



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS
General Certificate of Education
Advanced Subsidiary Level

HINDUISM

8058/01

Paper 1

October/November 2009

3 hours

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. Fill in the grid on the front page of the answer booklet to show which questions you have answered.

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.

Every question is marked out of 20.

Read the questions **carefully**. Try to understand exactly what is being asked of you.

You are reminded of the need for good English and clear presentation in your answers.

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

All questions in this paper carry equal marks.

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 'Agni earned the prayers of the ancient sages, and of those of the present too.' (Rig Veda 1.1.2)

According to the Vedas, for what reasons does the god Agni inspire devotion?

- 2 Explain the significance of the roles of the teacher and the student in the Brahmacharya Sukta.

- 3 'Knowledge and ignorance, he who knows the two together crosses death through ignorance and attains life eternal through knowledge.'

To what extent does this teaching from the Isa Upanishad summarise Yama's guidance to Naciketas?

Section B

- 4 "Where there is dharma there is victory" – this is the underlying theme of the Mahabharata.'

Discuss with reference to at least **two** of the characters you have studied in the set text.

- 5 'For him without concentration, there is no peace and for the unpeaceful, how can there be happiness?' (Bhagavad Gita 2.66)

Comment on the arguments Krishna uses to explain to Arjuna that by doing his duty he can achieve both peace and happiness.

- 6 'In the Ramayana, nobody can escape the results of past actions.'

Discuss.

Section C

- 7 'The medieval bhakti movements freed Hindu worshippers to find their own path to God.'
- Discuss.
- 8 'Although Tulsidasa is widely regarded as a great moral teacher, he offers no rules for living except single-minded devotion to Rama.'
- Discuss.
- 9 What aspects of God as *saguna* (with form) are most significant for the poet Surdasa in his quest for true devotion? Discuss these aspects with reference to the texts you have studied.

Section D

- 10 If, as is claimed, Ramakrishna Paramahansa said nothing new, why did his religious experience and thought appeal to so many followers?
- 11 Explore the reasons why, in the 19th and 20th centuries, attempts to present *sanatana dharma* as a 'world religion' met with both support and opposition.
- 12 Assess the achievements of **either** M.K.Gandhi **or** Swami Dayananda Saraswati as a social reformer.

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