



Cambridge O Level

HINDUISM

2055/01

Paper 1 Hindu Gods and Festivals

October/November 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) Name the relationship between Ganesha and Kartikeya (Murugan). [1]
- (ii) Name **one** thing Ganesha does for his devotees. [1]
- (b) Outline the meaning of Durga's animal vehicle. [3]
- (c) Explain how the features of a murti of Kartikeya (Murugan) teach Hindus about his nature. [5]
- (d) 'Most worshippers of Ganesha are students.'
- 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) Give **one** feature of a murti of Brahma. [1]
- (ii) Give the meaning of **this** feature. [1]
- (b) Outline the connection between Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva. [3]
- (c) Explain how the attributes of Durga are shown in stories about her. [5]
- (d) 'Murtis do **not** show what gods really look like.'
- 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 avatar of Vishnu who is considered to be the perfect man. [1]
- (ii) How long was he exiled for? [1]
- (b) Describe **one** event that led to Vishnu becoming an avatar. [3]
- (c) Explain why a Hindu might choose to worship an avatar of Vishnu. [5]
- (d) 'Human avatars are too perfect to be useful role models for ordinary people.'

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 of Vishnu who appeared as part human and part animal. [1]
- (ii) What task did **this** avatar come to do? [1]
- (b) Outline **one** story about Krishna as an adult. [3]
- (c) Explain how the attributes of Krishna make him a popular focus for devotion. [5]
- (d) 'Stories about animal avatars are only meant to be entertainment.'

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 **two** devotional practices of Hindus at Divali (Deepavali). [2]
- (b) Give **three** beliefs associated with Divali (Deepavali). [3]
- (c) Explain why Hindus might observe Cavadi in different ways. [5]
- (d) 'Sacrifice is an important part of all Hindu festivals.'

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) (i) Give **one** way Hindus might show devotion to Shiva during Maha Shivaratri. [1]
- (ii) What is being celebrated on Ganesh Chaturthi? [1]
- (b) Outline how a Hindu might celebrate Ganesh Chaturthi. [3]
- (c) Explain why Divali (Deepavali) is such a popular festival for Hindus. [5]
- (d) 'It is important for all festival celebrations to show devotion.'

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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