



**GCE AS/A level**

551/02

**RELIGIOUS STUDIES RS 1b**

**EASTERN RELIGIONS**

**An Introduction to either Buddhism or  
Hinduism or Sikhism**

P.M. THURSDAY, 15 January 2009

1 hour

**ADDITIONAL MATERIALS**

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

**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

Answer questions from **one** section only, **either** Section A **or** Section B **or** Section C.

Write your answers in the separate answer book provided.

**INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES**

All questions carry 20 marks. The number of marks is given in brackets at the end of each question or part-question.

You are reminded of the need for good English and clear presentation in your answers.

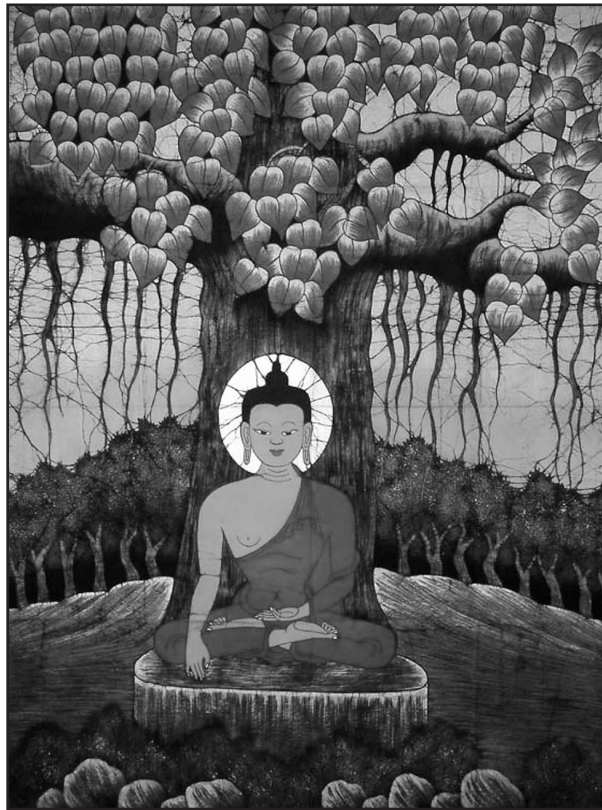
All questions should be answered in continuous prose. Quality of Written Communication will be assessed in all questions.

Answer questions from **one** section only, **either** Section A or Section B or Section C.

**SECTION A: An Introduction to Buddhism**

Answer **Question 1** and **one other question**.

**1.**



www.pranayogastudio

- (a) Explain the steps which led to the Buddha's enlightenment. [10]
- (b) Explain the importance of the Buddha to Buddhists. [10]
- 2.** (a) Explain the Four Noble Truths. [10]
- (b) 'All anyone needs to know about Buddhism is the Four Noble Truths.'  
Assess this view. [10]
- 3.** (a) Explain the main features of puja in Buddhism. [10]
- (b) 'Puja is the most important Buddhist practice.'  
Assess this view. [10]

**SECTION B: An Introduction to Hinduism**

*Answer Question 1 and one other question.*

1.



gypsienation.com

- (a) Explain the main features of Shiva. [10]
- (b) Examine the main features of Vaishnavism. [10]
2. (a) Explain the significance of the sacred thread ceremony in Hinduism. [10]
- (b) 'Rites of passage help the individual to go through life stages.'  
Assess this view. [10]
3. (a) Explain the main features of puja in Hinduism. [10]
- (b) 'The daily puja is the most important practice in Hinduism.'  
Assess this view. [10]

### SECTION C: An Introduction to Sikhism

Answer **Question 1** and **one other question**.

1.



www.religionfacts.com

- (a) Explain the significant events in the life of Guru Nanak. [10]
- (b) Explain what Guru Nanak taught about the nature of God in Sikhism. [10]
2. (a) Explain the role and importance of the gurdwara in a Sikh community. [10]
- (b) 'The langar, without doubt, is the most important feature of the gurdwara. Assess this view. [10]
3. (a) Explain the main features of the Sikh festival of Diwali. [10]
- (b) 'Celebrating festivals has no real religious value.' Assess this view with reference to Sikhism. [10]