GENERAL DEGREE EXAMINATION IN ARTS

HINDU CULTURE SYLLABUS
(Effective from 1991)

The Examination in Hindu Culture offered as a subject for General Degree Examination in Arts shall consist of three papers of three hours each, as follows:

HINDU CULTURE   I (HCG 1)   : History of Hinduism in India and Sri Lanka.

HINDU CULTURE II (HCG 2)   : Hindu Religious and Philosophic Thought.

HINDU CULTURE III (HCG 3)   : History of Hindu Art and Architecture.

HINDU CULTURE I (HCG 1) : History of Hinduism in India and Sri Lanka:

This paper involves a study of the development of Hindu religious and cultural traditions from the earliest beginnings up to modern times. Special attention should be paid to the historical setting and the social and economic determinants of such developments. The emphasis shall be on the following themes.

1. The religious beliefs of the Harappans.

2. The beliefs, practices and mythology of Vedic religion.

3. The transformation of the Vedic religion and the development of theistic Religions in Northern and Peninsular India: Saivism, Vaishnavism, Sauram and the cult of skanda.

4. Devotional theism and the religious ideology of the Puranas and Bhagavad Gita.

5. Interactions between Hinduism and the religious traditions of Buddhism and Jainism.

6. The Bhakti movements of the Pallava period.

7. Development of Hindu religious and cultural institutions in Peninsular India under the Chalukyas and the Cholas.

8. The contributions of the Vijayanagara period towards the conservation and development of Hindu Culture.

9. The Institutions of the Temple and Monastic Centres (Mutts).

10. Interaction with Islam: Revival of devotional theism; Tulsidas, Kabir, Nanak, Chaitanya and Namdev.

11. British Orientalism and Hindu Revivalist and reform movements.

12. Hinduism in Sri Lanka: The development of religious centres and traditions, Interaction between Buddhism and Hinduism, The impact of Christian Missionary enterprise, Arumuga Navalar and the Hindu revival; Hindu Cultural Institutions.

HINDU CULTURE II (HCG 2) : Hindu Religious and Philosophic Thought:

Candidates are expected to have an adequate knowledge of the ethical ideas and the religious and metaphysical thought expounded in the Upanisads. They have to be well acquainted with the principal tenets of the schools of the Vedants and the Saiva Siddhanta.

The following themes will receive special attentions;

1. Upanisadic thought - the concepts of Brahman and Atman and the Theories of Karma and transmigration; ideas of Creation, phenomenal world and Reality.

2. Vedanta

   1) Advaita: Brahma Sutra and the teachings of Sankara, modern interpretations by Ramakrishna, Vivekananda and Radhakrishnan.

   2) Visistadvaita. The teachings of Ramanuja and Sri Chaitanya.
   3) Dvaita: Madhava Carya.

   Saivite Tradition
   1) Agamas and their teachings
   2) Saivite religious and philosophical thought as expounded in the Tirumantiram.
   3) The conception of pasu, pati, pasam, Arul and Vitu as found in the Tevaram and Tiruvacakam.
   4) Saiva Siddhanta as expounded in the Sastras of Meykanda Tevar, Umapati Sivachariar and others; kashmir Saivism and Saiva Siddhanta; Virasaivism.

HINDU CULTURE III (HCG 3) : History of Hindu Art and Architecture:

The paper will consist of three parts as follows: (1) Architecture, (2) Sculpture and Iconography, (3) Painting, dance and music. Candidates are expected to be familiar with the main trends in the development of Buddhist Art and Architecture and Islamic influences on Hindu Art . The following themes shall receive special attention:

1. <u>Temple Architecture</u>: Origins of Temple Architecture; Gupta temples; The development of the Nagara Style and its varieties; the temples of Central India, the temples of Rajasthan and Gujarat. The development of the Deccanic or Vesara Style under the Chalukyas, Rastrakutas and Hoysalas. The origins and development of the Dravida Style under the Pallavas, Cholas, Vijayanagar and the Nayakas of Madura, Hindu influences on the development of Architecture in Sri Lanka.

2. <u>Sculpture and Iconograpy</u>:
   1) Mauryan and Sunga Art, the Schools of Mathura and Vengi, Developments in Sculpture under the Gupta and Pala dynasties, Portrait Sculpture and ornamental motifs. Icons in stone and metal. Chola and Vijayanagara bronzes, Saivite bronzes of Sri Lanka.

