

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.



29.11 HINDU RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (315)

29.11.1 Hindu Religious Education Paper 1 (315/1)

- 1 (a) Give the attributes of Paramatma as *Nirgun Nirakar*. (7 marks)
- (b) Describe the role of Brahma. (5 marks)
- (c) Give reasons why Hindus worship Ambaji. (8 marks)
- 2 (a) Describe the happenings that will lead to the *Kalki Avatar*. (8 marks)
- (b) State the teachings of Lord Mahavir on *Ahimsa*. (5 marks)
- (c) Identify five efforts made by Guru Nanak to create harmony between Hindus and Muslims. (7 marks)
- 3 (a) Give reasons why Guru Gobind Singh declared Adi Granth the Living Guru. (6 marks)
- (b) With reference to the Epic Mahabharat, describe the character of Draupadi. (7 marks)
- (c) State any seven teachings about *Atma* as preached by Lord Krishna in Gita. (7 marks)
- 4 (a) In what ways does a Hindu *Grahastha* perform *Pitru Yajna*? (5 marks)
- (b) Suggest seven ways in which Hindus in Kenya could help the people affected by HIV/AIDS. (7 marks)
- (c) How can the application of the principle of *Kshama* promote peace in Kenya? (8 marks)
- 5 (a) Give reasons why Jains perform *Tapas*. (4 marks)
- (b) In what ways can human suffering be overcome according to Lord Buddha's teachings? (8 marks)
- (c) State ways in which Sikhs observe *Rahitdan*. (8 marks)
- 6 (a) Describe the characteristics of a *Yogi* according to Gita 2:55 – 61. (7 marks)
- (b) Give the names of the *Panch Kosha* of *Sharir*. (5 marks)
- (c) Identify the qualities of a devotee practising *Sakhyam Bhakti*. (8 marks)

Hindu Religious Education Paper 2 (315/2)

1. (a) Describe the rituals performed during the Hindu *Antyesti Sanskar*. (12 marks)
(b) What are the benefits of holding communal worship in a temple? (8 marks)
2. (a) Describe actions that can be done by an individual in *Nirhankar* state of mind. (10 marks)
(b) State ways in which a student can practise *Purushartha* in school. (10 marks)
3. (a) Describe ways in which the Jain Community celebrates *Paryushan Parva*. (7 marks)
(b) Give reasons why Sikhs celebrate *Diwali*. (6 marks)
(c) Write down any **seven** rituals performed by Hindus during the festival of *Holi*. (7 marks)
4. (a) Name **four** Jain *Tirthakshetra*. (4 marks)
(b) What are the advantages of going on *Tirthyatra*? (10 marks)
(c) Give reasons why Buddhists visit Buddha Gaya. (6 marks)
5. (a) Describe the efforts made by Tulsi Das (1532-1623 A.D) in spreading *Bhakti Marga*. (12 marks)
(b) Give reasons why *Bhakti Marga* appeals to the masses. (8 marks)
6. (a) State the activities that take place in a temple *Mandap*. (10 marks)
(b) Explain the significance of dancing during Hindu worship. (10 marks)

30.11 HINDU RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (315)

30.11.1 Hindu Religious Education Paper 1 (315/1)



MANYAM FRANCHISE
Discover! Learn! Apply

1. (a) Attributes of Paramatma as Nirgun Nirakar

- Formless
- Qualityless
- Infinite/timeless/Anant
- Eternal/Anandi
- Birthless/deathless/Ajanma
- Love
- Truth/Satya
- Bliss/Anand

(7 x 1 = 7 marks)

(b) Role of Brahma

- Created Panch Mahaboot – Akash (space) Agni (fire) Jal (water) Vayu (air) Prithvi (earth)
- Created plants, animals and birds
- Created human beings
- Created the universe – moon, sun, stars, planets, solar system/milky way
- Created/awarded mind, emotions, thoughts
- Created Atma, bliss, consciousness

(5 x 1 = 5 marks)

(c) Reasons why Hindus Worship Ambaji

- Ambaji is the feminine form of Paramatma
- Ambaji is a manifestation of the Trimurti (Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva/Mahesh)
- Is easier to please
- Is giver of blessings
- Represents/is image of a mother. Is loving and compassionate
- Removes evil and bad qualities/vices
- Giver of life
- Grants wishes and desires without questions
- Removes sorrows and suffering
- She is a consort of Lord Shiva.

