



**GCE AS/A level**

1346/01

**RELIGIOUS STUDIES – RS1/2 ER**  
**Introduction to Eastern Religions**

A.M. TUESDAY, 13 May 2014

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: Introduction to Buddhism**

Answer **two** questions.

1. (a) Examine the social and religious background of the Buddha. [30]  
(b) 'There was nothing new in the teaching of the Buddha.'  
Assess this view. [15]
2. (a) Explain what the Buddha taught about the causes of suffering. [30]  
(b) Assess the view that the teaching about the three marks of existence is the most important teaching in Buddhism. [15]
3. (a) Examine the role of the monastic sangha in Buddhism. [30]  
(b) Assess the view that Buddhism does not need the sangha. [15]
4. (a) Examine the main features of puja in Buddhism. [30]  
(b) 'Buddhists worship the Buddha.'  
Assess this view with reference to Buddhism. [15]

**Section B: Introduction to Hinduism**

*Answer two questions.*

1. (a) Examine the diversity of beliefs about the divine to be found within Hinduism. [30]  
(b) Discuss to what extent Hinduism is a monotheistic religion. [15]
2. (a) Explain **one** key rite of passage in Hinduism. [30]  
(b) 'Rites of passage are still relevant in today's world.'  
Assess this view with reference to Hinduism. [15]
3. (a) Examine how stories about gods and goddesses teach the beliefs of Hinduism to Hindus. [30]  
(b) 'Hindu stories about gods and goddesses are only myths.'  
Assess this view. [15]
4. (a) Examine the nature and importance of puja to Hindus. [30]  
(b) Assess the view that puja is not a religious experience. [15]

**Section C: Introduction to Sikhism**

*Answer two questions.*

1. (a) Explain the ways in which Guru Arjan developed Sikhism. [30]  
(b) 'The teaching of the Ten Gurus is still completely relevant in the modern world.'  
Assess this view. [15]
2. (a) Explain Sikh understanding of the soul and rebirth. [30]  
(b) 'There are no unique teachings in Sikhism.'  
Assess this view. [15]
3. (a) Examine ways in which members of the Khalsa express their Sikh identity. [30]  
(b) 'For Sikhs behaviour is the most important way of expressing religious identity.'  
Assess this view. [15]
4. (a) Explain the importance of Vaisakhi in Sikhism. [30]  
(b) 'Celebrating historical events is pointless in the modern world.'  
Assess this view with reference to Sikhism. [15]

**END OF PAPER**