

13.0 HINDU RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (315/1)



In the year 2009 KCSE examination, Hindu Religious Education (HRE) was tested in two papers. *Paper 1 (315/1)* consisted of six structured essay questions and candidates were required to answer five. The paper tested the content areas of *attributes of Paramatma, manifestations, scriptures, principles of Dharma and Yoga*. *Paper 2 (315/2)* also consisted of six structured essay questions of which candidates were required to answer five. *Paper 2 (315/2)* tested the content areas of *Rites and Rituals, Utsav, law of Karma, places of Pilgrimage, Historical Development and Hindu Heritage*.

Both *Paper 1 (315/1)* and *Paper 2 (315/2)* were marked out of a maximum of 100 marks each and the time allocation for each of the papers was 2 hours and 30 minutes (2½ hours). Each question in both papers carried a maximum of 20 marks.

The questions in the HRE examination were set to test knowledge of factual materials relevant to each of the topics in the syllabus, understanding of the meaning and interpretation of each topic, ability of the candidates to express themselves on the basis of evidence, arguments, appreciation and evaluation of materials studied in each topic, ability to analyse and synthesize materials studied in each topic and ability to respond and apply the religious, moral and social issues raised in each topic. The questions were also meant to give candidates across the various ranges of abilities the opportunity to show what they knew, understood and could do.

13.1 GENERAL CANDIDATES' PERFORMANCE

The table below shows the performance in the HRE examination in the last four years.

Table 18: Candidates' Overall Performance in HRE in the last four years

Year	Paper	Candidature	Maximum Score	Mean Score	Standard Deviation
2006	1	13	100	59.23	8.27
	2		100	59.62	10.14
	Overall		200	118.85	16.00
2007	1	07	100	45.29	17.36
	2		100	51.57	19.26
	Overall		200	96.86	35.00
2008	1	13	100	57.92	10.60
	2		100	65.46	12.63
	Overall		200	123.38	19.92
2009	1	06	100	57.67	14.84
	2		100	62.67	8.51
	Overall		200	120.33	22.91

The following observations can be made from the table above:

- 13.1.1 There was a slight drop in the candidates' general performance in the year 2009 as compared to the year 2008.
- 13.1.2 The candidature dropped from 13 candidates in the year 2008 to 06 in the year 2009 the lowest ever in the four years under review.

This report analyses the candidates' general performance in the year 2009 KCSE HRE examination papers paying special attention to the questions where the candidates' performance was relatively poor. An attempt has been made to highlight possible causes of the poor performance. The report also gives samples of the expected responses and makes suggestions to teachers with the hope of helping them evaluate and improve their methods

and approaches in the teaching of HRE in order to further improve the candidates' performance in the subject in the future.

13.2 PAPER 1 (315/1)

The question in which candidates' performance was relatively poor in the year 2009 KCSE HRE Paper 1 (315/1) examination was *question 6(a)*.

Question 6(a)

Describe the characteristics of a Yogi according to Gita 2: 55-61.

The question expected the candidates to have read the Gita 2: 55-61 for them to come up with the characteristics of a Yogi.

Weaknesses

Only one candidate attempted this question.

Expected Responses

- One who is content
- Free from craving/greed
- Fearless/without fear/courageous
- Without anger/free from anger
- Non-attached/detached
- Equanimous-same in pain (suffering) and pleasure
- Controls senses/no response by any senses
- Fully surrenders to paramatma
- Has a stable mind.

Advice to Teachers

Teachers should ensure that they teach all the topics in the syllabus exhaustively.

13.3 PAPER 2 (315/2)

The question in which candidates' performance was relatively poor in the year 2009 KCSE HRE Paper 2 (315/2) examination was 5(a).

Question 5(a)

Describe the efforts made by Tulsi Das (1532-1632 AD) in spreading Bhakti Marga.

The question was set on the topic of *historical development*. The question expected the candidates to explain how Tulsi Das managed to spread the Bhakti Marga.

Weaknesses

The candidates gave irrelevant answers not related to the question.

Expected Responses

- He went round chanting Paramatma and Rams name. Thus spreading the names.
- He simplified worship and made it easy for everyone to participate in or worship.
- Used simple language to expound and explain complex truths.
- Composed bhajans to spread/bring pramatma/Ram knowledge to the masses.

- Worshipped Ram/inspired intense love for Ram.
- Glorified Ram's name by uniting a simple version of Ramayan that could be understood and appeal to the masses.
- Showed how deep devotion can be cultivated/inculcated by surrendering to Paramatma.
- Told people to serve God as a servant serves the master.
- Instilled a sense of morality, kindness and humility.
- His preaching and teaching curtailed the spread of Islam and Christianity in Indian/prevented India from being swept by Muslim and Christian messages.

Advice to Teachers

Teachers of HRE should ensure that they cover all topics in the KCSE HRE syllabus exhaustively. Candidates should be guided on how to answer questions on different topics.