

Syllabus

Cambridge O Level Hinduism

Syllabus code 2055

For examination in November 2013



UNIVERSITY *of* CAMBRIDGE
International Examinations

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1. Introduction

1.1 Why choose Cambridge?

University of Cambridge International Examinations (CIE) is the world's largest provider of international qualifications. Around 1.5 million students from 150 countries enter Cambridge examinations every year. What makes educators around the world choose Cambridge?

Developed for an international audience

International O Levels have been designed specially for an international audience and are sensitive to the needs of different countries. These qualifications are designed for students whose first language may not be English and this is acknowledged throughout the examination process. The curriculum also allows teaching to be placed in a localised context, making it relevant in varying regions.

Recognition

Cambridge O Levels are internationally recognised by schools, universities and employers as equivalent to UK GCSE. They are excellent preparation for A/AS Level, the Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE), US Advanced Placement Programme and the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma. CIE is accredited by the UK Government regulator, the Office of the Qualifications and Examinations Regulator (Ofqual). Learn more at www.cie.org.uk/recognition.

Support

CIE provides a world-class support service for teachers and exams officers. We offer a wide range of teacher materials to Centres, plus teacher training (online and face-to-face) and student support materials. Exams officers can trust in reliable, efficient administration of exams entry and excellent, personal support from CIE Customer Services. Learn more at www.cie.org.uk/teachers.

Excellence in education

Cambridge qualifications develop successful students. They build not only understanding and knowledge required for progression, but also learning and thinking skills that help students become independent learners and equip them for life.

Not-for-profit, part of the University of Cambridge

CIE is part of Cambridge Assessment, a not-for-profit organisation and part of the University of Cambridge. The needs of teachers and learners are at the core of what we do. CIE invests constantly in improving its qualifications and services. We draw upon education research in developing our qualifications.

1. Introduction

1.2 Why choose Cambridge O Level Hinduism?

International O Levels are established qualifications that keep pace with educational developments and trends. The International O Level curriculum places emphasis on broad and balanced study across a wide range of subject areas. The curriculum is structured so that students attain both practical skills and theoretical knowledge.

Cambridge O Level Hinduism is recognised by universities and employers as proof of knowledge and understanding.

The O Level Hinduism syllabus enables students to develop an enquiring and critical approach to the study of Hinduism; it also provides an introduction to a variety of interpretations of the ideas contained in Hinduism.

The course looks at aspects of knowledge, action and devotion, worship and festivals, Hindu ethics and reform movements in Hinduism in the 19th and 20th centuries. Students build on this foundation to identify and explore some of the religious and ethical questions raised in the sacred texts of Hinduism.

The syllabus will give students an appreciation of one of the major religions of the world.

1.3 How can I find out more?

If you are already a Cambridge Centre

You can make entries for this qualification through your usual channels, e.g. your regional representative, the British Council or CIE Direct. If you have any queries, please contact us at **international@cie.org.uk**.

If you are not a Cambridge Centre

You can find out how your organisation can become a Cambridge Centre. Email either your local British Council representative or CIE at **international@cie.org.uk**. Learn more about the benefits of becoming a Cambridge Centre at **www.cie.org.uk**.

2. Assessment at a glance

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Candidates take one examination paper.

Paper 1	2 hours 30 minutes
The paper has four sections – A, B, C and D.	
Each section has three questions of which at least one is in two parts.	
Candidates answer a total of five questions, choosing at least one from each section.	

Availability

This syllabus is examined in the October/November examination session.

This syllabus is available to private candidates.

International O levels are available to Centres in Administrative Zones 3, 4 and 5. Centres in Administrative Zones 1, 2 or 6 wishing to enter candidates for International O Level examinations should contact CIE Customer Services.

Combining this with other syllabuses

Candidates can combine this syllabus in an examination session with any other CIE syllabus, except:

- syllabuses with the same title at the same level

Please note that IGCSE, Cambridge International Level 1/Level 2 Certificates and O Level syllabuses are at the same level.

3. Syllabus aims and objectives

3.1 Aims

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.

3.2 Assessment objectives

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.

4. Curriculum content

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 and 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.

