

# Mark Scheme (Results)

## Summer 2008

GCE

### GCE Religious Studies (6584) Paper 1E

## 6584 - Unit 4E: Hinduism Mark Scheme

| Question 1e |       |  |
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| Level       | Mark  | AO1 Examiners should be aware that any valid approach must be credited.  |
| 4           | 19-24 | <i>Comprehensive understanding of the argument/interpretation of the passage, with clear and critical analysis and proficient use of religious language, discussed within a wider context.</i>   |
|             |       | It is likely candidates may stress the main interpretations in this passage that describe the Vedic deities as representing a type of henotheism. In the period of the main Upanishads and subsequently one theme is the search for Brahman and identity with atman and secondly the quest for release from the round of births via austerity. Candidates may present an exposition with specific examples of henotheism such as Vishnu and Siva. The Brahman-atman identity may be associated with Brahmanical sacrifice with different interpretations of Brahman and different notions of identity. The path of austerity may be linked to related sramic beliefs. Candidates may provide a context in terms of the roots of Hinduism and its characteristics as a loosely knot system with various schools and traditions. Candidates may examine related Hindu traditions such as yoga in order to exemplify distinctive features in this passage. There may be evidence of conceptual analysis of key terms such as Brahman and atman. |
| 3           | 11-18 | <i>Clear understanding of the main point(s) and key idea(s) of the argument/interpretation of the passage, set in an appropriate context, with some analysis of key concepts; use of relevant religious terms.</i>   |
|             |       | Candidates may clarify the main line of interpretation regarding Vedic gods and beliefs about Brahman and atman. Candidates may examine terms such as Vedic hymns and main Upanishads, Brahman as Lord and union between atman and Brahman. Candidates may refer to exemplars of Vedic gods and ideas about Brahanical sacrifices and examples of schools based on withdrawal from the world. Some candidates may provide a context to this period such as pre-Vedic characteristics so as to distinguish the ideas in this passage.   |
| 2           | 7-12  | <i>Presentation of a selection of relevant material which reflects a basic understanding of the argument/interpretation of the passage; some use of specialised religious language in appropriate contexts.</i>  |
|             |       | Candidates may provide a basic understanding of the passage about Vedic gods, Brahman and atman with some reference to relevant texts such as Vedic hymns.   |
| 1           | 1-6   | <i>Uncritical presentation of the argument/interpretation of the passage; limited ability to identify and select the most relevant/important information and, therefore, reflecting little understanding; over reliance on repetition of the chosen passage.</i>   |
|             |       | Candidates may provide a simple summary of the passage with limited attention to some selected gods such as Vishnu and Brahman.  |

| Level | Mark  | AO2   |
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| 4     | 13-16 | <p><i>Coherent and comprehensive analysis of a range of implications of the expressed viewpoint and a careful analysis of their relationship to human experience and religion; a sustained and critical line or argument, including a balanced discussion of alternatives; substantiated conclusions drawn with full justification of viewpoint; expressed accurately, fluently, using a range of technical terms.</i></p> <p>It is likely candidates may debate the interpretations in this passage. Candidates may debate using exemplar material from different Hindu sources indicating diversity of views. Candidates may indicate a clear line of reasoning and it is likely this will be supported by evidence from sources such as material from the Katha Upanishad regarding Brahman and atman and Hindu thinkers such as Sankara and Ramanuja. Candidates may evaluate the implications for religion such as the problems of naming this variegated system as 'Hinduism' and issues about classifying types of beliefs in gods as 'henotheistic' or 'polytheistic'. From the perspective of human experience candidates may debate the views about the identity between Brahman and atman and what this may signify for Hindu practices.</p> |
| 3     | 9-12  | <p><i>Evidence of understanding of a range of implications of the expressed viewpoint in their broader context and in relation to aspects of human experience and religion; a clear line of argument and comparison of relative strengths/weaknesses of a point of view; a structured argument, clearly expressed and accurately using some technical terms, giving a clear justification of a point of view.</i></p> <p>Candidates may debate the implications of this passage about the evolution of Hindu beliefs about 'gods' and the status of Vishnu, Siva and Brahman. They may compare some views about the interpretation in the passage and come to their own a line of reasoning such as the supremacy of Krishna and theistic traditions within Hinduism. In terms of implications for religion candidates may argue that an understanding of Hinduism needs to be seen in its own terms rather than a reflection of non-Hindu religious traditions such as the ideas of a 'founder' or a single definitive scripture. In terms of human experience candidates may argue for the sanctity of life given the Brahman-atman identity with implications for moral and social practices.</p>  |
| 2     | 5-8   | <p><i>An attempt to consider the implications of the expressed viewpoint for its broader context and in relation to aspects of human experience and religion; a basic attempt to discuss and evaluate a point of view and justify opinions at a simple level; sufficient clarity of meaning.</i></p> <p>Candidates may argue in support of this passage at a simple level that there are different beliefs about 'gods' according to different scriptures. They may consider that the passage leads to an understanding of the distinctive stress within Hinduism of the Brahman-atman identity. There may be a basic attempt to discuss the beliefs about atman as unchanging and eternal with a limited understanding of its significance within Hinduism.</p>  |

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| 1 | 1-4 | <i>Limited awareness of the implications of the expressed viewpoint for its broader context and relation to aspects of human experience and religion; a limited attempt to discuss and evaluate a point of view, imprecisely expressed.</i> |
|   |     | Candidates may present a superficial account of a view supporting this passage that a key features of Hinduism is a belief in various types of deities.   |