

**Assistant Commissioner
Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department
(Group – IB Services)**

MAIN EXAMINATION - DESCRIPTIVE TYPE

PAPER – III

HINDU RELIGION (UG DEGREE STANDARD)

SUBJECT CODE 233

UNIT – I HINDU RELIGION

Meaning and Definition of Religion – Origin and Development of Hinduism – General Characteristics of Hinduism.

UNIT – II HINDU SCRIPTURES

Vedas - Four Vedas and their outlines – Upanishads – Identity of Atmam and Brahman - Bhagavad Gita – Gnana, Karma, Bakthi yogas – Ramayana, Mahabharata –18 Puranas - Saiva Vaishnava Puranas (general studies) Agamas – Saiva and Vaishnava Agamas – 4000 Prabhandams, Panniruthirumurais (General studies).

UNIT – III SYSTEMS OF HINDU RELIGION

Saivism – Different types of Saivism – Kashmir Saivism, Siddhantha Saivism, Veera Saivism – Vaishnavism – Bhagavatha system – Avataras – Sri Vaishnavism – Vadakalai – Thenkalai – Saktham – Development of Saktha workship, Tantras - Kaumaram – Origin and development – Ganapathyam – Six Sects - Sauram – Significance of sun worship.

UNIT – IV HINDU SAINTS AND SAGES

Alwars, Nayanmars, Sankara, Ramanujar, Madhva, Thayumanavar and Ramalingar – Their contribution to Hinduism.

UNIT – V SAIVISM

Meaning and Definition – Traces of Saivism in Vedas and Upanishads - Rudra Siva - Samayachariyars, Santhanachariyars, Meikanda Sastras – Thiruvartupayan (Text) – Basic concepts of Saivism – Pati, Pasu, Pasam, Means to Mukthi – Cariya, Kriya, Yoga and Gnana.

UNIT- VI VAISHNAVISM

Meaning and Definition – Out line of Brahmasutra – Vedantha Sangraha (Text) – Basic concepts – Tattvam – Hitham – Purushartha – Means to Moksha – Bakthi and Prapatti

UNIT-VII BASIC CONCEPTS OF INDIAN PHILOSOPHICAL SYSTEMS

Hetrodox - Carvaka – Perception, the only source of knowledge – Ethics of Carvaka – Jainism – Anuvrata, Mahavrata – Ethics of Jainism – Sects of Jainism - Buddhism – Four Noble truths – Eight fold paths - Nirvana – Sects of Buddhism.

Orthodox - Nyaya – Theory of causation – Conception of God – Vaishesika - Padarthas – Sankya – Prakriti and Purusha – Theory of evolution – Bondage and liberation – Yoga – Eight limbs of Yoga – Mimamsa – Purva Mimamsa and Uttara Mimamsa and the concept of Dharma – Vedanta – Schools of Vedanta.

UNIT – VIII HINDU ETHICS

Dharma, Artha, Kama and Mokhsa (Purusharthas) – Ethics of Thirukkural – Professional Ethics for Temple Administrators – Maintenance of Temples and Public Relations.

UNIT-IX HINDU CULTURE

Cultural Heritage - Temple Arts – Architecture and Sculpture, Sthala Vriksham, Sthala Puranas, Temple Ponds, Special Sannatis and Murtis – Music, Dance, Drama – Importance of inscriptions, Icons, Idols, Murals, Manuscripts, copper plates and monuments.

UNIT – X HINDU FESTIVALS

Philosophical Significance of festivals – Brahmotsavam – Vinayaka Chaturthi – Navrathri – Vaikunda Ekathasi, Arudhra Dharshan – Monthly, Seasonal and yearly festivals – Poojas, Athmartha and Parartha Poojas – Nithya, Naimithka, Kamika Poojas – Customs, Traditions, Rituals, Pilgrimage – Need for Religious harmony.