



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS  
General Certificate of Education Ordinary Level

**HINDUISM**

**2055/01**

Paper 1

**October/November 2009**

**2 hours 30 minutes**

Additional Materials:      Answer Booklet/Paper

**READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST**

If you have been given an Answer Booklet, follow the instructions on the front cover of the Booklet.

Write your Centre number, candidate number and name on all the work you hand in.

Write in dark blue or black pen.

Do not use staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.

Answer **five** questions.

Answer at least **one** question from **each** Section.

You should read the questions **carefully**. Try to understand exactly what is being asked of you, and **then** write your answers.

At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.

The number of marks is given in brackets [ ] at the end of each question or part question.

This document consists of **3** printed pages and **1** blank page.



Answer any **five** questions, choosing at least **one** from each section.

### Section A

- 1 Explain what the Chandogya Upanishad teaches about the nature of the universe, in the examples of  
(a) the tall tree [10]  
and (b) the nyagrodha fruit. [10]
- 2 Explain why Krishna teaches Arjuna that work must be done 'without attachment'. [20]
- 3 'Today God has given me my wages in full.' (Ramacharitamanas: Ayodhya)  
What can Hindus learn about bhakti (devotion) from the story of the ferryman's meeting with Rama? [20]

### Section B

- 4 'The many attributes found in pictures and images of Ganesha appeal to worshippers on different occasions and in different moods.'  
Explain, giving examples. [20]
- 5 Explain  
(a) what is meant by describing Rama as an avatar of Vishnu [10]  
and (b) the significance for Rama's worshippers of the festival of Deepavali (Divali). [10]
- 6 Describe the image forms and moral attributes of Kartikeya (Murugan) and explain how this god is honoured in the Cavadi festival. [20]

## Section C

- 7 In what ways can preserving the Hindu tradition of ashramas be useful today in trying to ensure good life for
- (a) children [10]
- and (b) elderly people? [10]
- 8 Explain clearly how the four purusharthas together provide a framework for a Hindu's actions and moral decisions. [20]
- 9 'The varna system leads to a stable and secure society.'
- For what reasons do some modern Hindus agree **and** others disagree with this view? [20]

## Section D

- 10 What religious insights did Ramakrishna Paramhansa gain from his early visionary experiences? [20]
- 11 Give an account of the efforts made by 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century Hindu reformers you have studied
- (a) to abolish sati [10]
- and (b) to challenge untouchability. [10]
- 12 'If you want to follow the vow of Truth, then fearlessness is absolutely necessary.' (M. K. Gandhi)
- In what ways did Gandhi demonstrate his own fearlessness in seeking truth? [20]

