Advanced Subsidiary GCE

GCE RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Unit G577: AS Hinduism

Specimen Paper

G577 QP

Morning/Afternoon

Time: 1 hour 30 minutes

Additional Materials: Answer Booklet (…pages)

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- Answer **two** questions.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

- The number of marks for each question is given in brackets [ ] at the end of each question or part of question.
- The total number of marks for this paper is **70**.

ADVICE TO CANDIDATES

- Read each question carefully and make sure you know what you have to do before starting your answer.

This document consists of **2** printed pages.

Answer **two** questions.

1 **(a)** Explain the relationship between karma and samsara. **[25]**

(b) 'The only purpose of karma is to make people behave well.' Discuss. **[10]**

2 **(a)** Explain the different attitudes to the deities in Hinduism? **[25]**

(b) To what extent are the deities irrelevant for those following the jnana path? **[10]**

3 **(a)** Explain the influence of the Aryans on early Hinduism. **[25]**

(b) 'Later Hinduism has nothing in common with The Indus Valley civilization.' Discuss. **[10]**

4 **(a)** Explain how following the system of varnashramadharma might lead to moksha. **[25]**

(b) 'The system of varnashramadharma is impractical in modern society.' Discuss. **[10]**

Paper Total [70]

OXFORD CAMBRIDGE AND RSA EXAMINATIONS

Advanced Subsidiary GCE

GCE RELIGIOUS STUDIES   G577 MS

Unit G577: AS Hinduism

Specimen Mark Scheme

The maximum mark for this paper is 70.

Band	Mark /25	AO1	Mark /10	AO2
0	0	absent/no relevant material	0	absent/no argument
1	1-5	almost completely ignores the question • little relevant material • some concepts inaccurate • shows little knowledge of technical terms Communication: often unclear or disorganised	1-2	very little argument or justification of viewpoint • little or no successful analysis Communication: often unclear or disorganised
2	6-10	focuses on the general topic rather than directly on the question • knowledge limited and partially accurate • limited understanding • selection often inappropriate • limited use of technical terms Communication: some clarity and organisation	3-4	an attempt to sustain an argument and justify a viewpoint • some analysis, but not successful • views asserted but not successfully justified Communication: some clarity and organisation
3	11-15	satisfactory attempt to address the question • some accurate knowledge • appropriate understanding • some successful selection of material • some accurate use of technical terms Communication: some clarity and organisation	5-6	the argument is sustained and justified • some successful analysis which may be implicit Communication: some clarity and organisation
4	16-20	a good attempt to address the question • accurate knowledge • good understanding • good selection of material • technical terms mostly accurate Communication: generally clear and organised	7-8	a good attempt at using evidence to sustain an argument • some successful and clear analysis • might put more than one point of view Communication: generally clear and organised
5	21-25	an excellent attempt to address the question showing understanding and engagement with the material • very high level of ability to select and deploy relevant information • accurate use of technical terms Communication: answer is well constructed and organised	9-10	an excellent attempt which uses a range of evidence to sustain an argument • comprehends the demands of the question • shows understanding and critical analysis of different viewpoints Communication: answer is well constructed and organised

Question Number	Answer	Max Mark
1(a)	**Explain the relationship between karma and samsara.** Candidates will need to explain the term karma, with reference to both karmic actions and karmic consequences. Candidates will also need to explain the term samsara, including the end of the cycle, with reference to atman. Candidates might then go on to explain the importance of karma in determining an individuals' rebirth. The better responses will need to address both concepts in the question as well as addressing the issue of their relationship.	**[25]**
1(b)	**The only purpose of karma is to make people behave well.' Discuss.** Candidates might argue that although karma does in fact provide an incentive for ethical conduct this is merely a consequence and not a cause for the system. Candidates might assess the effectiveness of karma in securing ethical conduct before reaching a conclusion. Good responses are likely to evaluate whether the use of the term 'purpose' is appropriate, since it implies a being imposing judgement, rather than the operation of a system.	**[10]**
2(a)	**Explain the different attitudes to the deities in Hinduism.** Candidates may answer from any tradition they have studied. Candidates might refer to the possibility of goddess worship in the Indus Valley. Candidates may explain the attitudes to the Vedic Pantheon and to the more recent Hindu pantheon, such as the Trimurti. As the question asks for 'different attitudes', good responses will need to explain more than one attitude to the deities in Hinduism. Candidates may explain the different attitudes to deities of those following the bhakti and jnana paths.	**[25]**

Question Number	Answer	Max Mark
2(b)	**To what extent are the deities irrelevant for those following the jnana path?**	
	Candidates might argue that, for those following the jnana path, the deities represent maya and thus are irrelevant.	
	They might argue that at some level the deities may still serve a purpose, for example in helping to develop attitudes of generosity.	
	Good answers may make reference to the concepts of nirguna and saguna Brahman, before reaching a conclusion.	**[10]**
3(a)	**Explain the influence of the Aryans on early Hinduism.**	
	Candidates are likely to explain the nature of the migrations of the Aryans into India. Some descriptive element will be inevitable but candidates will need to move beyond this to achieve higher levels.	
	Candidates might explain the possible derivation of the caste system, and its relationship to the early Aryan influences.	
	Candidates may show some understanding of the disagreement between scholars about the nature of the Aryan incursion into India.	
	Candidates may then explain the possible influence of the Aryans on Vedic religion, for example the development of the Vedic pantheon.	**[25]**
3(b)	'**Later Hinduism has nothing in common with The Indus Valley civilization.' Discuss.**	
	Candidates might assess aspects of Hinduism which seem to have little reference to the Indus valley, for example the caste system.	
	Candidates might analyse the possible relationship between fertility worship in the Indus Valley and the widespread respect for the goddess in later Hinduism and also the relationship between the 'proto-Siva' seal, and Siva.	
	Good responses might argue that later Hinduism has more in common with, for example the Vedic pantheon, that the Indus Valley civilisation.	**[10]**

Question Number	Answer	Max Mark
4(a)	**Explain how following the system of varnashramadharma might lead to moksha.**	
	Candidates may begin their answer by explaining the composite elements of varna, ashrama and dharma, and their relationship to each other.	
	Candidates are then likely to explain the system of varnashramadharma, and explore whether moksha is the inevitable conclusion to the process.	
	Candidates are likely to explain the concept of moksha, and possible paths to the achievement of moksha.	
	Good responses might explain how following varnashramadharma can lead to positive karma, and thus the achievement of moksha.	**[25]**
4(b)	**'The system of varnashramadharma is impractical in modern society.' Discuss.**	
	Candidates might argue that the system makes sense, and whilst it may be challenging, can be practiced in modern society.	
	Candidates might use examples to show the difficulties of following varnashramadharma in modern situations.	
	Good responses are likely to assess whether the system of varnashramadharma was ever practical before reaching a conclusion.	**[10]**
	Paper Total	**[70]**

Assessment Objectives Grid (includes QWC)

Question	AO1	AO2	Total
1(a)	25		25
1(b)		10	10
2(a)	25		25
2(b)		10	10
3(a)	25		25
3(b)		10	10
4(a)	25		25
4(b)		10	10
Totals	50	20	70