5. Resource list

Specified Texts

Author	Title	Date	Publisher	ISBN Number
Dr S. Radhakrishnan (editor)	<i>The Principal Upanishads</i>	1994	Harper Collins, India	8172231245 [paperback]
Dr S. Radhakrishnan (editor)	<i>The Bhagavad Gita</i>	2006	Harper Collins, India	8172230877 [paperback]
	<i>Shri Ramacharitamansa</i> [text in Hindi]		Gita Press, India	

Useful Resources for Teachers

Author	Title	Date	Publisher	ISBN Number
T. M. Mahadevan	<i>Outlines of Hinduism</i>	1985	Chetan Pvt Ltd, India South Asia Books	0836457862
D. Pandey	<i>Swami Dayanand Saraswati</i> [editions available in Gujarati/Hindi and in English]		Director Publications Division, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, Patiala House, New Delhi 11000, India	
R. Pandey	<i>Hindu Samskaras</i>	2002	Motilal Banarsidass, New Delhi, India	8120804341
M. Ramnohur	<i>Hinduism For All</i>	2002	Neeta Prakashan, New Delhi, India	8172025890
D. S. Sarma	<i>Hinduism Through the Ages</i>	1967 and 2000	Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, India	

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

Resources are also listed on CIE's public website at www.cie.org.uk. Please visit this site on a regular basis as the Resource lists are updated through the year.

Access to teachers' email discussion groups, suggested schemes of work and regularly updated resource lists may be found on the CIE Teacher Support website at <http://teachers.cie.org.uk>. This website is available to teachers at registered CIE Centres.

6. Additional information

6.1 Guided learning hours

O Level syllabuses are designed on the assumption that candidates have about 130 guided learning hours per subject over the duration of the course. ('Guided learning hours' include direct teaching and any other supervised or directed study time. They do not include private study by the candidate.)

However, this figure is for guidance only, and the number of hours required may vary according to local curricular practice and the candidates' prior experience of the subject.

6.2 Recommended prior learning

Candidates beginning this course are not expected to have studied Hinduism or Religious Studies previously.

6.3 Progression

O Level Certificates are general qualifications that enable candidates to progress either directly to employment, or to proceed to further qualifications.

Candidates who are awarded grades C to A* in O Level Hinduism are well prepared to follow courses leading to AS and A Level Hinduism, Religious Studies, or the equivalent.

6.4 Component codes

Because of local variations, in some cases component codes will be different in instructions about making entries for examinations and timetables from those printed in this syllabus, but the component names will be unchanged to make identification straightforward.

6.5 Grading and reporting

Ordinary Level (O Level) results are shown by one of the grades A*, A, B, C, D or E indicating the standard achieved, Grade A* being the highest and Grade E the lowest. 'Ungraded' indicates that the candidate's performance fell short of the standard required for Grade E. 'Ungraded' will be reported on the statement of results but not on the certificate.

6. Additional information

Percentage uniform marks are also provided on each candidate's statement of results to supplement their grade for a syllabus. They are determined in this way:

- A candidate who obtains...
 - ... the minimum mark necessary for a Grade A* obtains a percentage uniform mark of 90%.
 - ... the minimum mark necessary for a Grade A obtains a percentage uniform mark of 80%.
 - ... the minimum mark necessary for a Grade B obtains a percentage uniform mark of 70%.
 - ... the minimum mark necessary for a Grade C obtains a percentage uniform mark of 60%.
 - ... the minimum mark necessary for a Grade D obtains a percentage uniform mark of 50%.
 - ... the minimum mark necessary for a Grade E obtains a percentage uniform mark of 40%.
 - ... no marks receives a percentage uniform mark of 0%.

Candidates whose mark is none of the above receive a percentage mark in between those stated according to the position of their mark in relation to the grade 'thresholds' (i.e. the minimum mark for obtaining a grade). For example, a candidate whose mark is halfway between the minimum for a Grade C and the minimum for a Grade D (and whose grade is therefore D) receives a percentage uniform mark of 55%.

The uniform percentage mark is stated at syllabus level only. It is not the same as the 'raw' mark obtained by the candidate, since it depends on the position of the grade thresholds (which may vary from one session to another and from one subject to another) and it has been turned into a percentage.

6.6 Resources

Copies of syllabuses, the most recent question papers and Principal Examiners' reports for teachers are available on the Syllabus and Support Materials CD-ROM, which is sent to all CIE Centres.

Resources are also listed on CIE's public website at **www.cie.org.uk**. Please visit this site on a regular basis as the Resource lists are updated through the year.

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