3. <u>Paintings</u>:
   1) The religious and Social functions of painting,
   2) The paintings of Ajanta
   3) The mural paintings of Gandharwa art.
   4) The paintings of Sittana Visal, Tirumayyam and Tanjore
   5) Rajput paintings
   6) The paintings of Mysore

4. <u>Dance</u>: The Natya sastra of Bharata, The classical dances of India, The folk dances of India. Dance as a medium of religious expression-themes, varieties and forms. The development of Dance forms and the traditions of the Temple. The revival of classical dance forms and their modern exponants.

5. Instrumental music and vocal music associated with religious worship.

<u>General Degree Examination in Arts</u>

Select bibliography

<u>HCG I</u>

A.A.Macdonell, Vedic Mythology

E.W.Hopkins, Epic Mythology

M. Winternitz, History of Indian Literature, Vol. I

M.Bloomfield, The Religion of the Veda

A.B.Keith, Religion and Philosophy of the Vedas and Upanisads,

D.S.Sharma, Outlines of Hinduism,
             Ranaissance of Hinduism

R.G.Bhandarkar, Saivism, Vaisnavism and other minor Religions

C.V.Narayana Iyer, Origin and History of Saivism in South India,
University of Madras, 1936.

K.A.Nilakanta Sastri, Development of Religion in South India, Madras,1963

Louis Renou, The Nature of Hinduism

S. Radhakrishnan, The Hindu View of Life

K.A.Nilakanta Sastri, A History of South India

P.Kumar, Sakti Cult in Ancient India, Varanasi, 1974

R.C.Majumdar,   The History and Culture of the Indian People
(General Editor) Vol.   I - The Vedic Age
                  Vol. II - The Age of Imperial Unity
                  Vol.III   - The Classical Age
                  Vol. IV   - The Age of Imperial Kanauj
                  Vol. V   - The Delhi Sultanate

HCG 2

A.B.Keith, Religion and Philosophy of the Vedas and Upanisads,
Harvard Oriental Series, Vols 31-32

M. Hiriyanna, Outlines of Indian Philosophy

Chatterjee and Datta, An Introduction to Indian Philosophy, Calcutta,1954

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S.Radhakrishnan, Indian Philosophy, Vols I & II

Radhakrishnan and Moore, A Source-book of Indian Philosophy

Surama Das Gupta, Development of Moral Philosophy in India, Calcutta,1961

Betty Heimann, Facets of Indian Thought, London 1964

Christopher Isherwood, Vedanta for the Western World, Hollywood,1945

Ramakrishna Mission, Cultural Heritage of India, Vols. I - III

T.B.Siddhilingaiah, Origin and Development of Saiva Siddhanta,1979

V.A.Devasenapati, Saiva Siddhanta, University of Madras, 1960

Dorai Rangaswami, The Religion and Philosophy of Tevaram,   Vols, 1 & 2
University of Madras, 1957.

T.M.P.Mahadevan, The Philosophy of Advaita

HCG 3

Ananda K Coomaraswamy, History of Indian and Indonesian Art
The Dance of Shiva

Benjamin Rowland, The Art and Architecture of India, Suffolk, 1953
The wall paintings of India, central Asia and Ceylon,
A comparative study, Boston, 1938

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Prasanna Kumar Acharya, A Dictionary of Hindu Architecture, Delhi, 1979

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The Himalayas in Indian Art, London, 1924

Indian Sculpture and Painting, Second edition, London, 1928

K.De B.Codrington, An Introduction to the study of Medieval Indian
sculpture, London, 1929

S.K.Saraswati, A Survey of Indian Sculpture, Calcutta, 1957

C.Sivaramamurti, Indian Sculpture, New Delhi, 1961, South Indian Bronzes,
Delhi, 1963.

Gopinatha Rao, Elements of Hindu Iconography

P.R.Srinivasan, Bronzes of South India, Madras, 1963

Douglas Barrett, Early chola Architecture and Sculpture (866-1014 AD)
London, 1974

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Douglas Barrett and Basil Gray : Indian Painting, Geneva, 1978

T.G.Aravamuthan, Portrait Sculpture in South India, London, 1931

K.A.Nila Kanta Sastri, A History of South India

R.C.Majumdar , A History and culture of the Indian People, Vols II - V

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