

GCSE



WJEC GCSE in RELIGIOUS STUDIES

ONLINE EXAMINATION REVIEW



UNIT 1C HINDUISM (03)
UNIT 2C HINDUISM (03)
PART A Q2 C & D

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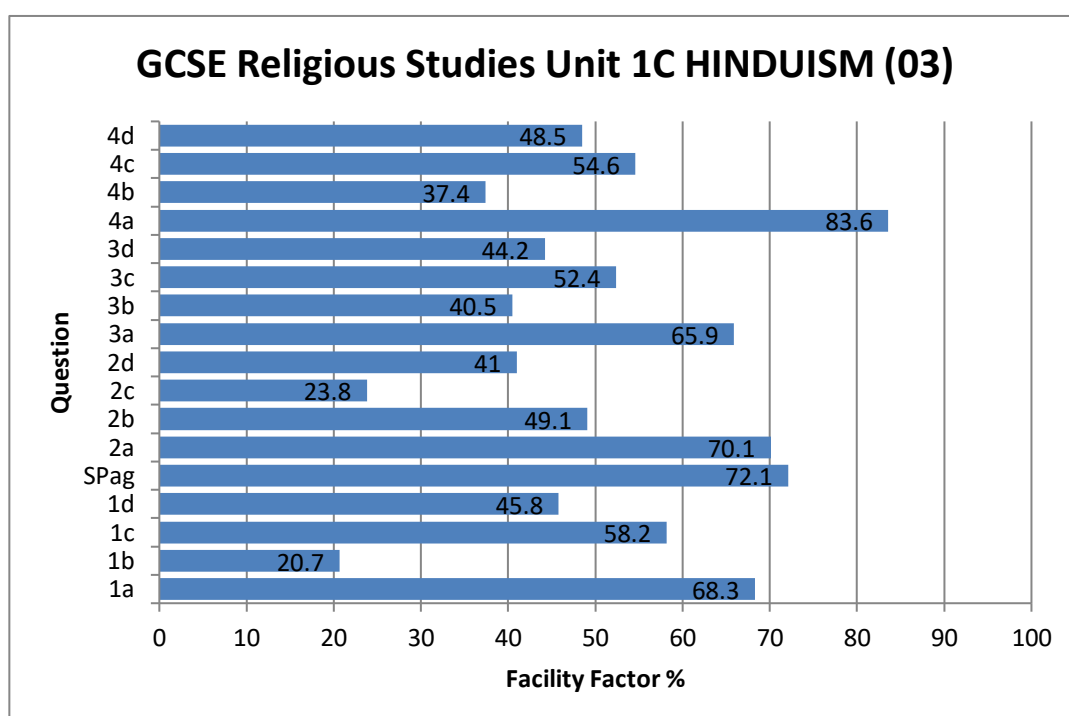
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UNIT 1C HINDUISM

UNIT 1C HINDUISM - ITEM LEVEL DATA

All Candidates' performance across questions

<i>Question Title</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>S D</i>	<i>Max Mark</i>	<i>FF</i>	<i>Attempt %</i>
1a	1094	1.4	0.8	2	68.3	91.9
1b	948	1	1.3	5	20.7	79.7
1c	1172	4.7	2	8	58.2	98.5
1d	1153	6.9	3.3	15	45.8	96.9
SPag	1163	4.3	1.7	6	72.1	97.7
2a	1116	1.4	0.8	2	70.1	93.8
2b	1109	2.5	1.4	5	49.1	93.2
2c	825	1.9	2.2	8	23.8	69.3
2d	969	6.2	4	15	41	81.4
3a	1094	1.3	0.8	2	65.9	91.9
3b	1123	2	1.3	5	40.5	94.4
3c	1086	4.2	2	8	52.4	91.3
3d	1087	6.6	3.2	15	44.2	91.3
4a	1146	1.7	0.6	2	83.6	96.3
4b	1008	1.9	1.2	5	37.4	84.7
4c	1077	4.4	2	8	54.6	90.5
4d	1121	7.3	3.3	15	48.5	94.2



QUESTION 2c AND MARK SCHEME

c) Explain the main features of the upanaya (sacred thread) ceremony. [8]

Refer to the marking bands for question (c).

Indicative content here:

[AO1 8]

- Most important childhood ceremony.
- Open to boys of the three higher castes.
- Takes place at either 9, 11 or 12.
- The guru and child will sit around the sacred fire.
- Chanting and hymns will be sung.
- Hair will be shaved.
- Boy will receive the sacred thread which is placed over his left shoulder and under his right arm.
- Boy will repeat mantras whilst receiving the sacred thread.
- The thread will be worn for the remainder of his life.
- The thread has three coloured strands and is tied within a knot known as Brahma Granthi representing a spiritual knot.
- It reminds the boy of his three duties:
 - To God, for everything that maintains him through life.
 - To his parents for giving him life and teaching him about Hinduism.
 - To his Guru for giving him knowledge and wisdom.

AO1 Marking Bands

Band	Band Descriptor	Mark Total
4	An excellent, highly detailed explanation showing awareness and insight into the religious idea, belief, practice, teaching or concept. Uses a range of religious/specialist language, terms and sources of wisdom and authority extensively, accurately and appropriately.	7-8
3	A very good, explanation showing awareness of the religious idea, belief, practice, teaching or concept. Uses a range of religious/specialist language, terms and sources of wisdom and authority accurately and appropriately.	5-6
2	A satisfactory explanation showing some awareness of the religious idea, belief, practice, teaching or concept. Uses religious/specialist language, terms and/or sources of wisdom and authority with some accuracy.	3-4
1	A limited explanation showing little awareness of the religious idea, belief, practice, teaching or concept. Uses religious/specialist language, terms and/or sources of wisdom and authority in a limited way and with little accuracy.	1-2
0	No relevant information provided.	0

Example 1

(c) Explain the main features of the upanaya (sacred thread) ceremony.

