






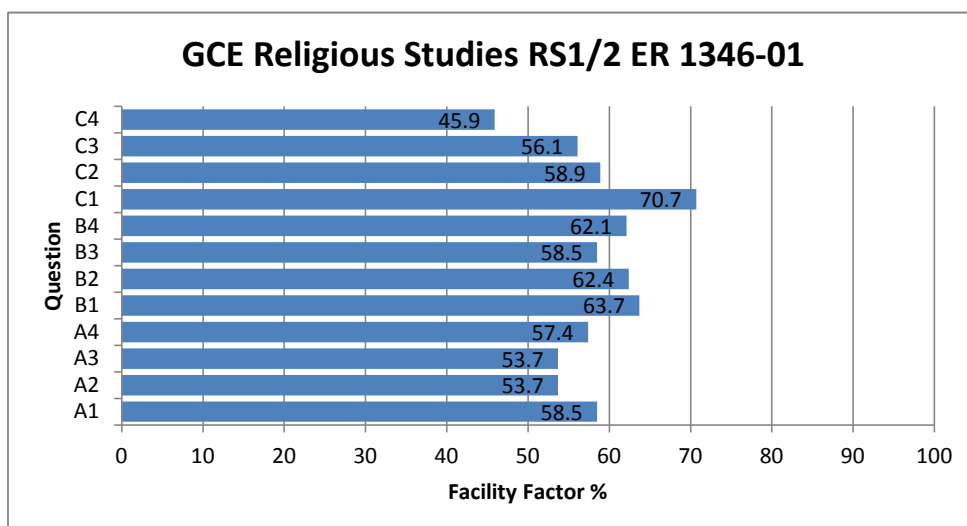


GCE Religious Studies RS1/2 ER 1346-01

All Candidates' performance across questions

						
Question Title	N	Mean	S D	Max Mark	FF	Attempt %
A1	880	26.3	9.4	45	58.5	56
A2	612	24.2	10.1	45	53.7	39
A3	318	24.2	9.5	45	53.7	20.2
A4	496	25.8	10.1	45	57.4	31.6
B1	82	28.7	10.5	45	63.7	5.2
B2	227	28.1	8.9	45	62.4	14.4
B3	237	26.3	8.8	45	58.5	15.1
B4	209	27.9	8.8	45	62.1	13.3
C1	17	31.8	5.5	45	70.7	1.1
C2	16	26.5	9.6	45	58.9	1
C3	25	25.2	6.9	45	56.1	1.6
C4	11	20.6	10.3	45	45.9	0.7



Section A: Introduction to Buddhism

1. (a) Examine the social and religious background of the Buddha. [30]
- (b) 'There was nothing new in the teaching of the Buddha.'
Assess this view. [15]

1 a Before the Buddha there was an Indus Civilisation at around 3000 BC. They were highly intelligent, organised and advanced. The Indus Civilisation worshipped an Earth Mother Goddess and gave thanks to nature. However these people were invaded by a nomadic Aryan ~~Tribe~~ Tribe. They brought with them ~~the~~ thought to be superior ideas. The land in India grew ~~in~~ crops well and the people ate a healthy diet. They imported materials such as jade and copper from China. They built houses and buildings with bricks and lay more advanced foundations.

The landscape in India was very beautiful, during ~~the~~ monsoon season people would go to the forests to work and to meditate.

At this time people were beginning to ask big philosophical questions ~~and~~ and to travel in search of answers. Villages were colonising and coming together to form cities, it was a mixed civilisation and melting pot of ideas. The economy was thriving and the idea of dharma played a part in this. People believed that each person had ~~an~~ a dharma or duty to fulfil in order to gain good karma.

There was also the caste system which was a way of

ranking people by birth. An example of a high caste would be a Brahmin or priest while the lowest caste were the 'untouchables' who were given ~~surplus~~ jobs concerning death such as a butcher. You were not to mix outside your caste as this would cause racial impurity. You were also not to interfere with anyone else's dharma as each was considered as important and vital in the system.

There were also ~~hubs~~ the Buddha was born into one himself as Shakyamuni.

There were three main religions, the Vedic religion ~~which~~ which was run by supposedly superior Brahmins and was very ritual oriented* / Opposing that were the Samanas or extreme ascetics who focused on leaving community and family life behind in order to reach enlightenment / ~~Munins~~ ~~any~~ believed in leaving

The third was the idea of folk tradition, many many 'ordinary' people believed in demons or ghosts.

ing attachments
behind.

