no relevant evaluation.	0 marks	The candidate's presentation, spelling, punctuation and grammar seriously obstruct understanding.
Level 1	Opinion supported by simple reason.	1 mark	The candidate presents some relevant information in a simple form. The text produced is usually legible. Spelling, punctuation and grammar allow meaning to be derived, although errors are sometimes obstructive.
Level 2	Opinion supported by one developed reason or two simple reasons.	2 marks	
Level 3	Opinion supported by one well developed reason or several simple reasons. N.B. Candidates who make no religious comment should not achieve more than Level 3.	3 marks	The candidate presents relevant information in a way which assists with the communication of meaning. The text produced is legible. Spelling, punctuation and grammar are sufficiently accurate not to obscure meaning.
Level 4	Opinion supported by two developed reasons with reference to religion.	4 marks	
Level 5	Evidence of reasoned consideration of two different points of view, showing informed insights and knowledge and understanding of religion.	5 marks	The candidate presents relevant information coherently, employing structure and style to render meaning clear. The text produced is legible. Spelling, punctuation and grammar are sufficiently accurate to render meaning clear.
Level 6	A well-argued response, with evidence of reasoned consideration of two different points of view showing informed insights and ability to apply knowledge and understanding of religion effectively.	6 marks	

Candidates may include some of the following points:

Agree

All forms of harm are always wrong from the normal perspective of ahimsa / even if necessary to take life the person cannot avoid the karmic consequences / it is part of their own karma that they have to do this harm.

Other views

In India there has been widespread concern over population and the suffering caused by this has to be considered / if the life of the mother is endangered this is a moral dilemma to be considered / the principle of least harm to all people involved has to be considered / the principle of compassion should be applied to the particular circumstances that prevail.

(6 marks) AO2

(c) Explain the Hindu attitude towards animals.

Target: Understanding of Hindu attitude towards animals as part of respect for life

Levels	Criteria	Marks
0	Nothing relevant or worthy of credit.	0 marks
Level 1	Something relevant or worthy of credit.	1 mark
Level 2	Elementary knowledge and understanding, e.g. two simple points.	2 marks
Level 3	Sound knowledge and understanding.	3 marks
Level 4	A clear knowledge and understanding with some development and / or analysis.	4 marks
Level 5	A detailed answer with some development and / or analysis.	5 marks
Level 6	A full and coherent answer showing good development and / or analysis.	6 marks

Candidates may include some of the following points:

Some animals are considered to be sacred, especially the cow, as it is a vital life giving source of milk and dung in village life / other animals such as elephants and monkeys are deified and worshipped in form of gods Hanuman and Ganesh / all popular deities have animals of vehicles upon which they travel in the stories about them / Nandi the bull is seen as a protective deity in front of temples / in some temples rats are considered to be incarnations of devotees / vegetarianism is a strong teaching especially amongst Brahmin castes.

(6 marks) AO1

(d) 'The Hindu reverence for animals is outdated in the modern world.'

Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer, showing that you have thought about more than one point of view. Refer to Hinduism in your answer.

Target: Evaluation of Hindu attitude of the sacredness of animals

Level	Criteria	Marks	Quality of Written Communication
0	Unsupported opinion or no relevant evaluation.	0 marks	The candidate's presentation, spelling, punctuation and grammar seriously obstruct understanding.
Level 1	Opinion supported by simple reason.	1 mark	The candidate presents some relevant information in a simple form. The text produced is usually legible. Spelling, punctuation and grammar allow meaning to be derived, although errors are sometimes obstructive.
Level 2	Opinion supported by one developed reason or two simple reasons.	2 marks	
Level 3	Opinion supported by one well developed reason or several simple reasons. N.B. Candidates who make no religious comment should not achieve more than Level 3.	3 marks	The candidate presents relevant information in a way which assists with the communication of meaning. The text produced is legible. Spelling, punctuation and grammar are sufficiently accurate not to obscure meaning.
Level 4	Opinion supported by two developed reasons with reference to religion.	4 marks	
Level 5	Evidence of reasoned consideration of two different points of view, showing informed insights and knowledge and understanding of religion.	5 marks	The candidate presents relevant information coherently, employing structure and style to render meaning clear. The text produced is legible. Spelling, punctuation and grammar are sufficiently accurate to render meaning clear.
Level 6	A well-argued response, with evidence of reasoned consideration of two different points of view showing informed insights and ability to apply knowledge and understanding of religion effectively.	6 marks	

Candidates may include some of the following points:

Agree

Some modern reformers have said that the reverence for animals such as rats in temple is outmoded and superstitious / the neglect of cows in busy city streets is distressing and unnecessary / the worship of animal deities is misunderstood by non-Hindus / some uncontrolled increase of certain animals (vermin) in cities poses a health danger and threat to humans and quality of life for humans and animals, e.g. monkeys and rats.

Other views

There is greater need for vegetarianism in today's world due to environmental harm erosion caused by rearing cattle for meat / it is a healthier lifestyle / cruelty to animals of any kind degrades human nature / need to preserve all animal species.

(6 marks) AO2