
HINDUISM

8058/01

Paper 1

October/November 2016

3 hours

No Additional Materials are required.

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

An answer booklet is provided inside this question paper. You should follow the instructions on the front cover of the answer booklet. If you need additional answer paper ask the invigilator for a continuation booklet.

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.

All questions in this paper carry 20 marks.



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

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

Section A

- 1 'Young Agni, take your place as our favourite priest with inspirations and shining speech.'
(Rig Veda 1.26.2)

Explore Agni's role as one of the great Vedic gods.

- 2 'The account of "creation" revealed in the Purusha Sukta can have little significance for Hindus today.'

To what extent do you agree or disagree? Give reasons for your view, with reference to the set text.

- 3 'The Parable of the Chariot is central to Yama's teaching on Yoga in the Katha Upanishad.'

Discuss, with reference to the different elements in this parable.

Section B

- 4 'The Ramayana shows Rama to be a true avatar of Vishnu.'

Explore this statement with reference to the concept of 'avatar' in Hinduism.

- 5 'The account of the game of dice in the Mahabharata presents conflicting ideas regarding the nature of *dharma*.'

To what extent do you agree or disagree? Give reasons for your view, with reference to the set text.

- 6 'If Krishna welcomes all without exception, why should Hindus make an effort to lead a good life?'

Discuss, with reference to Krishna's teaching on the way of *bhakti* in the Bhagavad Gita.

Section C

- 7 'The Alvar saints should be seen not as mystical dreamers but as passionate innovators.'

Discuss.

- 8 'I reverence the Son of the Wind ... the monkey king, the king of bears and demons ...'

Discuss the significance of including these and the other characters in the *bhakti* poetry of Tulsidasa.

- 9 'Maya, the enchantress ...
makes me dance to her tune
in a million ways.'

Explain what the poet Surdasa means by *maya*, and how he seeks to escape from this 'enchantress'.

Section D

- 10 'When God descends into this world, few only can recognise His Divine nature.' (Ramakrishna Paramahansa)

Explore the mystical experiences of Ramakrishna, referring to his life and teachings in your answer.

- 11 To what extent was M. K. Gandhi justified in his belief that *ahimsa*, 'the non-violence of the brave', was the key to achieving a better life for all Indians?

- 12 'A Hindu may become "modern", but Hinduism itself will never become modern, though it will adjust itself to the demands of the time.'

Discuss this view with reference to the teachings of Swami Dayananda Saraswati and the Arya Samaj.

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