



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS
General Certificate of Education Advanced Level



HINDUISM

9014/02

Paper 2

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.

This document consists of **3** printed pages and **1** blank page.



Answer **one** question from **each** section plus **one** question.

Section A

- 1 'Bondage and liberation are of the mind alone.'
Discuss the approaches to Avidya and Moksha in relation to the systems of Samkhya and Yoga.
- 2 'Patanjali and Isvarakrishna do not agree that Yoga is merely the practical expression of Samkhya philosophy.'
Evaluate the truth of this statement.
- 3 'Realisation of Advaita is the fruit of Jnana.'
Discuss this statement in the light of Sankara's teaching.
- 4 'Ramanuja's Vishistha Advaita assumes liberation is possible through devotion to the Saguna Brahman alone.'
Discuss this view.

Section B

- 5 'The name Jainism, which means a multitude of jivas who have conquered their lower nature and realised the highest, indicates the predominantly ethical character of the Jain system in sharp contrast to Hinduism.'
Discuss this view.
- 6 Discuss the importance of the Sangha for attaining Nirvana in Theravada Buddhism.
- 7 'Theravada Buddhism teaches that the ultimate reality is a void (shunyata) whereas Upanishadic Hinduism teaches the Absolute is full, perfect and complete.'
Comment on this analysis of Buddhism.

Section C

- 8 'The aim is to reach the highest place of Vishnu.'
Discuss in the light of Vishnu's symbolism and significance in the spiritual life of some Hindus.
- 9 'Lakshmi is only an excuse for glorifying the acquisition of wealth.'
Evaluate this negative statement about the goddess (shakti) Lakshmi.
- 10 'Form by form, every form is for the sake of making Him known.'
To what extent does this Rig-Vedic statement suggest that without murtis God cannot be known?

Section D

- 11 'The Purusha Sukta gives the best explanation of the origins of the four varnas.'
Discuss in the light of your understanding of modern Hindu society.
- 12 'Traditional teaching on the purusharthas holds that it is wrong (adharmic) to pursue pleasure (kama) or wealth (artha) alone.'
Discuss.
- 13 'He who does good will be born good; he who does evil will be born as evil. He becomes holy by holy deeds, evil by evil.'
Discuss the relevance of the so-called law of karma for today in the light of this teaching from the Upanishads.

