



# Cambridge International AS & A Level

**HINDUISM**

**9487/01**

Paper 1 Concepts in 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 (a) Describe one way Hindus might understand Dharma. [5]
- (b) Explain why Sita might be considered a perfect model of Sthri Dharma. [10]
- (c) 'Rama's life demonstrates a way to balance conflicting dharmas.' Discuss this statement with reference to your understanding of dharma. [15]
- [Total: 30]

**OR**

- 2 (a) Outline the meaning of the term 'varnashramadharmā'. [5]
- (b) 'The system of the four ashramas began in a different world from ours so they are difficult to follow in contemporary society.'  
Explain difficulties Hindus in contemporary society might have in following one of the ashramas. [10]
- (c) 'The 'caste' system is not Hindu.'  
Discuss this statement with reference to your understanding of varna and jati. [15]
- [Total: 30]

**Section B**

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

**EITHER**

- 3 (a) Outline one meaning of the term 'vikarma'. [5]
- (b) 'The law of karma is intricately linked to the world of samsara.'  
Explain the relationship between karma and samsara. [10]
- (c) To what extent is it true that an individual is responsible for their own suffering? [15]
- [Total: 30]

**OR**

- 4 (a) Outline the distinctive characteristics of a jivan-mukta. [5]
- (b) 'Maya can be both positive and negative.' Explain the positive nature of maya and its influence on the attainment of moksha. [10]
- (c) Assess the claim that bhakti marga is the best way to moksha. [15]
- [Total: 30]

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