[8]

Examiner
only

~~From~~ ^{Firstly} The Upanaya is the sacred thread ceremony which is a rite of passage for many Hindu boys. A feature of this ceremony is that it happens generally when a boy is between the ages of 8 and 12. This is because it symbolises the boys transition into adult hood.

Another feature is that before the ceremony the boys head will be shaved. This is to show a sign of purity and that he will begin the transition with purity.

This also links into the feature that the boy will wear white clothes during the ceremony. This is to represent that the boy is pure from all evil and bad karma.

Another upanaya, a sacred thread will be tied to ~~the~~ ^{the} boy's waist and it will have 3 parts to it. ~~On~~ All parts of the string represent purity but different parts of purity. One part, purity of the ~~mind~~ ^{thoughts}, another part, the purity of actions, and the last part the purity of words and the alman.

Finally, a feature is that the ceremony is done by a Hindu priest which shows that it is a religious rite of passage. It also marks the time that he will begin to learn and understand Hindu scriptures under the guidance of a Hindu Guru.

Example 2

(c) Explain the main features of the upanaya (sacred thread) ceremony.

[8]

only

The Sacred Thread Ceremony is ^a ceremony to celebrate the oldest son in the family growing up and entering the first stage of Adhstama. ~~Thus~~ In the ceremony there are many prayers said and songs sung. The boy will have his head shaved and ghee will ~~be~~ put on his head. There is also family and friends who bring gifts and money to show he will not need his parents to provide ~~from~~ for him. or

The boy will get in water and then change his clothes that have been blessed.

They have a thread that goes over their left shoulder and under their right arm.

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Example 3

(c) Explain the main features of the upanaya (sacred thread) ceremony.

[8]

Examiner
only

One main feature of the sacred thread ceremony is the thread which is ~~sipped~~ ~~passed~~ ~~thrown~~ as ~~held~~ ~~there~~ ~~clothes~~ ~~is~~ and ~~also~~ ~~this~~ ~~includes~~ ~~and~~ ~~many~~ ~~Hindus~~ ~~coming~~ ~~together~~ or

Example 1

2c 8

(c) Explain the main features of the upanaya (sacred thread) ceremony.

[8]

~~From~~ ^{Firstly} The Upanaya is the sacred thread ceremony which is a rite of passage for many Hindu boys. A feature of this ceremony is that it happens generally when a boy is between the ages of 8 and 12. This is because it symbolises the boys transition into adult hood.

Another feature is that before the ceremony the boys head will be shaved. This is to show a sign of purity and that he will begin the transition with purity.

This also links into the feature that the boy will wear white clothes during the ceremony. This is to represent that the boy is pure from all evil and bad karma.

An ~~other~~ upanaya, a sacred thread will be tied to ^{the} a boy's waist and it will have 3 parts to it. ~~On~~ All parts of the string represent purity but different parts of purity. One part, purity of the ^{thoughts} ~~mind~~, another part, the purity of actions, and the last part the purity of words and the ~~deed~~ ^{deed}.

Finally a feature is that the ceremony is done by a Hindu priest which shows that it is a religious rite of passage. It also marks the time that he will begin to learn and understand Hindu scriptures under the guidance of a Hindu Guru.

Highly detailed answer throughout focusing on explanation. Excellent range of religious language, sources of wisdom and authority. Candidate develops the explanation in every point made and progresses through the answer, ensuring there is a range of points that are relevant to the question asked. The answer is focused and accurate throughout.

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07

(c) Explain the main features of the upanaya (sacred thread) ceremony.

[8]

The Sacred Thread ceremony is ^a ceremony to celebrate the oldest son in the family growing up and entering the first stage of Ashrama. ~~this~~ In the ceremony there are many prayers said and songs sung. The boy will have his head shaved and ghee will ~~be~~ put on his head. There is also family and friends who bring gifts and money to show he will not need his parents to provide ~~from~~ for him. ~~on~~

The boy will get in water and then change his clothes that have been blessed.

They have a thread that goes over their left shoulder and under their right arm.

The candidate has successfully described the sacred thread ceremony but there is a lack of explanation. There is some specialist language used but again greater use could be made of religious specific language and clearer explanation of how and why the different steps take place. To gain band 3 the candidate would need to strengthen the explanation.

Example 3

(c) Explain the main features of the upanaya (sacred thread) ceremony.

[8]

2c 1

One main feature of the sacred thread ceremony is the thread which is wrapped around the child's neck and waist. This ceremony is held in the child's home and many Hindu families come together to celebrate it.

The candidate has shown little knowledge of what the upanayana ceremony is. The one comment around a thread being put on the child is credit worthy but only to a band 1 standard.

QUESTION 2d AND MARK SCHEME

(d) ‘Puja is the most important practice in Hinduism.’

Discuss this statement showing that you have considered more than one point of view. (You must refer to religion and belief in your answer.) **[15]**

Indicative content here: [AO2]

- Puja is a daily practice that is open to all and can be performed anywhere.
- It is completed by all and is a natural part of their lives.
- Candidates could argue that puja in the mandir is more important than puja in the home.
- Puja helps to worship the divine.
- Puja can be spiritually fulfilling.
- Most Hindus believe that you must complete puja daily.
- It helps develop a personal relationship with the deity.
- All Hindus are equal when completing Puja.
- Puja is an important part of Dharma.
- It ensures the presence of the deity in the home and the temple.
- Puja is only one aspect of the religion.
- Candidates could refer to the importance of rites of passage and/or pilgrimage.
- Candidates could refer to other practices within Hinduism that are as important or more important than Puja.