2. (a) Happenings that will lead to Kalki Avatar

- There will be a lot of evil on earth
- Tamas guna will dominate the earth
- Righteous people will suffer
- Evil/bad people will prosper
- People will be short in stature
- There will come incurable diseases
- Family systems and ties will cease to exist
- There will be discord and hatred among human beings/love and care will be lost by humanity
- Wars will increase
- People will kill each other needlessly
- Mobility of a person will be decided on his wealth
- Rulers will oppress their subjects
- Women will refuse to care for their children
- There will be natural calamities
- There will be famine and hunger because farmers will stop growing crops

(10 x 1 = 10 marks)

(b) **Mahavir's Teaching on Ahimsa**

- Not to kill any and all living things
- Not to harm anyone by speech, thought or action
- Forgive those who harm us
- Practise simplicity in life/live simply
- Show tolerance to other religious/adherents of other faiths.

(5 x 1 = 5 marks)

(c) **Guru Nanak's Efforts to create harmony between Hindus and Muslims**

- Nanak went for a pilgrimage to Makka
- Used to hold communal prayers for and with both Hindus and Muslims
- Had Muslims as his disciples
- Preached at the Moghul King's court
- Taught that Paramatma and Allah is one and the same
- Used hymns and bhajans and verses of the Quran in his preaching/teaching
- Discouraged idol worship
- Discouraged the Ashram system
- Shared food with Muslims during Langar
- He used his skills of persuasion to reconcile Muslims and Hindus.
- Preached love for common man irrespective of caste, creed or religion
- He collected relics and icons of both Hindu and Muslim saints
- He preached that no-one was a stranger or enemy to him
- Preached that truth is higher but higher still is truthful living.

(5x 1 = 5 marks)

3. (a) **Reasons why Guru Gobind Singh declared Adi Granth a Living Guru**

- There was no successor to Guruship from Gobind Singh's immediate family
- Adi Granth contains teachings/preachings of the ten Gurus
- It contains hymns from other religions and hence promotes brotherhood
- The declaration that Adi Granth is a Living Guru left no room for struggle over Guruship after his death
- Gives guidance to Sikh way of life and their faith
- It contains rules/laws for living a righteous life
- Teaches/shows the way to achieving/attaining Moksha

(6 x 1 = 6 marks)

(b) **Character of Draupadi**

- She was honest – owned up to the her actions
- Hospitable, took care of her subjects
- Not jealous – did not take offence when her husbands married other women
- Was a loving sister to her brothers
- Dynamic and outspoken
- Very brave and courageous/bold
- Knowledgeable/wise
- Confident
- Motivating and encouraging to the Pandavs – She appealed to them to fight for their rights
- She was patient with her five husbands
- Had faith in Lord Krishna/obedient to Krishna

(7 x 1 = 7 marks)

(c) **Krishna's Teachings on Atma**

- Atma is sat (real)
- Changes bodies/houses

- All-pervading/imperishable/cannot be destroyed
 - Incomprehensive
 - Cannot slay and cannot be slayed
 - Never burns or dies
 - Unborn/eternal/changeless
 - Cannot be cut
 - Cannot be drenched
 - Cannot be seen/invisible
 - Unthinkable/subjective/undepictable.
4. (a) Ways in which a Hindu Grahastha Performs Pitru Yajna
- Looking after and caring for the aged in the family and community
 - Remembering the ancestors and honouring them by performing traditional rituals to them
 - Providing basic needs of food, shelter, clothes, medicine to the family and to old and needy people in society
 - Giving donations to charity
 - Spending time with immediate family, parents and grandparents
 - Reading scriptures, books and other material to the old people
 - Organizing for religious shows e.g video shows, entertainments and discourses for the old people.
- (5 x 1 = 5 marks)*
- (b) Ways in which Hindus in Kenya can Help those affected by HIV/AIDS
- Accepting them without prejudice/discrimination
 - Help in providing them with basic needs (food clothes and shelter)
 - Ensure that the children go to school/children attend school (and other educational institutions)
 - Encourage them/motivate them to build confidence and live positively
 - Help them get counseling and guidance to empower them with necessary knowledge on HIV/AIDS in terms of its causes, management and prevention
 - Invite them to their homes and social occasions
 - Visit them in their homes and associate with them
 - Help them become self sufficient by giving them jobs or means to be self-employed and teaching them life skills
 - Pray for them and with them
 - Help them to care for their relatives who are infected by HIV/AIDS.
- (7 x 1 = 7 marks)*
- (c) How the application of Kshama can promote peace in Kenya
- No revenge which will reduce violence and ill-feeling among and between people
 - Kshama will lead to reconciliation
 - Promotes good relationships/renews friendships
 - Helps to get rid of hatred, bitterness
 - Creates amicable environment/happy atmosphere
 - Promotes creativity
 - Curbs vandalism, loss of property, human life
 - Curbs fights, quarrels.
 - Is spiritually uplifting
 - Forgiver and forgiven are at peace/liberated from bitterness/set free from bitterness
 - Creates/promotes understanding among people.
- (8 x 1 = 8 marks)*
5. (a) **Reasons why Jains Perform Tapas**
- Fasting cleanses the inner body and purifies the mind
 - To observe rituals like Samaik, Pratikraman/concentration of the mind

- To practice simple living – eating simple food, wearing simple clothes, no luxury which brings happiness and contentment
- To observe Brahmacharya/reduce desires
- Tapas is a way to Keval Gnan/Nirvan.