* It would followed by the nomadic aryan.

and often travelled alone so as not to be attached to anything or one.

1a. Some would agree that the Buddha taught nothing new because he accepted the idea of dharma, that everyone had a duty they had to fulfil. The Buddha accepted the idea of Karma, that doing good would result in good. The Buddha accepted the idea that you shouldn't use intoxicants because they ~~cloud~~ cloud the mind and won't aid enlightenment. The Buddha accepted the idea of meditation because he thought it helps to achieve enlightenment. ~~The Buddha accepted the idea that~~

However some ~~say~~ would disagree and say that the Buddha rejected lots of ideas. The Buddha rejected the idea of there being a soul, this is because he thought we were not made up of anything fixed or permanent. The Buddha rejected the superiority of the Brahmins as he didn't think superiority was given at birth but earned by actions. The Buddha also rejected the idea of rituals as there was no God to please or make offerings to.

The Buddha came up with and taught the idea of Nirvana, he adapted it from the idea of moksha.

The Buddha adapted reincarnation into rebirth because reincarnation involved a soul and the Buddha didn't believe in one.

The Buddha adapted the idea of Gods to celestial Buddhas who ~~with~~ inhabited other realms.

The Buddha adapted the idea of extreme luxury and extreme asceticism to the middle way because he had experienced both and neither brought him to achieving enlightenment.

The Buddha came up with new forms of meditation such as vipassana which allows you to reach higher planes than the already existent Samatha.

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Section A: Introduction to Buddhism

- 2.** (a) Explain what the Buddha taught about the causes of suffering. [30]
- (b) Assess the view that the teaching about the three marks of existence is the most important teaching in Buddhism. [15]

2a Suffering in Buddhism is known as ~~at~~ Dukkha. Dukkha is one of the three marks of existence as well as anicca and anatta. ~~at~~ Dukkha is taught by the Buddha through the Dharma.

The Buddha taught that there are three types of suffering. This involves suffering due to change. ~~First~~ This ~~is~~ involves an action or something that once provided happiness but now ended and provided suffering such as a divorce. The second type of suffering is suffering of existence. This involves the suffering of being alive and every day life. The third is suffering or natural suffering. This involves sickness or the death of someone. All of these types of suffering are linked to dukkha.

The Buddha taught that everything has an end and when the end comes Dukkha follows. He taught that nothing is permanent and that everything is suffering. He taught that even happiness produced suffering because when the happiness ends only Dukkha remains.

Through this teaching the Buddha explained that all life is suffering and nothing is permanent.

Q20 The teachings of the three marks of existence consists of Dukkha, Anatta and Anicca these can be considered as the most important teachings. They teach us that there is no permanent self and that everything is changing which leads to suffering. The Buddha taught these to help people come to terms with the meaning of life even though that can only be attained through the enlightenment. The three marks of existence are considered as the way of life and they explain what the problems are.

Dukkha teaches us that everything is suffering. Anatta teaches us that there is no permanent self. Anicca teaches us that everything is constantly changing. You can disagree with this view because you could say that the three marks are the most important teaching in Buddhism due to the fact that ~~without~~ they are all dependent on each other and without one then they will not exist which will mean that the religion will be lost or have been forgotten.

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14

Section A: Introduction to Buddhism

3. (a) Examine the role of the monastic sangha in Buddhism. [30]
- (b) Assess the view that Buddhism does not need the sangha. [15]

3a the monastic Sangha in Buddhism refers to a group or community of people or monks. The Sangha is part of the three Jewels as well as Buddha and the Dharma. Since the Sangha is part of the three Jewels ~~in~~ it relies on the other two as do lay people rely on the Sangha. Without one of the Jewels the other could not exist because they are all dependent.

In the monastic Sangha the monks are cared for and looked after. The ~~monks~~ once you become a monk you ~~are~~ cannot ask or beg. You can only take what is given. This shows poverty and no need for material substance like clothes or vehicles. To become a monk you must go through a initiation first. The head is shaved and they must ~~lose~~ leave all their possessions. Then they ~~get~~ are given five items. Monks are only allowed to own five items at a time. This shows no need for material substance and then only take what they need. They live simply. By doing this they are getting closer to gaining enlightenment and ~~reaching the~~ the getting closer to the Dharma.

In the Sangha there are rules that are to be followed. There are more ~~the~~ ~~are~~ considered as ~~more~~ lives and are there to help us produce more good harmonic actions. Monks have to follow certain rules such as don't eat after a certain time and don't have any sexual relations. These guidelines help people to live in a more ~~ordered~~ ordered society without any fighting or harming animals.