AO2 MARKING BANDS

Band	Band Descriptor	Mark Total
4	<p>An excellent, highly detailed analysis and evaluation of the issue based on comprehensive and accurate knowledge of religion, religious teaching and moral reasoning.</p> <p>Clear and well supported judgements are formulated and a comprehensive range of different and/or alternative viewpoints are considered.</p> <p>Uses and interprets religious/specialist language, terms and sources of wisdom and authority extensively, accurately, appropriately and in detail.</p>	12-15
3	<p>A very good, detailed analysis and evaluation of the issue based on thorough and accurate knowledge of religion, religious teaching and moral reasoning.</p> <p>Judgements are formulated with support and a balanced range of different and/or alternative viewpoints are considered.</p> <p>Uses and interprets religious/specialist language, terms and sources of wisdom and authority accurately, appropriately and in detail.</p>	8-11
2	<p>A satisfactory analysis and evaluation of the issue based on some accurate knowledge of religion, religious teaching and moral reasoning.</p> <p>Some judgements are formulated and some different and/or alternative viewpoints are considered.</p> <p>Uses and interprets some religious/specialist language, terms and/or sources of wisdom and authority with some accuracy.</p>	4-7
1	<p>A weak analysis and evaluation of the issue based on limited and/or inaccurate knowledge of religion, religious teaching and/or moral reasoning.</p> <p>A limited and/or poor attempt or no attempt to formulate judgements or offer different and/or alternative viewpoints.</p> <p>Poor use or no use of religious/specialist language, terms and/or sources of wisdom and authority.</p>	1-3
0	No relevant point of view stated.	0

Q2d UNMARKED ANSWERS

Example 1

(d) 'Puja is the most important practice in Hinduism.'

classmate

Pilgrimage

ritual

Karma

Moksha

Discuss this statement showing that you have considered more than one point of view.
(You must refer to religion and belief in your answer.)

[15]

Examine only

Puja is the general term for worship in Hinduism and it can be done in the home or in a Mandir.

Firstly, some Hindus might believe puja is the most important practice because it brings you close to the Gods and Goddesses. During puja in the home, Hindus will use all their five senses and it brings them close to God by burning incense which symbolises the presence of a deity and by creating a barrier between the Hindu and the God. This is done by using turmeric powder when a dot will be placed on both the Hindu and Murti's forehead. This is used to strengthen the argument that Puja is the most important practice as it creates an invisible connection between the Hindu and the God.

However, going on a pilgrimage could be seen as the most important practice. This is because not only ~~that~~ ^{is} puja included but also their bad karma can be removed. Puja can be done for Shiva in the Kashi Vishwanath in Varanasi when they go on pilgrimage. This is an important practice ~~because it~~ ^{for Shiva as} connects Shiva to them as the temple is dedicated to Shiva and Varanasi is ~~one of~~ believed to be the place where Shiva first visited the Earth. Pilgrimage to Varanasi can also be seen as the most important practice because you can bathe in the River Ganges. This is

an important practice to all Hindus because the Ganges is believed to be sacred and that it will clean away your bad karma, which is important to Hindus because having only good karma is the only way that Hindus can complete Moksha.

Therefore, this shows that the most important practice in Hinduism could be the practice of ahimsa. This is the belief of non-violence to all living things. This is really important to Hindus because it is by following the practice of ahimsa it means they will get good karma and will be able to complete Moksha. Hindus believe in the cycle of Samsara and that the soul will return to Brahman after Moksha is completed. However, Moksha can only be completed if a Hindu only has good karma and it is an aim for all Hindus to reach Moksha so that they can once again be with Brahman, their God. Therefore, this shows how the practice of ahimsa could be seen as the most important, because it gives them good karma, which enables them to complete Moksha, which is the aim for all Hindus.

Example 2

(d) 'Puja is the most important practice in Hinduism.'

Discuss this statement showing that you have considered more than one point of view.
(You must refer to religion and belief in your answer.) [15]

Puja is most likely the most important practice in Hinduism for many many. It is the daily prayer to a god, whether this be at home to a shrine, or in a ~~the~~ place of worship where Murtis are.

Puja ~~most~~ is an important act in a Hindu everyday life as they are able to worship their god or goddess and pray for good health, luck, ~~and~~ and food to eat ~~also~~.

However, Hindus may also feel the teachings of the Scriptures and prophets to be the most important practice, as there are a few people who value their studies and the interpretations of the sacred texts.

In addition, Moksha is one of the most highest achievements that Hindus work for, your atman gets reincarnated until its freed from the cycle. For this, people often perform good acts so they have a positive influence on their Karma to achieve a better life after reincarnation. People who perform bad deeds shall have bad Karma with influences their next life negatively.

Example 3

(d) 'Puja is the most important practice in Hinduism.'

Discuss this statement showing that you have considered more than one point of view.
(You must refer to religion and belief in your answer.)

[15]

Some Hindus would agree with this statement because Puja is the Hindu way for worship and worshipping Brahman gives them a closer connection. Puja is also important because they can pray to a specific form of Brahman for help, like Ganesha who helps them clear their mind and create a stronger bond to Brahman. Therefore puja is the most important practice.

