

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS
General Certificate of Education Ordinary Level

HINDUISM

2055/01

Paper 1

October/November 2004

2 hours 30 minutes

Additional Materials: Answer Booklet/Paper

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your Centre number, candidate number and name on all the work you hand in.
If you have been given an Answer Booklet, follow the instructions on the front cover of the Booklet.
Write in dark blue or black pen on both sides of the paper.
Do not use staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.

Answer **five** questions, choosing 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.
All questions in this paper carry equal marks.

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

Section A

- 1 'They did not know what spirit it was.' (Kena Upanishad 3.2)
Explain
(a) why the gods failed to recognise Brahman [10]
and (b) what the allegory of Uma and the gods can teach Hindus today. [10]
- 2 'In the Bhagavad Gita, jnana (knowledge) is not as important as karma (action).' Discuss. [20]
- 3 In what ways do the stories about Rama in the Ramcaritamanasa reveal the meaning of bhakti? [20]

Section B

- 4 At what particular times and for what reasons do Hindus worship Ganesha? [20]
- 5 (a) By what symbols can Shiva be recognised in statues and paintings? [10]
(b) In what ways do these images help devotees in their response to the god? [10]
- 6 Describe how Durga is represented in Hindu temples, and explain why this goddess often has a frightening aspect. [20]

Section C

- 7 'The system of the four varnas arose in a different world from ours; it has little to teach modern Hindus.' Discuss. [20]
- 8 'When they marry, Hindus should follow the rules for the Grihastha ashrama.' Consider why this might still be good advice. [20]
- 9 Explain the significance for Hindu families of
(a) Namakarana samskara [10]
and (b) Upanayana samskara. [10]

Section D

- 10 What reforms did Rammohan Roy and the Brahmo Samaj aim to make in Hindu society? Why did he believe these reforms were needed?
- 11 (a) What did Swami Dayananda Saraswati mean when he attacked 'superstition' in Hinduism? [10]
- (b) How did he set about changing people's religious opinions? [10]
- 12 Explain why M. K. Gandhi believed that the principles of satya (truth) and ahimsa (non-violence) would achieve a better life for Indian people. [20]

