

Cambridge International AS & A Level

HINDUISM

9487/01

Paper 1 Concepts in Hinduism

May/June 2026**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. Any blank pages are indicated.

Section A

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

EITHER

- 1 (a) 'Dharma derives from the Sanskrit root dhr (to support or uphold) and appears to have developed in relationship to the Vedic conception of rta. Whereas rta affirmed the existence of an orderly creation, subject to patterns and orderly cycles, dharma developed into the notion of the way things should be if harmoniously aligned with rta. There is a sense that the gods themselves are dharmic, placing things in their proper place, such as the sun in its orderly movement through the sky, and making the seasons change, the rain fall and so on.'

Summarise what this passage says about the relationship between dharma and the Vedic concept of rita. [5]

- (b) Explain the relationship between dharma and kama. [10]

- (c) 'It is not possible to pursue a dharmic life without seeking to achieve moksha.' Discuss. [15]

[Total: 30]

OR

- 2 (a) Outline the factors that influence a Hindu's understanding of their personal dharma. [5]

- (b) Explain why it might be difficult for modern Hindus to follow varnashramadharma. [10]

- (c) 'Lakshmi is **not** a good role model for Hindu women.' Discuss. [15]

[Total: 30]

Section B

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

EITHER

- 3 (a) 'Moksha requires attainment of liberating wisdom, a [deep] insight into Truth, into the Self, or Absolute Reality. And it is held to be possible and necessary to achieve such a realization while one is alive. Thus, moksha is not a state that is typically achieved in the afterlife, like a heavenly reward for a good life. Rather, it is an understanding that grants immortality before one physically dies. Such a Self-realized being is [truly] Brahman and is known as a jivanmukta (liberated while alive). Such sages or saints are highly sought after for teachings and blessings.'

Summarise what this passage says about the state of being jivan mukti. [5]

- (b) Explain how maya can make it easier for Hindus to understand Brahman. [10]

- (c) 'Freeing oneself from karma is the only way in which moksha can be achieved.' Discuss. [15]

[Total: 30]

OR

- 4 (a) Outline what is meant by prarabdha karma. [5]

- (b) Explain how the raja marga can lead to liberation. [10]

- (c) 'It is possible for any Hindu to achieve liberation in this lifetime.' Discuss. [15]

[Total: 30]

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