Other Hindus could disagree with this statement as it says it is the most important which is wrong as it says that in the Hindu religion book and also that if you don't practice ahimsa that could be bad by creating negative/bad karma, killing animals which have an atman and therefore worsening their next life when they get reincarnated and not change their nature. Therefore disagreeing with the statement.

Some Hindus would say that it is the most important practice as it shows complete devotion to Brahman.

and therefore and strays band and
 a higher chance of achieving moksha
 which is what all Hindus want to do
 by living good karma which will end
 the cycle of reincarnation. Moksha is
 a Hindu's main goal to achieve and
 Bhakti helps with that, they would disagree with ^{the} statement.

Other Hindus would agree with the
 statement because you can practice
 Puja anywhere especially in a masjid
 which ~~emphasizes~~ emphasizes yourself them in as
 Hindus which helps with social problems
 by having to worship / do puja with
 other Hindus which overall helps with
 your connection to Brahman and
~~provides~~ probability of reaching moksha
 (Hindu's ultimate goal).

Overall, I think puja is the most
 important practice because it strengthens
 their connection to Brahman.

Example 1

(d) 'Puja is the most important practice in Hinduism.'

closeness

Pilgrimage

Ahimsa

Karma
Moksha

Discuss this statement showing that you have considered more than one point of view.
(You must refer to religion and belief in your answer.)

[15]

2d 10

Puja is the general term for worship in Hinduism and it can be done in the home or in a Mandir.

Firstly, some Hindus might believe puja is the most important practice because it brings you close to the Gods and Goddesses. During puja in the home, Hindus will use all their five senses and it brings them close to God by burning incense which symbolises the presence of a deity and by creating a barrier between the Hindu and the God. This is done by using turmeric powder where a dot will be placed on both the Hindu and Murti's forehead. This is used to strengthen the argument that Puja is the most important practice as it creates an invisible connection between the Hindu and the God.

However, going on a pilgrimage could be seen as the most important practice. This is because not only ^{is} ~~there~~ puja included but also their bad Karma can be removed. Puja can be done for Shiva in the Kashi Vishwanath in Varanasi when they go on pilgrimage. This is an important practice ^{to Shiva as} ~~because it~~ connects Shiva to them as the temple is dedicated to Shiva and Varanasi is ~~one of~~ believed to be the place where Shiva first visited the Earth. Pilgrimage to Varanasi can also be seen as the most important practice because you can bathe in the River Ganges. This is

an important practice to all Hindus because the Ganges is believed to be sacred and that it will clean away your bad karma, which is important to Hindus because having only good karma is the only way that Hindus can complete Moksha.

Therefore, this shows that the most important practice in Hinduism could be the practice of ahimsa. This is the belief of non violence to all living things. This is really important to Hindus because it is by following the practice of ahimsa it means they will get good karma and will be able to complete Moksha. Hindus believe in the cycle of samsara and that the soul will return to Brahman after Moksha is completed. However, moksha can only be completed if a Hindu only has good karma and it is an aim for all Hindus to reach Moksha so ~~therefore~~ they can once again be with Brahman, their God. Therefore, this shows how the practice of ahimsa could be seen as the most important, because it gives them good karma, which enables them to complete Moksha, which is the aim for all Hindus.

The candidate shows evaluative skills from the start and shows an understanding of the term puja. The candidate has also considered the whole of the statement within their answer. There is accurate knowledge of Hinduism and its teachings, this can be seen from the references to different Hindu practices such as puja, pilgrimage and following ahimsa. Judgments are made throughout, and the candidate considers the strengths of the arguments put forward. The candidate lapses into explain concepts within the evaluation and this hampers the standard of evaluation in places and prevents the candidate from including a wider range of evaluation lines of argument, which results in the work sitting best within band 3.

(d) 'Puja is the most important practice in Hinduism.'

Discuss this statement showing that you have considered more than one point of view.
(You must refer to religion and belief in your answer.) [15]

Puja is most likely the most important practice in Hinduism for many. It is the daily prayer to a god, whether this be at home to a shrine, or in a ~~the~~ place of worship where Murtis are.

Puja ~~most~~ is an important act in a Hindu's everyday life as they are able to worship their god or goddess and pray for good health, luck, ~~and~~ and food to eat ^{etc.} ~~etc.~~

However, Hindus may also feel the teachings of the Scriptures and prophets to be the most important practice, as there are a few people who value their studies and the interpretations of the sacred texts.

In addition, Moksha is one of the most highest achievements that Hindus work for, your atman gets reincarnated until its freed from the cycle. For this, people often perform good acts so they have a positive influence on their Karma to achieve a better life after reincarnation. People who perform bad deeds shall have bad Karma with influences their next life negatively.

Furthermore, other Hindus could feel Ahimsa, ~~and Dharma~~ which is the act of non-violence, to be the most important teaching as Hindus value all life whether it is Human, animal or vegetable.

Just like every other religion, everybody has their own interpretations and beliefs. So, Puja could be the most important practice, just not for everybody.

The candidate has successfully presented lines of argument within the answer and is aware of the whole statement. There are many relevant points, but they lack evaluative development and on occasions become explanations of what puja is. There is also an aspect that does not directly link to the answer where the candidate talks about moksha as a practice. There is an attempt to make judgements within the conclusion but again this lacks development. In order for the work to achieve a higher band it would need to make greater use of evaluative language and for clear judgements that support the differing views on the subject under discussion.

(d) 'Puja is the most important practice in Hinduism.'

