



GCE A level

1348/06

RELIGIOUS STUDIES – RS3 ER
Studies in Eastern Religions

P.M. WEDNESDAY, 11 June 2014

1 hour 45 minutes

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

In addition to this examination paper, you will need a 12 page answer book.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Use black ink or black 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 50 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: Studies in Buddhism

Answer **two** questions.

1. (a) Outline the main features of the Pali Canon. [30]
(b) 'The Pali Canon is the most important body of scripture in Buddhism.'
Evaluate this view. [20]
2. (a) Examine who it is in Buddhism that achieves nirvana. [30]
(b) Assess the view that the attainment of enlightenment is an unusual event in Buddhism. [20]
3. (a) Explain the significance in Buddhism of 'going for refuge'. [30]
(b) 'The Buddha is the most important refuge in Buddhism.'
Assess this view. [20]
4. (a) Examine the lifestyle of members of the Friends of the Western Buddhist Order (FWBO/
Triratna). [30]
(b) 'In trying to appeal to British people, Buddhism has adapted too much.'
Evaluate this view. [20]

Section B: Studies in Hinduism

Answer two questions.

1. (a) Examine the reasons why it is difficult to determine how Hinduism began. [30]
(b) 'Modern Hinduism is completely different from Vedic religion.'
Evaluate this contention. [20]
2. (a) Explain, with reference to the text, what the Bhagavad Gita teaches about Bhakti Yoga. [30]
(b) 'The complex nature of Krishna makes the Bhagavad Gita a difficult text.'
Evaluate this view. [20]
3. (a) Examine the relationship between Hindu religion and politics. [30]
(b) 'Hindutva (Hindu nationalism) has had no impact at all on modern Hindu religion.'
Assess this view. [20]
4. (a) Examine the challenges faced by Hindu women. [30]
(b) 'The treatment of women in Hinduism is unjustifiable, especially when Hindus worship the feminine divine.'
Evaluate this contention. [20]

Section C: Studies in Sikhism

Answer two questions.

1. (a) Examine the significance in Sikhism of the Mul Mantra. [30]
(b) 'The Mul Mantra summarises Sikh beliefs entirely.'
Evaluate this view. [20]
2. (a) Examine the ideas of the Namdhari and Singh Sabha reform movements. [30]
(b) Assess how far the Namdhari and Singh Sabha movements contributed to modern Sikh identity. [20]
3. (a) Explain the role and importance of the Rahit Namas in Sikhism. [30]
(b) Assess the view that Sikhism does not need the Rahit Namas or the Rahit Maryada. [20]
4. (a) Explain ways in which British Sikhism provides for the religious education of young Sikhs. [30]
(b) Assess the view that young Sikhs born in Britain face more challenges than their parents. [20]

END OF PAPER