

General Certificate of Education  
Ordinary Level

**Syllabus**

HINDUISM 2055

For examination in November 2010

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# HINDUISM

## GCE Ordinary Level

### Syllabus 2055

Available in the October/November examination session only

## AIMS

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The aims of the syllabus are to:

1. develop an enquiring and critical approach to the study of Hinduism
2. introduce candidates to a variety of interpretations of the ideas contained in Hinduism
3. help the candidates to identify and explore the religious and ethical questions raised in the prescribed texts.

## ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES

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Candidates should be able to:

1. recall relevant points from the text(s) and from background information
2. use knowledge, illustrations and traditions contained in the texts to explain them with understanding
3. identify and explain the use of symbolism, parable, allegory etc. in the texts studied
4. interpret and analyse the major themes for religious and moral understanding.

## ASSESSMENT SCHEME

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There will be one question paper of 2½ hours duration, comprising four sections: A, B, C, and D. Three questions will be set in each section, of which at least one question will be in two parts. Candidates will be required to answer **five** questions, choosing at least **one** from each section.

# SYLLABUS CONTENT

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## Section A: Aspects of knowledge, action and devotion

The following concepts are to be studied (with reference to specific texts):

Ultimate Being (Brahman), Knowledge (Jnana), Devotion (Bhakti) and Action (Karma)

- (a) Kena Upanishad - III.1 - 4.2
- (b) Chandogya Upanishad - VI.10.1 - VI.13.3
- (c) Shrimad Bhagavad Gita - Chapter II Verses 47 & 48 and Chapter III
- (d) Shri Ramacharitamanas - Ayodhya - Kanda Doha 99 – 102  
Aranya - Kanda Doha 34 - 36

## Section B: Worship and Festivals

- (a) The main iconographic features and attributes of Shiva, Ganesha, Kartikeya (Murugan) and Durga.
- (b) The following Avatars of Vishnu: Rama, Krishna and Buddha.
- (c) Maha Shivaratri, Ganesh Chaturthi, Navadi and Deepavali.

## Section C: Hindu Ethics

- (a) The four varnas.
- (b) The four ashramas.
- (c) The four purusharthas.
- (d) The following samskaras: Namakarana, Mundana, Upanayana, Vivaha and Antyeshti.

## Section D: Reform and Reformers in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries

- (a) Rammohan Roy and the Brahmo Samaj.
- (b) Swami Dayananda Saraswati and the Arya Samaj.
- (c) Ramakrishna Paramhansa: His experiences of God.
- (d) Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi: His concepts of Truth and Non-violence.

## Specified Texts

Dr S. Radhakrishnan (editor); *The Principal Upanishads*; Harper Collins, India, 1994; ISBN 8172231245 [paperback]

Dr S. Radhakrishnan (editor); *The Bhagavad Gita*; Harper Collins, India, 2006; ISBN 8172230877 [paperback]

*Shri Ramacharitamansa*; Gita Press, India [text in Hindi]

**Useful Resources for Teachers**

T. M. Mahadevan; *Outlines of Hinduism*; Chetan Pvt Ltd, India; South Asia Books; 1985; ISBN 0836457862

D. Pandey; *Swami Dayanand Saraswati*; Director Publications Division, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, Patiala House, New Delhi 11000, India [editions available in Gujarati/Hindi and in English]

R. Pandey; *Hindu Samskaras*; Motilal Banarsidass, New Delhi, India, 2002; ISBN 8120804341

M. Ramnohur; *Hinduism For All*; Neeta Prakashan, New Delhi, India, 2002; ISBN 8172025890

D. S. Sarma; *Hinduism Through the Ages*; Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, India, 1967 and 2000

*Please note that other editions of the above books may exist with different ISBN numbers.*