The Sangha helps care for the monks by feeding them and offering them the basics such as new robes. The Sangha also helps spread the teachings of the Buddha ~~is~~ known as the Dharma. This keeps the teachings of the Buddha alive and keeps them within the Sangha. Without the Sangha the Dharma would be lost and without the Dharma the Buddha would be forgotten through the ages. So it shows the importance

of one another.

Monks in the Sangha cannot take any substitutes that cloud the mind, they believe that it leads them away from the path of enlightenment and so creates bad karmic actions. The monks gather at the Champa where they perform puja and where they rest. Here the Sangha brings them food in return of nothing. This is simply an offering to them to allow them to eat, if the Sangha did not provide them with food the monks would not eat and perish slowly.

18

30 The assumption that Buddhism does not need the Sangha can be considered as wrong, this is because the Sangha is part of the Three Jewels and without one the others will not exist. The Sangha is reliant on the Buddha and the Dharma, without the Sangha no one will spread the teachings of the Buddha and the Buddha will be forgotten.

Without the Sangha Buddhism and the teachings would have been forgotten. This in the Theravada tradition can have effects on the teachings.

You could disagree and say that the teachings and the Buddha is more important than the Sangha because the Buddha created them.

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Section A: Introduction to Buddhism

4. (a) Examine the main features of puja in Buddhism. [30]
- (b) 'Buddhists worship the Buddha.'
Assess this view with reference to Buddhism. [15]

4 a Puja is a form of worship but not the worship of a God. It is the praise of the Buddha for uncovering the teachings and thanks for showing them to others. Puja is a chance to remind yourself of the ideal of the Buddha and a way to become emotionally involved in your religion. Puja allows you to accumulate good Karma while paying your respect to the Buddha. It is a chance to show determination and commitment to what you want to achieve, that is, enlightenment.

Puja has three main components, bowing, offering and chanting.

In Buddhism bowing is a sign of humility and respect. It is done upon greeting in the form of 'nam-askara'. Buddhists will bow until their forehead touches the ground upon seeing the Buddha's image. Some Tibetan Buddhists will fully prostrate ~~to front~~ during worship in order to show utmost devotion.*

Bowing is often accompanied by the reciting of the three jewels. Mantras are often chanted during puja, the most well known being 'Om mani padme hum'. Mantras are said to have 'magical' powers when recited repeatedly. Some mantras and teachings are written on prayer wheels or plaques to show the truth of them being ever present or the dharma always turning.

Scripture is often used or read during puja as a reminder of the teachings.

* Mudras are used during puja, these are hand gestures which convey meaning. An example would be 'earth touching' which symbolises reality and being grounded.

The final component of puja is the offerings, often a shrine will be built for Buddhists to practise puja in front of. An offering could be water, this is a sign of respect because water was considered a valuable resource at the time of the Buddha. Another example would be flowers which are a symbol of the Buddhist teaching ~~of~~ anicca or impermanence. Sometimes incense is burnt during puja, this purifies the ~~the~~ air but the scent is not to become attached to. The incense's smoke symbolises the dharma being spread.

Other elements in puja are the mala beads, used to count prayers. In Theravada Buddhism there will only be one statue present while in Mahayana ~~Mahayana~~ ^{mahayana} there will be many.

In Tibetan Buddhism lots of colours are also used during puja.

During puja Buddhists also use a bell which separates sections and ~~its~~ symbolises...

4b Some would say that Buddhists worship the Buddha because they are in a worship-like atmosphere. ~~but they are not~~ ~~praying to him~~ *

Others would say Buddhists don't worship the Buddha because worship implies to a God and the Buddha is not a God.

They would say that it is not worshipping the Buddha because it is not done in a church or place of worship necessarily. They would say worship can be done without a priest or leader.

Some would say that it is not worship because they are not praising the Buddha as a creator.

They would say it is not worship because when songs are sung they are not directed towards Buddha as a God but as a reminder of the teachings.

* Some others would say that Buddhists do worship the Buddha because Theravada Buddhists consider his existence very important.

They would say it is worship because it involves worship like activities such as praying, singing, offering.

They would say you are also getting elements out of it as you would worship such as the chance to ask questions, be emotionally unburdened etc.

