



Cambridge International AS & A Level

HINDUISM

9487/02

Paper 2 Development of Hinduism

October/November 2021

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.

Section A

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

EITHER

- 1 (a) Outline the different areas of concern for the four Vedas. [5]
- (b) Explain the importance of the Upanishads for the development of Hinduism. [10]
- (c) Assess the claim that nastika traditions are not forms of Hinduism. [15]
- [Total: 30]

OR

- 2 (a) Summarise the story told in the Mahabharata. [5]
- (b) Explain why there is disagreement about whether some texts are smriti or shruti. [10]
- (c) 'The Bhagavad Gita is the only important part of the Mahabharata.'
Discuss this claim. [15]
- [Total: 30]

Section B

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

EITHER

- 3 “Do you aspire after Divine Grace? Then propitiate the Mother... She it is who has deluded the whole world, and is conjuring up the triple device of creation, maintenance and dissolution. She has spread a veil of ignorance over all and unless she unbars the gate none can enter the Inner Court.”

Sri Ramakrishna

- (a) Summarise what the above passage says about the nature of the divine. [5]
- (b) Explain why believing Brahman is saguna might help Hindus on the path to liberation. [10]
- (c) Assess the claim that Shaktism has nothing in common with other theistic traditions. [15]

[Total: 30]

OR

- 4 (a) Outline the difference between henotheism and polytheism. [5]
- (b) Explain why some people might argue that monotheism is the best way to describe Hinduism. [10]
- (c) ‘Hindus believe the divine is unknowable.’
Discuss this claim. [15]

[Total: 30]

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