(4 x 1 = 4 marks)

(b) How human suffering can be overcome according to Lord Buddha's Teachings

- Getting rid of desires/abolishing ignorant craving
- Remove ignorance/attain knowledge
- Follow the Noble Eightfold path consisting of – right understanding, right-mindedness, right speech, right action, right livelihood, right effort, right meditation and right emancipation
- Practice equanimity
- Reading of scriptures – Tripitika, Dhammapada

(4 x 2 = 8 marks)

(c) Ways in which Sikhs observe Rahitdan

- Saying prayers in the morning and at night
- Performing Karseva
- Giving 10% of their earnings to community/for charity
- Observing the 5 k's
- Through honest earning
- Abstaining from alcohol, drugs, smoking and from other intoxicants
- Abstaining from eating meat which is forbidden
- Abstaining from adultery and pre-marital sex/womanizing
- Visiting Gurudwara.

(8 x 1 = 8 marks)

6. (a) Characteristics of a Yogi According to Gita 2:55-61

- One who is content
- Free from craving/greed
- Fearless/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.

(7 x 1 = 7 marks)

(b) Names of Pancha Kosh of Sharir

- Annamaya
- Pranamaya
- Manomaya
- Vijnanamaya
- Anandmaya

(5 x 1 = 5 marks)

(c) Qualities of a devotee Practising Sakhyam Bhakti

- Believes Paramatma is a friend
- Accepts all situations
- Worships Paramatma as a friend
- Talks to Paramatma as a friend
- Makes requests to Paramatma
- Makes demands to Paramatma
- Quarrels Paramatma
- Argues with Paramatma
- Surrenders to Paramatma

- Trusts in Paramatma
- Takes advice from Paramatma as from a friend.

(8 x 1 = 8 marks)

30.11.2 Hindu Religious Education Paper 2 (315/2)

1. (a) Rituals performed during the Hindu *Antyeshti Sanscar*

- Washing the corpse/body
- Blessing the body/putting clothes on the corpse
- Placing the body on the ground
- Lighting a diya near the body
- Chanting of mantra
- Relatives and friends go round the body and touch his/her feet
- Carrying of live charcoal in an earthen pot by a close relative
- Carrying/taking the body to the crematorium/smashan bhumi
- Placing the body on the wooden pyre
- The same person who carried the fire goes round the pyre three times carrying an earthen pot with water
- Throwing the pot of water backwards to smash the pot on the ground
- Pouring of ghee (or oil) on the pyre
- Lighting of the fire on pyre starting from the feet
- Collection of the ashes

12 x 1 = 12 marks

(b) Benefits of holding communal worship in a Temple

- Collective worship creates and promotes pure thoughts
- Those who gather for worship do it with good intention so it creates good atmosphere and will
- Those who meet for worship share ideas, thoughts, opinions and experiences
- Performance of rituals and listening to discourses creates unity of purpose
- Devotees learn together from scriptures and from the priests
- It is spiritually uplifting/helps in spiritual development
- It gives worshippers opportunities to make new friends and acquaintances and to meet old ones
- Helps to strengthen community ties
- It is a form of leisure when devotees leave behind their duties to participate in worship/gives opportunity to relax
- Helps in developing art and craft skills e.g. temple decorations, food preparation
- Gives each worshipper a sense of belonging/sense of identity as a member of a religion

8 x 1 = 8 marks

2. (a) Actions that can be done in a state of *Nirhankar*

- Actions that are done without desire, ego and attachment
- Actions done free from "I" and "my" the person doing the action is only a witness
- Action done without feelings of doership
- Actions done when the doer is only an instrument of God
- Actions done as acts of worship
- Actions done to stop crime and evil or to prevent them
- Actions to save somebody from danger
- Actions to reduce suffering e.g. poverty, pain
- Actions to save the environment
- Actions to induce pure thought
- Actions that will lead to moksha

10 x 1 = 10 marks

(b) Ways in which a student can practise *purushartha* in school

- Working hard and diligently in acquiring knowledge, skills and attitudes/values
- Through participation in co-curricular activities
- Participation in sports, games and athletics
- Carrying out projects and being involved in clubs
- Performing in music, dance and drama/performing arts
- Holding parties
- Going out on tours and educational trips
- Pursuing hobbies and acts of charity
- Through worship and prayers
- Class activities such as story telling, drawing.

