



Examiners' Report

Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2017

Pearson Edexcel GCE
In Religious Studies (6RS04)
Paper 1E Implications – Hinduism

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2017 Report on 6RS04

With some thoughts on the Anthology in the new Spec.

Introduction:

There were a significant proportion of scripts that were truly excellent. Examiners had opportunities to read outstanding scripts showing independent thought. Credit should be given to candidates and their teachers who have prepared the thoroughly, fostered a love of the subject and nurtured degrees of insightfulness. Candidates used a variety of methods in their answers to these textual questions. Some concentrated almost entirely on the selected passage, analysing each part and referring to their wider knowledge. Others set the passage within the context of the overall article illustrating key points from the passage itself. Whatever method is used the fundamental requirement is an examination of the passage. These principles will apply to the anthology passages used in the new Spec in the compulsory questions taken from the Anthology. (See conclusion below for more on this topic of Anthologies in the new Spec.)

1E Hinduism

The lengthy passage provided ample opportunity for candidates to examine a range of ideas, including the four movements identified by Smart. Many focused on Christian criticisms of Hindu religion and a new pan-Indian nationalism.

The passage enabled candidates to make extensive use of their knowledge of key figures and their related schools and traditions. Candidates displayed their knowledge of selected Hindu scriptures such as the Upanishads. This was developed by a detailed analysis of beliefs such as Brahman; goddesses; Krishna and moksha.

A02 evaluation included candidates who debated the contrasts between a range of Hindu philosophical schools and different emphases across some Hindu scriptures. An important implication discussed by some candidates was Hinduism in the context of pluralism and a 'worldview-reconstruction'.