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Section B: Introduction to Hinduism

1. (a) Examine the diversity of beliefs about the divine to be found within Hinduism. [30]
(b) Discuss to what extent Hinduism is a monotheistic religion. [15]

1)a) Examine the ~~beliefs~~ diversity of beliefs about the divine to be found within Hinduism. (30)

~~Hinduism~~ In Hinduism there are many concepts of God. For example Polytheism or Monotheism. Some ~~believe~~

Hinduism may be said to be a polytheistic religion as many Hindus worship multiple Gods and Goddesses. For example, a woman hoping to get pregnant may worship Parvati, the Goddess of reproduction and then worship Ganesh who is the remover of obstacles.

Other Hindus may say that Hinduism is monotheistic. For example Shaivites believe that Shiva is the Supreme Being and only worship him.

~~God~~ For many Hindus, Brahman is the Supreme Being and all other Gods and Goddesses are aspects of different aspects of ~~B~~ Him. This ~~is~~ belief is Monism. They have their own personal God with qualities, but do not disregard other Gods or goddesses.

Hinduism is often seen as Monotheistic, where God is impersonal and without qualities. An example of this would be Shaivites, who believe Shiva is the Supreme Being and only worship him.

1) b) Discuss to what extent Hinduism is a monotheistic religion (15)

Hinduism can be seen as a monotheistic religion as Hindus have their own Ishvara that is ~~their own~~ personal to them. This could be when someone worships Krishna and completely devotes themselves to them. An example is Hare Krishnas and the Iskcon organisation.

A further point making Hinduism Monotheistic would be that Brahman is the Supreme Being and all other gods are a part of ~~But~~ Himself. This is the belief in the Trimurti and the Avatars of Vishnu. They are all aspects of ~~a~~ Brahman.

However Hinduism could be argued as a polytheistic religion as there are so many gods and Goddesses and some Hindus worship more than one at a time depending on their Ashrama.

If in the student stage you may worship Ganesha to remove obstacles and you may also worship the God of Knowledge and Wisdom.


Shaivites and Vaishnavites can be regarded as monotheistic because they have a personal relationship with one God who they believe to be the Supreme Being, Shiva or Vishnu.

After discussing to what extent Hinduism is monotheistic


It can be concluded that Hinduism
~~is~~ has many different views on
God, ~~and~~ ^{that} are monotheistic. Therefore
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Section B: Introduction to Hinduism

2. (a) Explain **one** key rite of passage in Hinduism. [30]
- (b) 'Rites of passage are still relevant in today's world.'
Assess this view with reference to Hinduism. [15]

2) a) Explain ~~the~~ one key rite of passage in Hinduism (30)

~~Sacred Thread~~ Marriage.

Marriage in Hinduism is a very joyous time for the couple and the families. Also, it is important for men and women to marry ~~at~~ in the householder stage of life.

All Hindu's have a dharma, duty, which they must ~~follow~~ fulfil according to their Ashrama, stage of life. Dharmas differ between Varna's, castes, however every man and woman is expected to marry a person of the opposite sex ~~as~~ in order to reproduce and bring up a family.

Marriage is important when in the householder stage because then it is your ~~duty~~ dharma to have your own home and family and Hindus don't believe in sex before marriage as it is a gift from God. ~~Because of this~~ ^{Because of this} the best place for children is within a marriage as it provides stability for them.

A Hindu marriage is very colourful which reflects the religion.

During a Hindu marriage, the couple will say their vows while walking around a pit of fire. This is them making a promise in the eyes of God to always love their partner.

When the couple are married the ~~the~~ bride will ~~when~~ wear a Bindi to show that she is now a married woman.

Same sex marriages are not acceptable in Hinduism as it is one's duty to reproduce and have a family. This is ~~the~~ only possible within a male and female marriage.

Also if you are in a same sex relationship, you may gain bad karma for not fulfilling your ~~the~~ dharma as a Hindu. And without good Karma, you may not reach Moksha.

b) 'Rites of passage are ~~not~~ ^{still} relevant in today's world'. (15)

My initial reaction to ~~this~~ is to disagree with this statement because in the modern world, views ~~things~~ are changing and ~~everything~~ ~~isn't things that were never~~ with regards to marriage, things that were never acceptable are now common in our society.

On one hand, ~~right~~ rites of passage are still important to Hindus as they give them an ~~idea~~ identity. For example the Sacred thread ceremony where a young boy is welcomed into his religion and is given ~~prayer~~ sacred thread. This gives the young boy an identity and a sense of belonging.

However, Especially in British Society, it makes them different ~~for~~ to the other children at school.

However, in ~~Brit~~ today's modern Britain, it is difficult to bring up young Hindus as the culture is so different to that in Hindu countries that children are not ~~for~~ practising their religion, ~~ther~~ as they should. Therefore, Sacred Thread ceremony wouldn't be relevant to them.