10 x 1 = 10 marks

3. (a) How Jains celebrate *Paryushan Parva*

- Begin fasting for 8 days
- Perform samaila twice a day
- Perform communal pratikraman once a day
- Read kalpasutra
- Community prayers in Derasar/bhajans
- Listen to religious discourses
- Participate in charitable activities - donations
- Commemorate Lord maharir's birthday
- Perform elaborate puja twice a day
- Major prayer on 8th day – forgive others and ask for forgiveness – Michami Dakadam

7 x 1 = 7 marks

(b) Reasons why Sikhs celebrate *Diwali*

- Celebrate the victory of good over evil
- Remember the resistance of forced conversion of Hindus to Islam
- Commemorate the release of Har Gobind and others from prison
- Remember the return of Ran from Ayodhya
- Worship of Durga/Kali
- To seek blessings from elders, syaniji
- To promote sikh brotherhood and unity
- To hold akhand path/religious discourses
- To get together for enjoyment/diwali mela/fanfare
- To mark the laying of the foundation stone of Darbar Shib at Amristar
- To mark the first illumination of the temple at Amristar

6 x 1 = 6 marks

(c) Rituals performed by Hindus during *Holi*

- Fasting – partial or full
- Perform continuous Naum Jaap
- Wearing new clothes
- Visit the temples in the morning
- Make a wood pyre with a flag in the middle
- In the evening, perform pohcome pujan, Aarti etc
- Light the pyre with diva used in worship
- Go round the pyre offering water grains, dates and coconut
- Offer old used children's clothes to the holy fire
- Roasted coconuts are distributed as prasad
- Coloured powder is smeared at each other
- Fast is broke with sweet dishes – puran poli, verncelli khir

7 x 1 = 7 marks

4. (a) Jain *Tirthakshetra*

- Pavapuri
- Palitana
- Abu
- Samety shikhar
- Shravan balgoda

4 x 1 = 4 marks

(b) Advantages of going on *Tirthyatra*

- Pilgrim is reminded of important historical events connected with the Tirthkeshtra
- Accords the opportunity to perform tapas/austerities, take or renew vows, and to fast (perform religious obligations)
- To break the monotony of daily life/routine
- Helps in fostering brotherhood
- Gives opportunity to meet and socialize with devotees from different places and countries
- One appreciates the beauty of nature/wonder of creation
- It is spiritually uplifting/spiritual development
- Accords opportunity to exchange ideas and share experiences
- It accords the opportunity and time to pray for self and others
- One gets pure vibrations/renewal/reform
- Gets to see religious relics and icons
- Experiences inner peace and tranquility
- Gives opportunity to perform rituals

10 x 1 = 10 marks

(c) Reasons why Buddhists visit Buddha Gaya

- It is the place where Lord Buddha did meditation
- It is the place where Lord Buddha got enlightenment
- They go to get spiritual enlightenment
- The place has a shipa with buddist relics
- The temple of mahabhodi is in Buddha Gaya
- It is where the first sangha was started with five followers
- A diamong throne/vajrasan is in Buddha Gaya
- Vihar with pali scriptures is there

6 x 1 = 6 marks

5. (a) Tulsi Das Efforts in spreading *Bhakti Marga*

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

6 x 2 = 12 marks

(b) Reasons why *Bhakti Marga* appeals to the masses

- Bhakti Marg is easy to follow and practise
- Does not require the knowledge from scripture
- Allows freedom of worship of Paramatma is any form and relationship
- Bhakti can be done by singing and dancing

- Get inspiration from devotees like meera Narsimha Kabir
- Does not require one to be educated
- Any person without caste and creed can follow it
- No medium of priest required – direct worship to Paramatma can be done
- No complex, elaborate rituals and ceremonies to be performed
- Can worship in any way one wants
- Does not encourage superstitions
- Is a way to salvation – Moksha

1 x 8 = 8 marks

6. (a) Activities that take place in a temple *Mandap*

- Communal worship
- Individual and communal puja
- Akhand path of Ramayan Bhaguar, Katha
- Hanuman chalisa are held
- Drama, skits, singing and dancing/entertainments
- Lectures and discourses
- Celebration of festivals e.g birthdays of Krishna and Ram, Tulsi vivah, Diwali – Annakoot, Nauratri Gaba and Ruas
- Hold performance of yajna and Havan
- Satsang, bhajan and kirtan
- Katha –satyanarayan
- Expression of Hindu art

10 x 1 = 10 marks

(b) Significance of Dancing during Worship

- Various dances e.g. Garba, Raas, Bharat, Natyam, Manipuri/Kathak are performed as worship to Shiwa, Durga and Ganesh
- A way of promoting Hindu culture
- Gives rhythm, rual, bhars and arouses emotions
- Dances are part of the teachings of the Veda
- To please the deities
- Instills and cultivates inner peace
- Relaxes the mind
- For spiritual uplifting/bliss
- Form of worship
- Livens worship/for enjoyment and entertainment
- Keeps the body healthy/for physical fitness
- Helps in concentration
- It is a way to liberation/Moksha

10 x 1 = 10 marks