Discuss this statement showing that you have considered more than one point of view.
(You must refer to religion and belief in your answer.) [15]

Some Hindus would agree with this statement because Puja is the Hindu way for worship and worshipping Brahman gives them a closer connection. Puja is also important because they can pay to a specific form of Brahman for help, like Ganesha who helps them clear their mind and create a stronger bond to Brahman. Therefore Puja is the most important practice.

Other Hindus could disagree with this statement as it says ahimsa which is harmless is the most important as it says that in the Hindu religion book and also that if you don't practice ahimsa that could be bad by creating negative/bad karma, killing animals which have an atman and therefore worsening their next life when they get reincarnated and not achieve moksha. Therefore disagreeing with the statement.

Some Hindus would say Bhakti is the most important practice as it shows complete devotion to Brahman.

and therefore and stronger bond and
a higher chance of achieving moksha
which is what all Hindus want to do
by living good karma which will end
the cycle of reincarnation. Moksha is
a Hindu's main goal to achieve and
Prakriti helps with that, they would disagree with ^{the} statement.

Other Hindus would agree with the
statement because you can practice
Puja anywhere especially in a mandir
which ~~emphasizes~~ emphasizes yourself then in a
Hindus which helps with social problems
by having to worship / do puja with
Other Hindus which overall helps with
your connection to Deities and
~~probably~~ probability of reading mantras.
(Hindu's ultimate goal).

Overall, I think puja is the most
important practice because it strengthens
their connection to Deities.

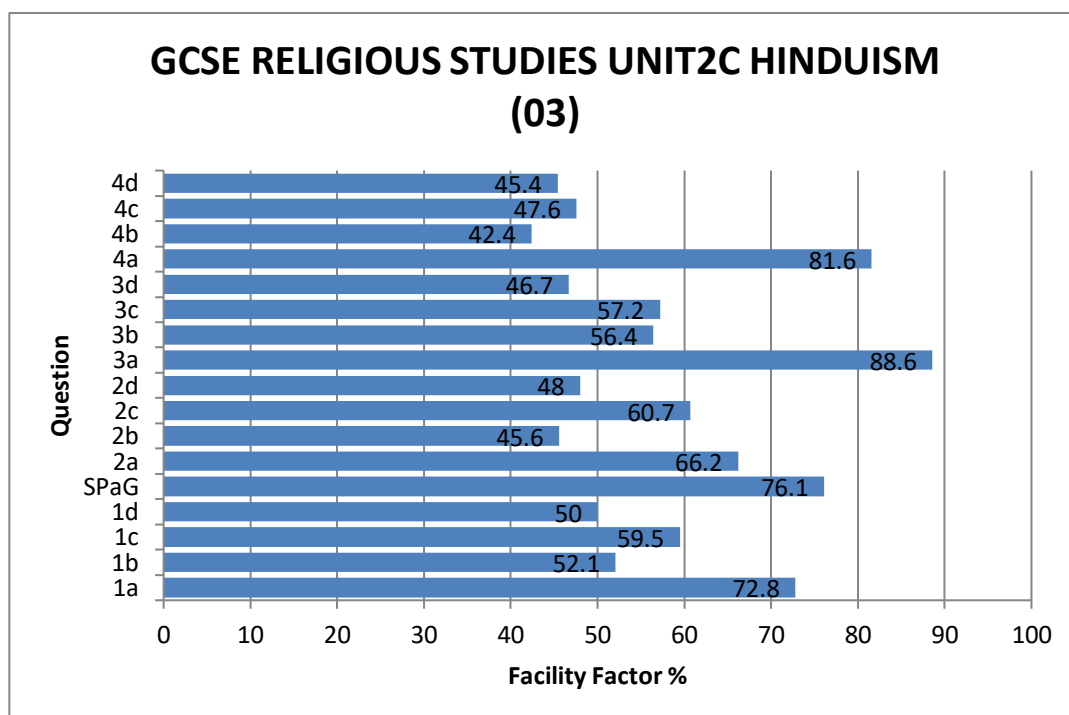
The candidate shows good evaluative skills from the start and evaluates the answer successfully from a Hindu viewpoint. There is accurate knowledge of Hinduism and its teachings and practices but both lack development and a range of arguments which affects the band that the work sits within. Judgments are made within the answer which could be developed further by evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of the arguments put forward. As a consequence, the work sits best within band 3.

UNIT 2C HINDUISM

UNIT 2c HINDUISM - ITEM LEVEL DATA

All Candidates' performance across questions

<i>Question Title</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>S D</i>	<i>Max Mark</i>	<i>F F</i>	<i>Attempt %</i>
1a	714	1.5	0.8	2	72.8	88.7
1b	772	2.6	1.2	5	52.1	95.9
1c	783	4.8	1.7	8	59.5	97.3
1d	759	7.5	3.3	15	50	94.3
SPaG	771	4.6	1.7	6	76.1	95.8
2a	702	1.3	0.9	2	66.2	87.2
2b	731	2.3	1.4	5	45.6	90.8
2c	771	4.9	1.6	8	60.7	95.8
2d	688	7.2	3.2	15	48	85.5
3a	765	1.8	0.5	2	88.6	95
3b	760	2.8	1.2	5	56.4	94.4
3c	735	4.6	1.7	8	57.2	91.3
3d	710	7	3	15	46.7	88.2
4a	743	1.6	0.7	2	81.6	92.3
4b	685	2.1	1.4	5	42.4	85.1
4c	659	3.8	1.8	8	47.6	81.9
4d	646	6.8	3	15	45.4	80.3



QUESTION 2c AND MARK SCHEME

c) Explain Hindu beliefs about karma.

