



GCE A level

555/02

RELIGIOUS STUDIES RS 5b

EASTERN RELIGIONS

**Studies in either Buddhism or
Hinduism or Sikhism**

P.M. FRIDAY, 29 January 2010

1½ hours

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

In addition to this examination paper, you will need a 12 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 25 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: Studies in Buddhism

*Answer **two** questions.*

1. (a) Explain the distinctive features of lay Buddhism in the Theravada tradition. [15]
 (b) 'Lay Buddhists can only hope for a better rebirth. Nirvana is not for them.'
 Evaluate this statement. [10]
2. (a) Explain the purposes of Buddhist meditation practices. [15]
 (b) 'Meditation is the heart of Buddhism.'
 Assess this view. [10]
3. (a) Explain the beliefs and lifestyle of the Friends of the Western Buddhist Order. [15]
 (b) Evaluate the view that the Friends of the Western Buddhist Order is not so much a form of Buddhism as a new religious movement. [10]

SECTION B: Studies in Hinduism

*Answer **two** questions.*

1. (a) Explain the importance of the Vedas in Hinduism. [15]
 (b) 'Most of the features of Vedic society and religion are still to be found in modern Hinduism.'
 Evaluate this view. [10]
2. (a) Explain, with reference to the text, what the Bhagavad Gita teaches about the nature of Krishna. [15]
 (b) 'Bhakti is the focus of the Bhagavad Gita.'
 Assess this view. [10]
3. (a) Give an account of the teachings of A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada. [15]
 (b) 'Prabhupada and ISKCON have been successful in adapting Hinduism to the needs of westerners.'
 Evaluate this view. [10]

SECTION C: Studies in Sikhism

Answer two questions.

1. (a) Give an account of the role and importance of the Dasam Granth in Sikhism. [15]
(b) 'Sikhism values the written word too much.'
Assess this view. [10]
2. (a) Explain the main features of the reform movements of the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries. [15]
(b) Evaluate the view that the Nirankaris were wrong to accept no teachings other than those of Guru Nanak. [10]
3. (a) Examine the development of the Sikh community in Britain. [15]
(b) Evaluate the view that the only solution to the challenges Sikhs face in Britain is adoption of secular British culture and lifestyle. [10]