



Cambridge International AS & A Level

HINDUISM

9487/01

Paper 1 Concepts in Hinduism

May/June 2025

1 hour 30 minutes

You must answer on the enclosed answer booklet.

You will need: Answer booklet (enclosed)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer **two** questions in total:
 - Section A: answer **one** question.
 - Section B: answer **one** question.
- Follow the instructions on the front cover of the answer booklet. If you need additional answer paper, ask the invigilator for a continuation booklet.

INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is 60.
- The number of marks for each question or part question is shown in brackets [].

This document has **4** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

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Section A

Answer **EITHER** Question 1 **OR** Question 2.

EITHER

- 1 (a) 'Dharma was declared by Brahman for the advancement and growth of all creatures. Therefore, that which leads to advancement and growth is righteousness. Righteousness was declared for restraining creatures from injuring one another. Therefore, that is righteousness which prevents injury. Dharma is so called because it upholds all creatures; in fact, all creatures are upheld by righteousness. Therefore, that is righteousness which is capable of upholding all creatures.'

Summarise what the above passage says about the concept of dharma. [5]

(b) Explain the role of dharma in shaping society. [10]

(c) Evaluate the claim that traditional sthri dharma is no longer relevant to Hindu women in the modern world. [15]

[Total: 30]

OR

2 (a) Describe how dharma is connected to the other purusharthas. [5]

(b) Explain why the concept of varnashramadharma might be considered important for understanding Hinduism. [10]

(c) 'Dharma and rita mean the same.' Discuss. [15]

[Total: 30]

Section B

Answer **EITHER** Question 3 **OR** Question 4.

EITHER

- 3 (a) Describe the raja marga. [5]
- (b) Compare the different demands of the jnana marga with those of the bhakti marga for an individual seeking liberation. [10]
- (c) Evaluate the view that a Hindu does not need to commit to a single marga to achieve moksha. [15]

[Total: 30]

OR

- 4 (a) 'The wise do not grieve for those who live and they do not grieve for those who die, for life and death shall pass away. Because we have been for all time, you, and I, and all these others. And we shall be for all time, all of us for ever and ever. As the spirit of our mortal body wanders on in childhood, and youth, and old age, so that spirit wanders on to a new body: of that, this sage has no doubts.'
- Summarise what the above passage says about samsara. [5]
- (b) Explain how maya can be understood in both positive and negative ways. [10]
- (c) 'All Hindus expect to be liberated at the end of their current lifetime.' Discuss. [15]

[Total: 30]

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