



Cambridge O Level

HINDUISM

2055/01

Paper 1 Hindu Gods and Festivals

October/November 2024

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.



Section A: Gods

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

- 1 (a) (i) Name the deity who gave Ganesha his elephant head. [1]
- (ii) State the relationship between Ganesha and the deity who gave him his elephant head. [1]
- (b) Outline the meaning of the conch shell that is held by Vishnu in some murtis. [3]
- (c) Explain why Durga is shown holding different weapons. [5]
- (d) 'Hindus cannot know what the gods are like without murtis.'
- 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** roles performed by the gods of the Trimūrti. [2]
- (b) Outline **one** story about the gods of the Trimūrti. [3]
- (c) Explain how a murti of Kartikeya (Murugan) represents Hindu beliefs about him. [5]
- (d) 'Understanding the iconographic features of a murti is not important for worship.'
- 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) State what Vamana covered with his first two steps. [2]
- (b) Outline reasons why Narsimha might be a popular focus for devotion. [3]
- (c) Explain why some Hindus might choose to worship Krishna instead of other avatars. [5]
- (d) 'Appearing as the charioteer is the most important episode in the life of Krishna.'

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) (i) What form did Vishnu take as Rama? [1]
- (ii) What form did Vishnu take as Narsimha? [1]
- (b) Describe how Krishna might be shown in a murti. [3]
- (c) Explain what Hindus can learn from Rama's relationship with Sita. [5]
- (d) 'Hindus can learn more from Krishna's childhood than his later life.'

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) Give **two** things an individual Hindu might do on Maha Shivaratri. [2]
- (b) Outline **one** story about Shiva that is remembered on Maha Shivaratri. [3]
- (c) Explain why some Hindus pierce their skin for the procession on Cavadi. [5]
- (d) 'All Hindus should know the religious meaning of the festivals they celebrate.'

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) Name **two** things which are remembered on Cavadi. [2]
- (b) Outline **one** story about the origins of Ganesh Chaturthi. [3]
- (c) Explain why Divali (Deepavali) is known as a festival of light. [5]
- (d) 'Festivals bring all Hindus together.'

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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