



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS  
General Certificate of Education Ordinary Level

**HINDUISM**

**2055/01**

Paper 1

**October/November 2008**

**2 hours 30 minutes**

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.

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.

You should read the questions **carefully**. Try to understand exactly what is being asked of you, and **then** write your answers.

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

The number of marks is given in brackets [ ] at the end of each question or part question.



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 Referring to the text of the Kena Upanishad, explain
- (a) why three great gods were wrong to boast about their power [10]
- and (b) what they learned about Brahman. [10]
- 2 'If I should cease to work, these worlds would fall in ruin.'  
(Bhagavad Gita III.24)  
Explain Krishna's teachings to Arjuna about the necessity of work. [20]
- 3 'Hearken, lady, to my words: I recognise no relationship save that of faith.'  
(Ramacharitamanasa: Aranya)  
Explain why this teaching about bhakti is highly valued in Hinduism. [20]

### Section B

- 4 Explain the religious significance of the image and attributes of the goddess Durga as she might be worshipped in a temple. [20]
- 5 Explain what Hindus believe about
- (a) the reasons why God appears as avatar [10]
- and (b) the ways in which some Hindus believe the Buddha avatar benefits Hindus. [10]
- 6 Describe in detail how **either** Maha Shivaratri **or** Ganesh Chaturthi celebrates the most important aspects and attributes of the god. [20]

### Section C

- 7 (a) Describe the traditional duties of the grihastha (householder) ashrama [10]
- and (b) In what ways can married Hindus best uphold these traditions today? [10]
- 8 Explain the Hindu teaching that kama and artha must be guided by dharma. [20]
- 9 Explain the importance of samskaras at the beginning and end of life. [20]

**Section D**

- 10** 'He was the person who seems to have awakened Hinduism from its slumbers.'  
What evidence could be given to support this assessment of the life of Rammohan Roy? [20]
- 11** In what ways did Swami Dayananda Saraswati's social reforms show his concern for the principles of love and justice? [20]
- 12** Explain
- (a)** why M. K. Gandhi believed in the power of 'satyagraha' [10]
- and (b)** why his efforts to help the poor were often unpopular. [10]

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