



Cambridge O Level

HINDUISM

2055/01

Paper 1 Hindu Gods and Festivals

May/June 2025

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) What type of animal does Durga usually ride? [1]

 (ii) What type of objects does Durga usually hold? [1]

 (b) Outline **one** story about how Ganesha's tusk was broken. [3]

 (c) Explain what Hindus can learn about the gods from stories about Shiva. [5]

 (d) 'Maintainer is the most important role in the Trimūrti for Hindus today.'

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) (i) Name the deity who is the brother of Ganesha. [1]

 (ii) Give **one** feature of a murti of this deity. [1]

 (b) Outline the meaning of the discus that might be shown in a murti of Vishnu. [3]

 (c) Explain why Durga might be important to Hindus. [5]

 (d) 'The stories of the gods are of **less** importance than their attributes to worshippers.'

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) (i) Name the demon defeated by the man-lion avatar. [1]

 (ii) Name the demon defeated by the dwarf avatar. [1]

 (b) Outline **one** way that Rama acts as an example to Hindus. [3]

 (c) Explain what makes Rama a popular focus for devotion. [5]

 (d) 'The teachings given by avatars are **more** important than their stories.'

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) Name the avatar that appeared at twilight. [1]

 (ii) Name the avatar that covered the heavens and earth in two steps. [1]

 (b) Outline how Rama's wife is rescued. [3]

 (c) Explain why avatars are important to some Hindus. [5]

 (d) 'Hindus can learn more from Rama than from 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]

Section C: Festivals

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

5 (a) Give the two names of the god most commonly worshipped at Cavadi. [2]

(b) Give **three** things Hindu communities might do to celebrate Ganesh Chaturthi. [3]

(c) Explain why not all Hindus fast to observe Maha Shivaratri. [5]

(d) 'Festivals are about sacrifice rather than celebration.'

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) Give **two** things a Hindu might do to observe Cavadi. [2]

(b) Outline **one** story associated with Cavadi. [3]

(c) Explain why Hindus might worship Lakshmi at Divali (Deepavali). [5]

(d) 'It is **not** important for all Hindus to observe Ganesh Chaturthi.'

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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