



Cambridge International AS & A Level

HINDUISM

9487/02

Paper 2 Development of Hinduism

May/June 2024

1 hour 30 minutes

You must answer on the enclosed answer booklet.

You will need: Answer booklet (enclosed)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer **two** questions in total:
 - Section A: answer **one** question.
 - Section B: answer **one** question.
- Follow the instructions on the front cover of the answer booklet. If you need additional answer paper, ask the invigilator for a continuation booklet.

INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is 60.
- The number of marks for each question or part question is shown in brackets [].



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This document has **4** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

Section A

Answer **EITHER** Question 1 **OR** Question 2.

EITHER

1 'The smritis are composed by human beings without any specific divine inspiration and passed on to guide ordinary people in the conduct of their lives and the performance of their spiritual and worldly duties. The texts describe the daily life of individuals, prescribing rituals and rules which vary according to each varna or social class. However, since the smritis are man-made and changeable, Hinduism does not claim that laws laid down a millennium ago must be followed to the letter today.'

(a) Summarise what the passage above says about the status of smriti texts. [5]

(b) Explain why some Hindus might **not** consider the ManuSmriti a useful guide to living a dharmic life. [10]

(c) Assess the claim that smriti texts are necessary for Hindus to fully understand the Vedas. [15]

[Total: 30]

OR

2 (a) Summarise the main themes of the Aranyakas. [5]

(b) Explain the significance of each of the different Vedic writings. [10]

(c) 'Hinduism today is based on the Upanishads'. Discuss. [15]

[Total: 30]

Section B

Answer **EITHER** Question 3 **OR** Question 4.

EITHER

3 (a) Summarise what the phrase 'neti-neti' tells Hindus about the nature of Brahman. [5]

(b) Explain the different ways of understanding the relationship between atman and Brahman. [10]

(c) 'Performing murti puja is a way of knowing the divine.' Discuss. [15]

[Total: 30]

OR

4 'According to Hindu philosophy, behind the illusion of so many gods there is but one, universal, eternal, omnipotent, formless and transcendent divine. Many names and forms of God became accepted in preference to uniformity. Rishis compared this with the precious metal gold, of which many ornaments are formed even though it essentially remains unchanged.'

(a) Outline what the passage above says about the nature of the divine in Hinduism. [5]

(b) Compare the concepts of pantheism and monism. [10]

(c) Assess the claim that Hinduism is a monotheistic religion. [15]

[Total: 30]

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