



GCE AS/A level

1346/01

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

RS1/2 ER - Introduction to Eastern Religions

A.M. TUESDAY, 17 January 2012

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 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 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, either Section A or Section B or Section C.

Section A: Introduction to Buddhism

Answer two questions.

1. (a) Examine the importance of the four sights in the life of the Buddha. [30]
(b) Assess the view that Buddhism has a pessimistic view of life. [15]

2. (a) Explain Buddhist beliefs about karma and rebirth. [30]
(b) Assess the view that belief in karma and rebirth has a positive influence on Buddhist lifestyle. [15]

3. (a) Explain the Four Noble Truths. [30]
(b) ‘The Four Noble Truths are all Buddhists need to know about Buddhism.’
Assess this view. [15]

4. (a) Explain the purposes of meditation and of puja in Buddhism. [30]
(b) Assess the view that meditation is a far better way to enlightenment than puja. [15]

Section B: Introduction to Hinduism

Answer two questions.

1. (a) Examine the meaning of the following terms as applied to Hinduism: polytheism, monotheism, henotheism, monism. [30]
(b) Assess the view that Hinduism is best described as a polytheistic religion. [15]

2. (a) Examine the significance of the ashramas in the lives of Hindus. [30]
(b) 'Too much importance is given to duty in Hinduism.'
Assess this view. [15]

3. (a) Examine the features, significance and stories associated with Ganesh. [30]
(b) 'Stories about Hindu gods and goddesses have no relevance in the modern world.'
Assess this view. [15]

4. (a) Examine the importance of the festivals of Diwali and Holi in Hinduism. [30]
(b) 'In Hinduism what people do is more important than what they believe.'
Assess this view. [15]

Section C: Introduction to Sikhism

Answer two questions.

1. (a) Examine the contribution of Guru Arjan and Guru Tegh Bahadur to Sikhism. [30]
(b) 'The ten Sikh Gurus are equal in status.'
Assess this view. [15]

2. (a) Explain Sikh beliefs about God. [30]
(b) Assess the view that the Sikh understanding of God is taken from Hinduism. [15]

3. (a) Examine the meaning of the five 'K's and their importance in Sikhism. [30]
(b) 'Sikh identity is expressed only through dress.'
Assess this view. [15]

4. (a) Examine the celebration of Vaisakhi in Sikhism. [30]
(b) 'Celebrating festivals does not necessarily show any commitment towards a religion.'
Assess this view with reference to Sikhism. [15]