[8]

Indicative content here: [AO1]

- The law of cause and effect.
- Positive and negative karma.
- The effect of karma can be felt in this life, the next life or in many future lives.
- The effect of karma on different types of reincarnation.
- The link to samsara as noted in The Bhagavad Gita 2:13,15,22.
- Established in the Vedic religion.
- All living things are affected by karma.
- It is used in Hinduism to explain the problem of evil.
- Suffering cannot be blamed on karma.

AO1 Marking Bands

Band	Band Descriptor	Mark Total
4	An excellent, highly detailed explanation showing awareness and insight into the religious idea, belief, practice, teaching or concept. Uses a range of religious/specialist language, terms and sources of wisdom and authority extensively, accurately and appropriately.	7–8
3	A very good, explanation showing awareness of the religious idea, belief, practice, teaching or concept. Uses a range of religious/specialist language, terms and sources of wisdom and authority accurately and appropriately.	5–6
2	A satisfactory explanation showing some awareness of the religious idea, belief, practice, teaching or concept. Uses religious/specialist language, terms and/or sources of wisdom and authority with some accuracy.	3–4
1	A limited explanation showing little awareness of the religious idea, belief, practice, teaching or concept. Uses religious/specialist language, terms and/or sources of wisdom and authority in a limited way and with little accuracy.	1–2
0	No relevant information provided.	0

Example 1

(c) Explain Hindu beliefs about karma.

[8]

Karma is the belief that there are consequences for your actions. Hindus believe that they are trapped in the cycle of samsara and in order to escape it and achieve moksha, one of the goals they must complete is to have good karma. Hindus believe that if they help others and stay true to the teachings of their religion then they will achieve good karma. However Hindus also believe you can get bad karma and must repay back your karmic debt. You get bad karma from as a consequence for a bad action which goes against the teaching of Hinduism and in order to pay back your karmic debt you must perform an action that will give you good karma. Hindus also believe that your karma determines what you will be in your next life. For example, if you were impatient then in your next life you may be brought back as a tree.

Example 2

(c) Explain Hindu beliefs about karma.

[8]

Within Hinduism karma is essentially 'what goes around comes around', Hindus believe that by treating others well, ~~the~~ good things will come to them, and apposingly, if they treat someone with disrespect or hatred, then that is what they shall receive back. Hindus take karma very seriously because they believe that it may effect their cycle of Samsara. By treating people well, and therefore receiving good karma ~~Christian~~ Hindus will work their way up the cycle of Samsara through ~~re~~ reincarnation into a good life, resulting in them achieving moksha quicker and being with brahman. However treating people badly will bestow bad karma upon them which will result in them being ~~reincarnated~~ typically ~~reincarnate~~ reincarnated as an animal or insect making the cycle of Samsara and the inevitable position of moksha further out of reach.

Example 3

(c) Explain Hindu beliefs about karma.

[8]

Hindus believe that there are two different types of karma, good and bad. At the end of your life it all adds up and ~~it~~ it decides ^{or what} your next life is going to be like.

If you had good karma you would be on a higher cast than the people who would have had bad karma, which means that they would be on the lower cast.

People who are on the higher cast would have a more better life than the one that they had before where as the people who are on the lower cast would have a more difficult and challenging life due to their bad karma.

Example 1

2c: 6

(c) Explain Hindu beliefs about karma.

[8]

Karma is the belief that there are consequences for your actions. Hindus believe that they are trapped in the cycle of samsara and in order to escape it and achieve moksha, one of the goals they must complete is to have good karma. Hindus believe that if they help others and stay true to the teachings of their religion then they will achieve good karma. However Hindus also believe you can get bad karma and must repay back your karmic debt. You get back karma from as a consequence for a bad action which goes against the teaching of Hinduism and in order to pay back your karmic debt you must perform an action that will give you good karma. Hindus also believe that your karma determines what you will be in your next life. For example, if you were impatient then in your next life you may be brought back as a tree.

A detailed answer throughout focusing on explanation. There is a very good range of religious language, sources of wisdom and authority. The candidate develops the explanation in every point made and progresses through the answer, ensuring there is a range of points that are relevant to the question asked. To achieve band 4 the candidate would need to add additional points of explanation which enable greater detail within the answer.

(c) Explain Hindu beliefs about karma.

[8]

Within Hinduism karma is essentially 'what goes around comes around'. Hindus believe that by treating others well, ~~the~~ good things will come to them, and apposingly, if they treat someone with disrespect or hatred, then that is what they shall receive back. Hindus take karma very seriously because they believe that it may effect their cycle of Samsara. By treating people well, and therefore receiving good karma ~~Christian~~ Hindus will work their way up the cycle of Samsara through ~~rein~~ reincarnation into a good life, resulting in them achieving moksha quicker and being with Brahman. However treating people badly will bestow bad karma upon them which will result in them being ~~reincarnated~~ typically ~~reincarnate~~ reincarnated as an animal or insect, making the cycle of Samsara and the inevitable position of moksha further out of reach.

A detailed answer throughout focusing on explanation. A very good range of religious language, sources of wisdom and authority. Candidate develops the explanation in every point made and progresses through the answer, ensuring there is a range of points that are relevant to the question asked. Further insight is needed into the religious ideas within the explanations in order to achieve a band 4.

Example 3

2c: 4

(c) Explain Hindu beliefs about karma.

[8]

Hindus believe that there are two different types of karma, good and bad. At the end of your life it all adds up and ~~it~~ it decides ^{on what} your next life is going to be like.