Marriage still has relevance in today's ^{world} ~~society~~, for Hindu's as everyone has the dharma to marry and create a family. Also, often married couples live with their extended family and so marriage is important as it brings 2 families together.

On the other hand, ~~marria~~ in our modern world, cohabitation is becoming more common, where couples live together with children, outside of marriage. Today that is acceptable whereas in past years, Hindus would frown upon the idea of cohabitation.

Therefore rites of passage are not relevant in today's world.

Funerals will always be relevant to everyone, but especially Hindus because it is when the body is burned, the skull cracked, and the atman can escape that body and enter a new one, reincarnation. Reincarnation is important to Hindus because that is how, their soul can escape

the continuous cycle of samsara and eventually reach moksha and be at one with the Supreme Being Brahman. This is the ~~at~~ main aim in the life of all Hindus, therefore rites of passage ~~is~~ are relevant.


After assessing this view, my final judgement is that rites of passage are still relevant in today's world, for Hindus as they give a sense of identity and allow one~~s~~ to fulfill their dharma. Therefore I agree with the statement.

2) a) Explain ~~one~~ one key rite of passage in Hinduism (30)

~~Sacred Thread~~ Marriage.

Marriage In Hinduism is a very joyous time for the couple and the families. Also, it is important for men and women to marry ~~at~~ in the householder stage of life.

All Hindu's have a dharma, duty, which they must ~~follow~~ fulfil according to their Ashrama, stage of life. Dharmas differ between Varna's, castes, however every man and woman is expected to marry a person of the opposite sex ~~as~~ in order to reproduce and bring up a family.

Marriage is important when in the householder stage because then it is your ~~duty~~ dharma to have your own home and family and Hindus don't believe in sex before marriage as it is a gift from God. ~~Because of this...~~ ^{Because of this...} The best place for children is within a marriage as it provides stability for them. 

A Hindu marriage is very colourful which reflects the religion.

During a Hindu marriage, the couple will say their vows while walking around a pit of fire. This is them making a promise in the eyes of God to always love their partner.

Rm


When the couple are married the ~~the~~ bride will ~~what~~ wear a Bindi to show that she is now a married woman.

Same sex marriages are not acceptable in Hinduism as it is one's duty to reproduce and have a family. This is ~~the~~ only possible within a male and female marriage. Also if you are in a same sex relationship, you may gain bad karma for not fulfilling your ~~the~~ dharma as a Hindu. And without good Karma, you may not reach Moksha.

b) 'Rites of passage are ~~not~~ ^{still} relevant in today's world'. (15)

My initial reaction ~~to this~~ is to disagree with this statement because in the modern world, views ~~things~~ are changing and ~~everything~~ ~~isn't things that were never~~ with regards to marriage, things that were never acceptable are now common in our society.

On one hand, ~~right~~ rites of passage are still important to Hindus as they give them an ~~idea~~ identity. For example the Sacred thread ceremony where a young boy is welcomed into his religion and is given ~~prayer~~ sacred thread. This gives the young boy an identity and a sense of belonging.

However, Especially in British Society, it makes them different ~~for~~ to the other children at school. 

However, in ~~Brit~~ today's modern Britain, it is difficult to bring up young Hindus as the culture is so different to that in Hindu countries that children are not ~~for~~ practising their religion, ~~ther~~ as they should. Therefore, Sacred Thread ceremony wouldn't be relevant to them.

Marriage still has relevance in today's ^{world} ~~society~~, for Hindu's as everyone has the dharma to marry and create a family. Also, often married couples live with their extended family and so marriage is important as it brings 2 families together.

On the other hand, ~~marria~~ in our modern world, cohabitation is becoming more common, where couples live ~~to~~ together with children, outside of marriage. Today that is acceptable whereas in past years, Hindus would frown upon the idea of cohabitation.

Therefore rites of passage are not relevant in today's world.

Funerals will always be relevant to everyone, but especially Hindus because it is when the body is burned, the skull cracked, and the atman can escape that body and enter a new one, reincarnation. Reincarnation is important to Hindus because that is how, their soul can escape

the continuous cycle of samsara and eventually reach moksha and be at one with the Supreme Being Brahman. This is the ~~at~~ main aim in the life of all Hindus, therefore rites of passage ~~is~~ are relevant.

After assessing this view, my final judgement is that rites of passage are still relevant in today's world, for Hindus as they give a sense of identity and allow one's to fulfill their dharma. Therefore I agree with the statement.

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