

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS
General Certificate of Education Ordinary Level

HINDUISM

2055/01

Paper 1

October/November 2005

Additional Materials: Answer Booklet/Paper

2 hours 30 minutes

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your Centre number, candidate number and name on all the work you hand in.
If you have been given an Answer Booklet, follow the instructions on the front cover of the Booklet.
Write in dark blue or black pen on both sides of the paper.
Do not use staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.

Answer **five** questions, choosing 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.
All questions in this paper carry equal marks.

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

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

Section A

- 1 Explain what Svetaketu learned about himself and about Brahman from the parables of
- (a) the rivers flowing into the sea [10]
- and (b) the growing tree. [10]
- 2 Why did Arjuna find it so difficult to understand the importance of work without attachment, until Krishna revealed this to him? [20]
- 3 'On hearing the ferryman's rude but loving words, the merciful Lord smiled.'
(Ramacharitamana: Ayodhya)
- Explain the ferryman's concern, and the religious significance of Rama's words of comfort. [20]

Section B

- 4 For what reasons are pictures of Shiva in a family group often seen in Hindu homes and shrines? Answer with reference to the figures and symbols you would find in such a picture. [20]
- 5 Explain the religious significance for Hindus of celebrating
- (a) Divali (Deepavali) [10]
- and (b) Cavadi. [10]
- 6 Why is belief in avatars important for many Hindus? Answer with reference to **two** of the avatars you have studied. [20]

Section C

- 7 To what extent do the traditional rules for the brahmacarya ashrama give useful guidance for modern teenagers and students? [20]
- 8 Explain
- (a) what 'dharma' means in Hinduism [10]
- and (b) why dharma could be considered the most important of the purusharthas. [10]
- 9 Choose **two** of the samskaras you have studied and assess their importance in the life of Hindu families today. [20]

Section D

10 Explain

(a) why the practice of sati was an issue which sharply divided Hindu opinion in the 19th century. [10]

and (b) how Rammohan Roy succeeded in getting sati abolished. [10]

11 In what ways does Ramakrishna Paramhansa's life and teaching show him as 'a man of vision'? [20]

12 Why was 'Mahatma' a fitting title for M. K. Gandhi? [20]

