



GCE AS/A level

551/02

RELIGIOUS STUDIES RS 1b

EASTERN RELIGIONS

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

P.M. TUESDAY, 2 June 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.

‘It is important to note that meditation was practised in India before the Buddha and that he learned it from *shramana* teachers in the forest. Nevertheless, certain meditation methods were developed by the Buddha and are unique to Buddhism.’

Buddhism – Dominique Side.

- (a) Explain the main features of *meditation* in Buddhism. [10]
- (b) Explain the importance of *meditation* in Buddhism. [10]
- 2.** (a) Explain Buddhist beliefs about *karma* and rebirth. [10]
- (b) ‘Belief in *karma* and rebirth results in better behaviour.’
Assess this view. [10]
- 3.** (a) Explain the Buddhist concept of *anatta*. [10]
- (b) ‘The teaching on the three marks of existence is the most important teaching in Buddhism.’
Assess this view. [10]

SECTION B: An Introduction to Hinduism

Answer Question 1 and one other question.

1.

‘Karma is like having a giant bank account. Every thought is an action. Every action is a deposit. If you borrow from it, sooner or later you have to pay it back.’
Karma Kat – Barry Geller.

- (a) Explain Hindu beliefs about *karma* and reincarnation. [10]
- (b) Explain the importance of these beliefs to Hindus. [10]
- 2.** (a) Explain the Hindu concept of *varna*. [10]
- (b) ‘The concept of *varna* creates a strong and orderly society.’
Assess this view. [10]
- 3.** (a) Examine some of the beliefs about the divine found within Hinduism. [10]
- (b) ‘Hinduism is, without doubt, a polytheistic religion.’
Assess this view. [10]

SECTION C: An Introduction to Sikhism

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

1.

‘At the time of the tenth Guru, Guru Gobind Singh, the Sikhs were being persecuted and killed for what they believed. The Guru decided that they needed to form a fighting force which could defend the faith.’

Sikhism – Sue Penney.

- (a) Explain the importance of the panj piare in Sikhism. [10]
- (b) Explain the importance of the five ‘k’s to Sikh identity. [10]
2. (a) Outline the social and religious background from which Sikhism emerged. [10]
- (b) ‘Sikhism has no unique teachings of its own.’
Assess this view. [10]
3. (a) Explain the role and importance of the *Guru Granth Sahib*. [10]
- (b) ‘Human leadership is far more effective than that of a holy book.’
Assess this view with reference to Sikhism. [10]