

Examiners' Report/
Principal Examiner Feedback

June 2011

GCSE Religious Studies (5RS13)
Hinduism

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GCSE Religious Studies 5RS13/01 Hinduism

All questions on this paper were tackled and there was no obvious imbalance between questions in any section. The question paper proved to be well balanced and few questions led to any confusion or misunderstanding by candidates. One general comment which is worth making is that many candidates responded to (b) questions by giving two opposing views on the issue at hand rather than giving two reasons in support of one point of view.

As the comments below will highlight, this examination generally elicited answers which showed a very high level of knowledge.

Section 1

Both questions 1 and 2 were well answered on the whole. Most candidates gained high marks in this section. The only areas of confusion were over the fact that some candidates concentrated more on explaining 'what' moksha and shakti are in the (c) questions, rather than 'why' they are important for Hindus.

Section 2

This was a section which elicited high quality responses from most candidates. Some candidates confused the Bhagavad Gita and the Ramayana in 3(c) and in question 4(b) some candidates gave answers relating to the Vedas rather than the varnas. It should be noted that there is still some confusion concerning the meanings of smriti and shruti.

Section 3

This was a well answered section in general. In question 5(c) some candidates began explaining 'what' Navaratri is and/or 'how' it is celebrated rather than 'why' it is celebrated. The idea that murtis can be considered to be religious symbols was commonly mentioned in response to question 6(b). This is an entirely reasonable approach to take and was credited.

Section 4

Question 7 was answered very effectively by those candidates who addressed the need to explain 'why' many Hindus think it is good to work for community cohesion, in part (c). Some candidates showed that it was possible to answer this question very effectively without any specific mention of Hinduism or, indeed, religion at all. Question 8 was as popular as question 7 and there were some very good responses.

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