

Answer any **five** questions, choosing at least **one** from each section.

Section A

- 1 'When in the same region of the sky, he (Indra) came across a lady ... and said to her, "What is this spirit?"'
(Kena Upanishad 3.12)
- Explain who the lady was, and what, in this allegory, the Vedic gods learned from her. [20]
- 2 'Please, Venerable Sir, instruct me still further.'
'So be it, my dear, said he.'
(Chandogya Upanishad VI)
- (a) Svetaketu's father thought the young man lacked essential knowledge (jnana). Explain what this knowledge was. [10]
- (b) Explain the teaching his father gave, in the parable of the rivers and the sea. [10]
- 3 'He granted liberation to a woman of such low descent ... as even this Shabari was ...'
(Ramacharitamanas: Aranya, Doha 36)
- Explain how Tulsidas used this story of the Shabari to instruct his readers about liberation. [20]

Section B

- 4 Explain
- (a) why some Hindus worship God in the form of an avatara [10]
- and (b) the significance for Hindus of the portrayal of Krishna as a flute-player. [10]
- 5 Give reasons why Diwali (Deepavali) is celebrated today by many Hindus worldwide as their major religious festival. [20]
- 6 'Hinduism would not be complete without both Ganesha and Kartikeya.'
- Discuss. [20]

Section C

- 7 'There is no reason why a Hindu should not seek to be wealthy.'
To what extent do you agree, and why? [20]
- 8 Explain the importance in Hindu tradition of
(a) samskaras related to the birth of a baby [10]
and (b) the moral principles of the Brahmacharya ashrama. [10]
- 9 What do you consider to be the strongest arguments for **and** against the division of Hindu society into classes according to 'varna'? Give reasons to support your views. [20]

Section D

- 10 Give reasons why some people consider M.K.Gandhi to be 'the greatest reformer India has ever seen'. [20]
- 11 'Ramakrishna Paramahansa's main aim was to revive the Hindu quest for the goal of moksha.'
Discuss. [20]
- 12 Explain
(a) why the Arya Samaj was founded [10]
and (b) in what ways its members tried to bring about social reform in India. [10]

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