



Cambridge International AS & A Level

HINDUISM

9487/02

Paper 2 Development of Hinduism

For examination from 2021

SPECIMEN PAPER

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 [].

This document has 4 pages. Blank pages are indicated.



Section A

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

EITHER

- 1 'The 'heart of Hinduism' – the Puranas, the Epics, and especially the Bhagavad Gita – is alive ... [today] and beating vigorously ... The fact they have grown over many centuries and were performed and interpreted in ever new ways throughout the ages, has kept them alive and full of meaning for every new generation of Hindus.'

Klaus K. Klostermaier

- (a) Outline what the passage above says about the importance of non-Vedic texts. [5]
- (b) Explain why the teachings of the Bhagavad Gita on achieving liberation might be important to Hindus. [10]
- (c) Assess the claim that studying the Bhagavad Gita is the best way to understand contemporary Hinduism. [15]

[Total: 30]

OR

- 2 (a) Summarise the difference between smriti and shruti. [5]
- (b) Explain how Hindus might use the Manusmriti in their lives. [10]
- (c) 'Hinduism cannot be fully understood without knowledge of the Manusmriti.' Discuss this claim. [15]

[Total: 30]

Section B

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

EITHER

- 3 (a) Outline the distinct characteristics of Shaivism. [5]
- (b) Explain the importance of Ganesh within Smartism. [10]
- (c) 'Vaishnavism is the most influential Hindu tradition.'
Discuss this claim. [15]
- [Total: 30]

OR

- 4 'The sum total of all that lives is God. We may not be God but we are of God even as a little drop of water is of the ocean.'
- Mohandas K Gandhi*
- (a) Describe what the passage above says about the nature of God. [5]
- (b) Explain the importance of ishvara in contemporary Hinduism. [10]
- (c) Evaluate the claim that Hinduism is best described by the term 'monism'. [15]
- [Total: 30]

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