



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS
General Certificate of Education Ordinary Level

HINDUISM

2055/01

Paper 1

October/November 2011

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 'When in the same region of the sky, he (Indra) came across a lady ... and said to her, "What is this spirit?"' (Kena Upanishad 3.12)
- Explain who the lady was, and what, in this allegory, the Vedic gods learned from her. [20]
- 2 'Please, Venerable Sir, instruct me still further.'
'So be it, my dear, said he.' (Chandogya Upanishad VI)
- (a) Svetaketu's father thought the young man lacked essential knowledge (jnana). Explain what this knowledge was. [10]
- (b) Explain the teaching his father gave, in the parable of the rivers and the sea. [10]
- 3 'He granted liberation to a woman of such low descent ... as even this Shabari was ...' (Ramacharitamanas: Aranya, Doha 36)
- Explain how Tulsidas used this story of the Shabari to instruct his readers about liberation. [20]

Section B

- 4 Explain
- (a) why some Hindus worship God in the form of an avatara [10]
- and (b) the significance for Hindus of the portrayal of Krishna as a flute-player. [10]
- 5 Give reasons why Diwali (Deepavali) is celebrated today by many Hindus worldwide as their major religious festival. [20]
- 6 'Hinduism would not be complete without both Ganesha and Kartikeya.'
- Discuss. [20]

Section C

- 7 'There is no reason why a Hindu should not seek to be wealthy.'
To what extent do you agree, and why? [20]
- 8 Explain the importance in Hindu tradition of
(a) samskaras related to the birth of a baby [10]
and (b) the moral principles of the Brahmacharya ashrama. [10]
- 9 What do you consider to be the strongest arguments for **and** against the division of Hindu society into classes according to 'varna'? Give reasons to support your views. [20]

Section D

- 10 Give reasons why some people consider M.K.Gandhi to be 'the greatest reformer India has ever seen'. [20]
- 11 'Ramakrishna Paramahansa's main aim was to revive the Hindu quest for the goal of moksha.'
Discuss. [20]
- 12 Explain
(a) why the Arya Samaj was founded [10]
and (b) in what ways its members tried to bring about social reform in India. [10]

