



Cambridge O Level

HINDUISM

2055/01

Paper 1 Hindu Gods and Festivals

October/November 2023

1 hour 30 minutes

You must answer on the answer booklet/paper.

You will need: Answer booklet/paper

INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer **three** questions in total, **one** from each section.
- If you have been given an answer booklet, follow the instructions on the front cover of the answer booklet.
- Use a black or dark blue pen.
- Write your name, centre number and candidate number on all the work you hand in.
- Do **not** use an erasable pen or correction fluid.
- At the end of the examination, fasten all your work together. Do **not** use staples, paper clips or glue.

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.

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Section A: Gods

Answer **either** Question 1 **or** Question 2.

- 1** (a) (i) Name the god who is also known as the creator in the Trimūrti [1]
- (ii) Give **one** item that this god might be shown holding in a murti. [1]
- (b) Describe how Kartikeya (Murugan) might be shown in a murti. [3]
- (c) Explain how the features in a murti of Vishnu help Hindus to worship. [5]
- (d) 'The fierce aspect of Durga is more important than her caring aspect.'
- To what extent do you agree with this view? You should use evidence from your study of gods in Hinduism to support your argument. [10]

- 2** (a) Name **two** objects that might be held by a murti of Ganesha. [2]
- (b) Outline the meaning of the trident held by a murti of Shiva. [3]
- (c) Explain why the deities of the Trimūrti might be shown with female deities in a murti. [5]
- (d) 'The gods cannot be worshipped without knowing their stories.'
- To what extent do you agree with this view? You should use evidence from your study of gods in Hinduism to support your argument. [10]

Section B: Avatars

Answer **either** Question 3 **or** Question 4.

- 3** (a) Give **two** things covered by Vamana's steps. [2]
- (b) Outline **one** story about a non-human avatar. [3]
- (c) Explain what the life of Krishna teaches Hindus. [5]
- (d) 'Avatars are the best way for Hindus to understand Vishnu.'

To what extent do you agree with this view? You should use evidence from your study of avatars in Hinduism to support your argument. [10]

- 4** (a) Give **two** forms that an avatar of Vishnu has taken. [2]
- (b) Describe how Krishna is shown in a murti. [3]
- (c) Explain what Hindus can learn from the story of Vamana. [5]
- (d) 'The most important purpose of Krishna is to teach the three paths to liberation.'

To what extent do you agree with this view? You should use evidence from your study of avatars in Hinduism to support your argument. [10]

Section C: Festivals

Answer **either** Question 5 **or** Question 6.

- 5** (a) Name **two** things that a family might do to celebrate Divali (Deepavali). [2]
- (b) Describe what usually happens to the clay murtis at the end of Ganesh Chaturthi. [3]
- (c) Explain the significance of fasting for Hindus. [5]
- (d) 'All Hindus should celebrate Divali (Deepavali).'

To what extent do you agree with this view? You should use evidence from your study of festivals in Hinduism to support your argument. [10]

- 6** (a) (i) What is meant by the term 'fasting'? [1]
- (ii) Why might a Hindu fast during a festival? [1]
- (b) Describe why a Hindu might stay awake to observe Maha Shivaratri. [3]
- (c) Explain why some Hindus do **not** celebrate Maha Shivaratri. [5]
- (d) 'Celebrating festivals is **not** important in showing commitment to the key beliefs in Hinduism.'

To what extent do you agree with this view? You should use evidence from your study of festivals in Hinduism to support your argument. [10]

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