



Cambridge International AS & A Level

HINDUISM

9487/02

Paper 2 Development of 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) 'Shruti (literally that which has been heard) and smriti (literally: that which has been remembered) are the two main categories of Hindu religious literature. Shruti has implications of 'revelation' or 'truth' in an unquestionable or absolute sense and, according to Hindu orthodoxy, shruti is identical with the Vedas.'

Summarise what this passage says about the concept of shruti. [5]

- (b) Explain why understanding the difference between astika and nastika might **not** be important for some Hindus. [10]

- (c) Assess the claim that contemporary Hindus do **not** need to know the contents of shruti texts. [15]

[Total: 30]

OR

- 2 (a) Outline the contents of the Sama Veda. [5]

- (b) Explain why some Hindus see the Bhagavad Gita as their most significant religious text. [10]

- (c) Assess the claim that religious stories are **not** helpful in understanding Hinduism. [15]

[Total: 30]

Section B

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

EITHER

- 3 (a) Outline what the term 'nirguna Brahman' says about the nature of the divine. [5]
- (b) Explain the relationship between saguna Brahman and the practice of murti puja. [10]
- (c) Assess the claim that the atman and Brahman are the same but eternally distinct. [15]

[Total: 30]

OR

- 4 (a) Outline what the concept of Devi/Shakti teaches Hindus about the divine. [5]
- (b) Compare the main practices of Shaktism and Smartism. [10]
- (c) 'Smartism is clearly a polytheistic tradition.' Discuss. [15]

[Total: 30]

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