If you had good karma you would be on a higher cast than the people who would of had bad karma, which means that they would be on the lower cast.

People who are on the higher cast would have a more better life then the one that they had before where as the people who are on the lower cast would have a more difficult and challenging life due to their bad karma.

The candidate has successfully explained karma. The response is at a satisfactory level as it lacks a range of different beliefs about karma and how it is understood by Hindus. There is use of religious language but again this would need to be developed further to consider more sources of wisdom to achieve higher marks within the band. To move into a higher band there is a need for greater detail and depth of explanation.

QUESTION 2d AND MARK SCHEME

(d) 'The Varna (caste) system creates a fair society'.

Discuss this statement showing that you have considered more than one point of view. (You must refer to religion and belief in your answer.) **[15]**

Indicative content here: **[AO2]**

- Law states that they should not be treated differently.
- Traditions and duties are very important in Hinduism.
- Some rites of passage are varna restricted.
- Human rights prevent different treatment.
- It gives people a structure and goal in their lives.
- It ensures that there are individuals that can fill all jobs needed in a society.
- Individuals are in the situation due to karma.
- They are restricted by employment availability.
- They are tied to certain jobs in light of their varna.
- Difference in views between city and village life.
- Lower varnas don't have the same opportunities.
- Greater problem with treatment of the lower varnas.
- Many join other religions or no religion to improve their status and financial wealth.
- There are cases where workplace bullying, education and access to medical care is restricted even in Britain.
- Hindus marrying outside their varna face discrimination.

AO2 Marking Bands

Band	Band Descriptor	Mark Total
4	<p>An excellent, highly detailed analysis and evaluation of the issue based on comprehensive and accurate knowledge of religion, religious teaching and moral reasoning.</p> <p>Clear and well supported judgements are formulated and a comprehensive range of different and/or alternative viewpoints are considered.</p> <p>Uses and interprets religious/specialist language, terms and sources of wisdom and authority extensively, accurately, appropriately and in detail.</p>	12–15
3	<p>A very good, detailed analysis and evaluation of the issue based on thorough and accurate knowledge of religion, religious teaching and moral reasoning.</p> <p>Judgements are formulated with support and a balanced range of different and/or alternative viewpoints are considered.</p> <p>Uses and interprets religious/specialist language, terms and sources of wisdom and authority accurately, appropriately and in detail.</p>	8–11
2	<p>A satisfactory analysis and evaluation based on some accurate knowledge of religion, religious teaching, and moral reasoning.</p> <p>Some judgements are formulated and some different and/or alternative viewpoints considered.</p> <p>Uses and interprets some religious/specialist language, terms and/or sources of wisdom and authority generally accurately.</p>	4–7
1	<p>A weak analysis and evaluation, based on a limited and/or inaccurate knowledge of religion, religious teaching and moral reasoning.</p> <p>A limited and/or poor attempt or no attempt to formulate judgements or offer alternative or different viewpoints.</p> <p>Poor use or no use of religious/specialist language, terms and/or sources of wisdom and authority.</p>	1–3
0	No relevant point of view stated.	0

Example 1

(d) 'The Varna (caste) system creates a fair society.'

Discuss this statement showing that you have considered more than one point of view.
(You must refer to religion and belief in your answer.)

[15]

Many Hindus would agree with the statement because the caste system and where you are placed is devised by a higher being. This is a strong argument as it shows that you are in that caste for a reason therefore to question it would be questioning Brahman who is ~~omni~~ omniscient.

Some Hindus may disagree with the statement because the caste system creates a divide in society, consequently placing the lower castes such as the Shudras or Dalits at a disadvantage to that of the Brahmins. This is a strong argument as it shows the caste system is discriminatory and prejudice and in what society is that fair.

However, some Hindus would agree with the statement as there is a way to move up the caste system, therefore making it fair. This can be shown by the ^{belief} ~~fact~~ that if you do a good job in the caste you are assigned at birth then in the next life you will be moved up to the next caste, again and again until you become one with Brahman.

This is a strong argument because it shows that the system is fair as there's a way for progression and the reason you could be in a lower caste could be due to the consequences of your actions in another life.

Other Hindus may argue against the statement as the caste system causes you to be restricted to what jobs you are able to do and who you are able to marry and even talk to. This is a strong argument as it's demonstrated through the Dalits being given the jobs nobody else wants no matter whether they like it or not. It's also shown by the fact that Brahmins will go home and wash even if the shadow of a Dalit casts over them.

In conclusion, I believe that the caste system does not create a fair society as some people are disadvantaged, simply for being born into a certain family caste.

Example 2

(d) 'The Varna (caste) system creates a fair society.'

Discuss this statement showing that you have considered more than one point of view.
(You must refer to religion and belief in your answer.) [15]

Within Hindu life the caste system could be seen as creating a fair society through the fact it's some purpose was to do so. The creation of the caste system was to create an equal and balanced society. Although the caste system is now outdated and sets Hindus up for failure failure if they are born into a family lower down the system, opportunities for those lower down the system are limited as their caste puts them in a position that is full of set backs. To conclude this particular point the point, the most convincing argument is to disagree as the caste system breaches many human rights every day. However when looking at the Hindu view of the caste system surely they would only be born into a lower caste if they had bad karma in a previous life. If a Hindu had good karma in a previous life then they would

be born into a higher caste as it sends them further along the cycle of Samsara to inevitably reach moksha before ~~the~~ ~~the~~ those in lower castes. However, ultimately the caste system does not create a fair society because after all, it's illegal. So speaking on whether or not it creates a fair society is out of the question considering it shouldn't be ~~happening~~ happening in the first place, although unfortunately many people in India still swear by it despite its cruel nature. Overall the most convincing argument is to disagree because the caste system is an outdated and ~~illegal~~ illegal method that ruins thousands of lives, ultimately creating an unfair society rather than a fair one.

