



Cambridge International Examinations
Cambridge Ordinary Level

HINDUISM

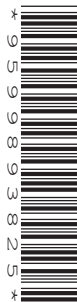
2055/01

Paper 1

October/November 2015

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, glue or correction fluid.

DO NOT WRITE IN ANY BARCODES.

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.



Section A

- 1 'Therefore, Indra surpasses greatly ... other gods.' (Kena Upanishad 4.3)

From your study of this parable,

(a) explain why Indra is said to be superior to two other great gods [10]

and (b) describe how the nature of the Absolute (Brahman) was revealed to Indra. [10]

- 2 'Verily, lady, whoever practises any one of these ... is my friend.' (Ramacharitmanas: Aranya 34)

Describe, with reference to the set text, the nature of the *bhakti* (devotion) which led Lord Rama to consider this lady as his friend. [20]

- 3 'Everyone must act, but not all action leads to *moksha*.'

Explain, with reference to Krishna's teaching in the Bhagavad Gita. [20]

Section B

- 4 'Ganesha is worshipped only as a god of good luck.'

To what extent do you agree? Give reasons to support your views. [20]

- 5 (a) Describe how Hindus might celebrate Maha Shivaratri. [10]

and (b) Explain why Maha Shivaratri is a major festival for worshippers of the god Shiva. [10]

- 6 Explain the significance for Hindus of worshipping Rama as 'an avatara of Vishnu'. [20]

Section C

- 7 'Dharma is the only goal a Hindu needs to strive for.'

Discuss. [20]

- 8 (a) Describe the traditional duties of the Hindu 'householder' ashrama. [10]

and (b) To what extent do you think these duties are still important for Hindus who are in the 'householder' stage of life? Give reasons to support your views. [10]

- 9 'It is necessary for Hindus to observe the traditional samskaras.'

To what extent do you agree or disagree? Give reasons to support your views. [20]

Section D

- 10 (a) Describe how Ramakrishna Paramhansa came to devote his life to God at an early age. [10]

and (b) Why do you think his teachings have attracted many disciples? Give reasons to support your views. [10]

- 11 'The Arya Samaj was a more effective movement for social development than the Brahmo Samaj.'

Discuss. [20]

- 12 Describe the work of the 19th and 20th century reformers in their efforts to achieve the abolition of *sati*. [20]

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