

HINDUISM

Paper 2055/01
Paper 1

Key messages

- Candidates would benefit from referring to the mark allocation to determine the amount of time they should spend answering each question.
- Answers need to respond to the command word used in the question, e.g. 'how' or 'why'.
- Higher weighting questions require candidates to show more than one point of view and to demonstrate a critical response.

General comments

Overall there were some very good responses. The most successful candidates' answers included critical discussion and evaluation. Some candidates needed to focus on the requirement of the question and respond to the key command words 'how' and 'why'. Candidates need to consider the mark allocation of questions. Some candidates wrote lengthy answers for questions carrying three marks. Candidates who scored the highest marks in **part (d)** were able to show critical evaluation in their answers.

Comments on specific questions

Section A

Question 1

Question 1 was more popular among candidates than **Question 2**.

In **part (a)** candidates were able to name Vishnu and an item he is often shown holding. **Part (b)** was generally well answered. In **part (c)** many candidates gave valid reasons why worshipping Durga might be important to Hindu women. Some candidates did not gain the highest marks for **Question 1 (d)** due to lack of evaluation. Candidates need to offer different viewpoints. It is important that candidates are encouraged to engage critically with the questions and present reasoned arguments.

Question 2

Candidates were able to answer **part (a)** effectively. Candidates were credited for any example of a god that is often shown as a warrior and for a weapon he is usually shown with. Most candidates were able to accurately recall a story about Shiva in **part (b)**. In **part (c)**, strong candidates gave details in their explanation of why Shiva is shown in different forms. In **part (d)**, candidates need to consider different viewpoints to gain high marks.

Section B

Question 3 was more popular among candidates than **Question 4**.

In **part (a)**, most candidates were able to name 'Narasimha/Narsimha' and 'Hiranyakashipu'. **Part (b)** was generally well answered, candidates needed to respond to the requirement to give **three** actions of the Vamana avatar. Some candidates found **(d)** more challenging. In **part (d)**, candidates needed to address the issues raised by the question and to critically engage with the question throughout their response. Some candidates argued effectively that avatars are supernatural beings and therefore their actions cannot be copied by ordinary people.

Question 4

The majority of candidates were able to give two features of a murti of Krishna in **(a)**. In **part (b)**, many candidates were familiar with how Yashoda is visited by Narada and could also relate that Yashoda saw the universe when Krishna opened his mouth. In **part (c)**, this question only required candidates to focus on **one** avatar, this avatar did not need to be associated with Vishnu. Most candidates chose to consider Rama or Krishna. Some candidates found **(d)** challenging, giving details from the life of Rama without engaging with the extent to which that Rama gives an insight into the nature of Vishnu.

Section C

Question 5

In **part (a)**, candidates successfully identified two gods or goddesses worshipped at Divali (Deepavali). In **part (b)**, candidates were able to relate a story about Ganesh Chaturthi. **Part (c)** was generally well answered with candidates showing a good knowledge of Divali and the reasons for it being called a 'festival of light'. Candidates performed less well on **(d)**, answers were more narrative than analytical, concentrating on what happens during festivals rather than arguing whether they are only about fun.

Question 6

In **part (a)**, candidates could state two ways that Hindus might celebrate Ganesh Chaturthi. Candidates generally gained high marks on **part (b)** as they were familiar with the story of Rama defeating Ravana, among other acceptable answers. In **part (c)**, most candidates could give an explanation of fasting during Cavadi. In **part (d)**, candidates were being asked to consider whether Hindu festivals are important in places other than India. Descriptive answers which concentrated on details of different festivals could not access the highest marks. The strongest answers included supported arguments and different viewpoints.

HINDUISM

Paper 2055/02
Paper 2

Key messages

- Candidates should use the mark allocation to guide the time spent on each question.
- Candidates need to relate their answers to the questions and provide appropriate relevant evidence.
- In order to score highly on **part (d)** questions, candidates need to show critical engagement with the questions.

