

Examiners' Report/
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2012

GCSE Religious Studies (5RS13)
Hinduism

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GCSE Religious Studies 5RS13/01 Hinduism

Candidates were able to access most questions on this unit and performed across the range of marks available. Responses indicated that advice from Edexcel published resources including previous examiner reports, had been taken into account. Candidates did respond directly to most questions and express their responses clearly; exceptions are commented upon below.

One general comment is that many candidates continue to respond to part (b) questions by giving two opposing views on the issue at hand rather than giving two reasons in support of one point of view. This year (b) questions were also responded to by providing greater than two reasons rather than providing two reasons, one or both of which were developed.

Some candidates did not directly respond to the question asked but gave general consideration to the issue or topic in the question.

Candidates responded well to (a) questions across the unit. Comments below refer to the remaining questions in each section where issues in candidate performance were noted.

Section 1

Question 1 was less popular than question 2. On question 1 (b), few candidates mentioned the gunas and the presence of sattva within us all. Some good responses were provided relating the question to the presence of Brahman in all things and the legacy of goodness from previous incarnations.

Candidates responding to question 1(c) either demonstrated clear understanding over the issue is of using the word Hinduism and or showed that they had not been aware of this issue before.

On question 2(c), some candidate responses contained considerable description but little or no explanation. Shorter responses which focused on explaining the importance of Ganesha to many Hindus were more effective. Similarly on question 2(d), candidates produced lengthy responses which did not appropriately target the question, nor clearly provide reasons both for and against the statement in the question.

Section 3

Candidates selecting question 5(c) responded in a similar way to question 2(c) and (d) in providing long descriptive responses, but insufficient explanation.

On question 6(c) was well-answered overall, but some candidates provided responses on how accounts of how Holi is celebrated rather than explaining why it is celebrated. . Candidates need to demonstrate both subject knowledge and how to use this through explanation and evaluation in order to obtain greater credit.

Section 4

Candidates responding to question 8(c) referred to ISKCON or BAPS in order to answer this question and many did so successfully. However there were some candidates did not respond to the instruction in the question to focus on the work carried out by such an organization in the UK, and made references to post-earthquake or tsunami relief operations in the world instead.

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