



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS
General Certificate of Education
Advanced Subsidiary Level and Advanced Level

HINDUISM

**8058/01
9014/01**

Paper 1

October/November 2008

3 hours

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.
Read the questions **carefully**. Try to understand exactly what is being asked of you.
You are reminded of the need for good English and clear presentation in your answers.

At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.
All questions in this paper carry equal marks.

Answer any **five** questions, choosing at least **one** question from each section.

Section A

- 1 Do Indra's heroic deeds in the Vedic writings show him to deserve the title 'Lord of the gods'?
- 2 'The deepest stirrings of the human mind are reflected in the Nasadiya Sukta.'
Discuss.
- 3 'Sharp as the edge of a razor and hard to cross, difficult to tread is that path.' (Katha Upanishad 1.3.14)
Discuss the efforts involved in seeking liberation, according to the Upanishads you have studied.

Section B

- 4 'Draupadi and Duryodhana respond equally well to the demands of dharma.'
How far do you agree?
- 5 'Krishna was a more important avatar of Vishnu than Rama.'
Discuss with reference to the texts you have studied.
- 6 To what extent are the Ramayana's ideals of devotion and loyalty still relevant for modern Hindus?
Refer in your answer to the characters of Sita, Lakshmana and Bharata.

Section C

- 7 'The Alvar, in ecstatic delight, visualises God everywhere.'
Assess the impact of the Alvars' vision on Hindu belief and worship in medieval times.
- 8 'I am confident of one thing: that the good will be gratified to hear me, though fools will laugh.'
(Tulsidasa)
What elements of Tulsidasa's teaching led him to expect this response?
- 9 In what ways did Surdasa convey the love of God through poetic imagery?

Section D

- 10 What influences led Rammohan Roy to be a religious reformer, and how far did he achieve his aims?
- 11 'In the 19th and 20th centuries, despite attempts to challenge attitudes to caste and untouchability, Hindu society resisted change.'
Discuss.
- 12 'He did not preach about God or religion; he was a living sermon.'
To what extent can M.K. Gandhi be considered a religious reformer?