Example 3

(d) 'The Varna (caste) system creates a fair society.'

Discuss this statement showing that you have considered more than one point of view.
(You must refer to religion and belief in your answer.) [15]

The ~~caste~~ ^{varna} system is all to do with karma.

If you have good karma you're higher up in the caste system meaning that your next life will be better. That could mean many different things, your luck might be better, you might have a lot of money, you might have a very successful job. However if you have bad karma you would be lower on the Varna system, obviously meaning you would have a harder, more difficult life.

The Varna system does create a fair society because you're getting karma for what you did even though you can't remember it due to you being in a new life.

Example 1

(d) 'The Varna (caste) system creates a fair society.'

2d: 12

Discuss this statement showing that you have considered more than one point of view.
(You must refer to religion and belief in your answer.) [15]

Many Hindus would agree with the statement because the caste system and where you are placed is devised by a higher being. This is a strong argument as it shows that you are in that caste for a reason therefore to question it would be questioning Brahman who is ~~omni~~ omniscient.

Some Hindus may disagree with the statement because the caste system creates a divide in society, consequently placing the lower castes such as the Shudras or Dalits at a disadvantage to that of the Brahmins. This is a strong argument as it shows the caste system is discriminatory and prejudiced and is what society is that fair.

However, some Hindus would agree with the statement as there is a way to move up the caste system, therefore making it fair. This can be shown by the ~~fact~~ ^{belief} that if you do a good job in the caste you are assigned at birth then in the next life you will be moved up to the next caste, again and again until you become one with Brahman.

This is a strong argument because it shows that the system is fair as there's a way for progression and the reason you could be in a lower caste could be due to the consequences of your actions in another life.

Other Hindus may argue against the statement as the caste system causes you to be restricted to what jobs you are able to do and who you are able to marry and even talk to. This is a strong argument as it's demonstrated through the Dalits being given the jobs nobody else wants no matter whether they like it or not. It's also shown by the fact that Brahmins will go home and wash even if the shadow of a Dalit casts over them.

In conclusion, I believe that the caste system does not create a fair society as some people are disadvantaged, simply for being born into a certain family caste.

The candidate shows excellent evaluative skills from the start and shows an understanding of the question. The candidate has also considered the whole of the statement within their answer. There is accurate knowledge of Hinduism and its teachings as well as consideration for sources of wisdom. Appropriate use is also made of appropriate and relevant quotations. Judgments are made throughout. Consideration is given for the whole of the statement within the answer. In order to achieve higher marks in band 4 the candidate would need to further develop the judgements to fully consider the strengths and weaknesses of the lines of argument set out in the answer.

Example 2

(d) 'The Varna (caste) system creates a fair society.'

2d: 8

Discuss this statement showing that you have considered more than one point of view.
(You must refer to religion and belief in your answer.) [15]

Within Hindu life the caste system could be seen as creating a fair society through the fact it's sole purpose was to do so. The creation of the caste system was to create an equal and balanced society. Although the caste system is now outdated and sets Hindus up for failure failure if they are born into a family lower down the system, opportunities for those lower down the system are limited as their caste puts them in a position that is full of setbacks. To conclude this particular point the point, the most convincing argument is to disagree as the caste system breaches so many human rights every day. However when looking at the Hindu view of the caste system surely they would only be born into a lower caste if they had bad karma in a previous life. If a Hindu had good karma in a previous life then they would

be born into a higher caste as it sends them further along the cycle of Samsara to inevitably reach moksha before ~~the~~ ~~the~~ those in lower castes. However, ultimately the caste system does not create a fair society because after all, it's illegal. So speaking on whether or not it creates a fair society is out of the question considering it shouldn't be ~~happening~~ happening in the first place, although unfortunately many people in India still swear by it despite its cruel nature. Overall the most convincing argument is to disagree because the caste system is an outdated and ~~illegal~~ illegal method that ruins thousands of lives, ultimately creating an unfair society rather than a fair one.

The candidate shows good evaluative skills from the start and shows an understanding of the question. There is accurate knowledge of Hinduism and its teachings, but this needs greater development and depth of understanding to achieve higher within the band. Appropriate use is also made of appropriate and relevant quotations. Judgments are made but greater depth of explanation of the judgments and consideration of the strengths of the lines of argument would be beneficial to gain a higher marks within the band.

Example 3

(d) 'The Varna (caste) system creates a fair society.'

2d: 2

Discuss this statement showing that you have considered more than one point of view.
(You must refer to religion and belief in your answer.) [15]

The ~~caste~~ ^{varna} system is all to do with karma.

If you have good karma you're higher up in the caste system meaning that your next life will be better. That could mean many different things, your luck might be better, you might have a lot of mates, you might have a very successful job. However if you have bad karma you would be lower on the Varna system, obviously meaning you would have a harder, more difficult life.

The Varna system does create a fair society because you're getting karma for what you did even though you can't remember it due to you being in a new life.

The candidate has shown knowledge of what varna is but then goes on to explain how karma contributes to future varna; making the first paragraph irrelevant and not credit worthy. When considering the second paragraph there is some attempt to justify why the varna system is fair. As a result, this is credit worthy but to low band 1, as it is a single sentence that happens to be relevant.