

Exploring the Rich Traditions of Hinduism

Learning objective: To explain key beliefs, practices, and deities within Hinduism, demonstrating an understanding of the diversity of the faith.

Use the following scaffold to structure your writing. Ensure you include specific terminology and provide justifications for why these traditions are significant to Hindu followers.

Hinduism is often described as one of the world's oldest religions, representing a complex tapestry of beliefs, traditions, and philosophies that have evolved over thousands of years.

Word bank: Brahman · Atman · Dharma · Karma · Moksha · Deities · Polytheistic · Monism · Shrine · Puja · Furthermore · Consequently · In contrast · Significantly

1. The Concept of Brahman: Define what is meant by Brahman and explain how Hindus perceive the relationship between the individual soul (Atman) and the ultimate reality... (3 marks)

2. The Role of Deities: Compare and contrast how different deities, such as Ganesha or Lakshmi, are represented and why Hindus might choose to worship a specific form of the Divine... (4 marks)

3. Living by Dharma: Justify why the concept of 'Dharma' is essential for a Hindu's daily life and how it influences their actions within their community... (3 marks)

4. Practising Puja: Describe the significance of 'Puja' in the home or mandir. What might happen if a devotee approaches their daily worship without mindful intention? (3 marks)

5. The Cycle of Life: Explain the relationship between Karma, reincarnation, and the ultimate goal of Moksha... (3 marks)

6. Reflective Conclusion: Summarise why Hinduism is considered a 'way of life' rather than just a set of religious rules. Provide evidence to support your view... (4 marks)

Extension challenge: Research the festival of Diwali. Create a detailed argument explaining why the themes of light overcoming darkness are universal, yet uniquely expressed within the context of Hindu traditions. Use your deeper understanding to contrast this with festivals from other world religions.