

Hinduism: Beliefs, Traditions, and Dharma

Learning objective: To demonstrate an understanding of Hindu deities, the concept of Brahman, and the significance of festivals and practices.

Read each question carefully. Use your knowledge of Hindu beliefs and traditions to provide detailed answers. Ensure your explanations are clear and use subject-specific terminology.

In Hinduism, the concept of Brahman represents the ultimate reality or the divine essence that permeates the entire universe. While there are many manifestations of the divine, Hindus believe in a single, supreme consciousness. The Trimurti—comprising Brahma (the Creator), Vishnu (the Preserver), and Shiva (the Destroyer)—illustrates the cycle of existence. Life is governed by Dharma (duty or moral law) and Karma (the consequence of one's actions).

Word bank: Brahman · Trimurti · Dharma · Karma · Diwali · Mantra · Ahimsa · Deity

1. Define the term 'Brahman' and explain how it relates to the various deities found in Hinduism. (2 marks)

2. Identify the three deities that make up the Trimurti and briefly describe the role of each. (3 marks)

3. Explain the significance of the concept of 'Karma' in the daily life of a Hindu. How does this influence their choices? (4 marks)

4. Compare and contrast the celebration of Diwali with another festival you have studied. What are the common themes of light and hope? (4 marks)

5. Justify why the principle of 'Ahimsa' (non-violence) is considered a fundamental pillar for many followers of Hinduism. (4 marks)

6. Evaluate the role of 'Dharma' in society. What might happen if individuals did not follow their personal or social duties? Provide a reasoned argument. (5 marks)

7. Explain why many Hindus perform Puja (worship) in their homes as well as in a Mandir. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a representation of the 'Aum' (Om) symbol and surround it with illustrations that represent the natural elements (earth, water, air, fire, ether) that Brahman is said to permeate.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Extension Task: Imagine you are a travel writer visiting a Mandir. Write a reflective journal entry describing the atmosphere, the significance of the murtis (images of deities), and how the environment encourages peace and reflection. Use at least five words from the word bank in your writing.