General comments

Candidates found Paper 2 more challenging than Paper 1. Candidates need to focus on the command words used in the questions. Candidates would benefit from considering the mark allocation for the question as an indication of the depth of response needed in their answers, some candidates had a tendency to spend too long on short answer questions to the detriment of their answers to the higher mark questions. The strongest candidates were able to demonstrate the skills of critical evaluation.

Comments on specific questions

Section A

Question 1

Part (a) had two sub-parts which assessed candidates' knowledge. This was generally correctly answered. Some candidates had difficulties in answering **parts (b)** and **(c)**. Candidates need to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the scriptures prescribed in the syllabus. **(d)** proved particularly challenging for some students as they needed to demonstrate critical engagement with the question.

Question 2

This question was more popular than **Question 1**. Most candidates answered **(a)(i)** and **(ii)** correctly, they knew that Arjuna was talking to Krishna, Arjuna's charioteer. **2(b)** was well attempted, candidates were able to outline Rama's teaching. Some candidates found **2(c)** more challenging. To achieve full marks on this question, candidates needed to demonstrate some or all of the following: a good range of relevant information, a high level of detail and development of points and either breadth or depth in their answer. The breadth could have been achieved by covering several points and the depth by explaining one or two points in more detail. Some candidates focused on the giving of the nine different ways of bhakti and gave a sound explanation of the importance of this event. With regards to **Question 2(d)**, answers seemed to be more narrative than analytical. Some candidates did not explicitly relate their answer to the question or provide appropriate relevant evidence as to whether Hanuman was the perfect example of bhakti.

Section B

Question 3

For **part (a)**, most candidates were able to name Grihastha. The samskara given in answer to **(ii)** had to be Vivaha samskara/marriage as the question specifically stated 'this stage'. Some candidates demonstrated a sound understanding of events during the antyeshti samskara in answer to **(b)**. Strong answers to **part (c)** considered how moksha and dharma are the ideal for Hindus and acknowledged that dharma may change through a person's lifetime. Some candidates found **Question 3(d)** challenging. Often materials were

irrelevant and there was unsupported argument and underdeveloped discussion. It is important that candidates address the issues raised by the questions, consider different arguments and sustain them with appropriate relevant experience and evidence.

Question 4

For **part (a)**, most candidates showed good recall of the upanayana samskara. In **part (b)**, candidates were generally able to state the four groups. Candidates often had a secure knowledge of samskaras and could confidently explain why they are important to some Hindus. In **Question 4(d)**, candidates were generally able to engage with the importance of dharma. Some candidates were able to address the key words in the question that dharma is the 'only' principle that is important to 'all' Hindus, thereby allowing candidates to develop their answers. The strongest answers were then able to give a balanced argument and considered the viewpoint that some Hindus may not be overly concerned with dharma, perhaps due to its complexity, but may instead focus on practising bhakti.

Section C

Question 5

Candidates tended to perform less well on **Section C** than the other sections of the examination paper. Candidates need to differentiate the teachings of the various reformers. **(a)** asked for two aspects of Hinduism that the Brahma Samaj rejected. Some candidates found **5(b)** challenging as they could not recall key events in the life of Ramakrishna Paramahansa. In **(d)**, some candidates were able to demonstrate background knowledge of the life and teachings of Ramakrishna Paramahansa but were not able to relate the material explicitly to the question. Candidates need to provide balanced and reasoned arguments in their responses to **part (d)** questions.

Question 6

For **part (a)**, most candidates could give two teachings to gain the two marks. Candidates found **(b)** more challenging, recall of an encounter between Ramakrishna Paramahansa and Swami Vivekananda was often imprecise. **(c)** was more effectively attempted, candidates were able to give valid reasons why Dayananda rejected idol worship. Some candidates found part **(d)** particularly challenging as they did not demonstrate a secure knowledge of the issues important to the Arya Samaj.