



GCE AS/A level

1346/01



S15-1346-01

RELIGIOUS STUDIES – RS1/2 ER
Introduction to Eastern Religions

A.M. THURSDAY, 14 May 2015

1 hour 15 minutes

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

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

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Use black ink or black ball-point pen.

Answer **two** 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 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: An Introduction to Buddhism

Answer **two** questions.

1. (a) Explain the importance of the four sights and the enlightenment in the life of the Buddha. [30]
(b) 'The Buddha's experiences led him to a very pessimistic view of the world.' Assess this view. [15]

2. (a) Examine the role of the Three Jewels in the life of Buddhists. [30]
(b) 'The Dhamma is the most important of the Three Jewels.' Assess this view. [15]

3. (a) Examine the main features of Buddhist monastic life. [30]
(b) Assess the view that Buddhist monastic life is selfish. [15]

4. (a) Explain how meditation and puja are practised in Buddhism. [30]
(b) Assess the claim that meditation is the most important practice in Buddhism. [15]

Section B: An Introduction to Hinduism

Answer two questions.

1. (a) Explain the Hindu idea of avatars and their importance in the worship of Vishnu. [30]
(b) 'There is nothing more important in Hindu life than bhakti.'
Assess this view. [15]
2. (a) Examine Hindu beliefs about the impact of people's actions upon their life in the future. [30]
(b) 'Karma is the main focus of a Hindu's life.'
Assess this view. [15]
3. (a) Explain the significance in Hinduism of the stories and worship of Parvati and Ganesh. [30]
(b) 'In Hinduism gods are role models for men and goddesses are role models for women.'
Assess this view. [15]
4. (a) Explain the main features of Durga Puja. [30]
(b) 'Festivals are an essential feature of Hinduism.'
Assess this view. [15]

Section C: An Introduction to Sikhism

Answer two questions.

1. (a) Examine the contributions of Guru Tegh Bahadur and Guru Gobind Singh as defenders of Sikhism. [30]
- (b) 'Without doubt Guru Nanak is the most important of the Ten Gurus.'
Assess this view. [15]
2. (a) Examine Sikh teachings about God. [30]
- (b) 'Teachings about God are the most important feature of Sikhism.'
Assess this view. [15]
3. (a) Examine the practice of sewa in the life of Sikhs. [30]
- (b) 'Serving in the gurdwara is a clearer sign of Sikh identity than wearing the five 'k's.'
Assess this view. [15]
4. (a) Explain the main features of the Sikh festival of Diwali. [30]
- (b) 'Celebrating festivals has no real religious value.'
Assess this view with reference to Sikhism. [15]

END OF PAPER