

Examiners' Report

June 2015

GCSE Religious Studies 5RS11 01

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Introduction

The specification continues to be a very popular course because teachers and schools recognise the benefits of an examinable course that both interests and educates young people. The variety of choice within the specification allows teachers to deliver the course that best suits their candidates and, as such, the examination is unique.

Unit 11 allows study of Islam, a religion that is increasingly important in today's society. The course engages the interest of young people, it addresses many moral and spiritual issues affecting young people today and, importantly, it fulfils all of the requirements for the present Key Stage 4 statutory Religious Education.

Candidates responded well to the questions and it was pleasing to note that many of them were able to give good reasons for the statements they made.

The candidates have achieved a wide range of performance levels, as would be expected from an examination with mainly whole cohort entry.

The mean on this paper showed a slight increase from last year possibly as a result of year 11 only entry. However it might also be due to an increased awareness of exam technique.

Please note: Words within inverted commas in candidate examples indicate the sense of the candidate's response. This may or may not be quoted *verbatim*.

Question 1 (a) (b) (c) (d)

This question (Q) is based on Section One in the specification. Each of the sub-questions covers a different bullet point within the specification.

- (a) The (a) questions ask either for a definition or for examples. Q1(a) asks for a definition of creativity. Examples without the definition were only awarded partial marks, as per the mark scheme.
- (b) This question was about whether Allah communicates with humans. Answers that did not link with the question as asked gained no marks. Answers needed to include a personal opinion and more able candidates used examples from the Qur'an and hadith, as development of opinion.
- (c) This question required candidates to explain why belief in the mercy and compassion of Allah is important for Muslims. Most candidates were able to show an understanding of the reasons why this belief is important but only a few were able to develop their ideas further.
- (d) This question needed candidates to evaluate a statement about Qadr and whether or not belief takes away the freedom of choice. Many candidates understood the difficult issue of freewill *versus* predestination and gave excellent answers. However, less able candidates gave very confused answers.

Most candidates are now familiar with the layout of the (d) question and were able to state their own opinion and give reasons for it in (d)(i) and give an opposite view in (d)(ii).

Q1 was not as popular as Q2 with many candidates having difficulty with Q1 (d).

(a) Creativity is the action of creating the Universe by Allah.

(b) Yes, I think Allah does communicate with humans because I believe, as a Muslim, that Allah communicated directly with the Prophet Musa, as mentioned in the Qur'an. I also think so because the Qur'an talks of ~~the~~ its revelation to the Prophet Muhammad on the Night of Power: through this event Allah conveyed a message to Muhammad through the angel Jibril. So Allah communicates with humans through angels.

Moreover, Allah communicates with us through dreams. For example, Allah commanded the prophet Ibrahim to slaughter his son Ismail by causing him to see himself kill his son by the order of Allah in a dream.

(c) First of all, believing that Allah is merciful and has compassion towards Muslims gives their lives meaning and purpose. It helps them to understand how everything that happens in their lives is a result of Allah's mercy and kindness.

In addition to that, the belief strengthens their love for Allah. If Allah were a cruel lord, they would regard Him with fear and terror. But because He loves them and cares for them, they love Him too.

Third of all, it gives Muslims peace of mind because they know that on Judgement Day, Allah will judge them mercifully; He will not punish them on each and every sin they have committed in their lives. He will forgive them because if He were to punish them in the way that they deserve, they will not survive His wrath. This makes them

Fourthly, the mercy and compassion of Allah help Muslims to realise that these are not His most important qualities.

Though they are mentioned in the ~~be~~ Bismillah in the beginning of every surah (except Surah 9), His control, creativity and justice are also important qualities and shouldn't be underestimated. Allah forgives, but is also just and won't be too lenient with sinners.

(d) (i) I agree with this statement because I think that Al Qadar means Allah has power over all future happenings, from the flapping of a bird's wings to the events we will encounter in our lives, and therefore ~~He has control over~~ we cannot change what He has predestined in our lives because our control and ~~power~~ power are insignificant compared to those of Allah. The Qur'an repeatedly states that Allah has the power over all things, and this includes our actions. It even says in the Qur'an that He will guide whom He wills and lead astray whom He wills. This means we have no freedom of choice.

(ii) Some people may disagree with me by stating that in the Qur'an, Allah has stated that He will not change the condition of someone unless they change it "with their own souls". This means Allah has the power to dictate what will happen in our lives, yet He has given us free will to decide for ourselves how to act in certain situations. Secondly, there would be no purpose in life if we didn't have the power to choose, as we would be like robots. Finally, Allah has made us ~~accountable~~ accountable for our actions on the Last Day meaning He has given us the right to choose, otherwise it would be unfair for Him to punish or reward us.



Personal point of view with two developed reasons

(a) The beginning of this answer is a basic reason, which was ignored in order to award better marks later in the answer.

(b) (i) 'Allah communicates through angels'...developed by...'the example of the Night of Power '
2 marks

(ii) 'Allah communicates through dreams'...developed...'the example of Ibrahim'

Level 2

4 marks

(c) Three basic reasons with one reason developed

(i) 'Gives their lives meaning and purpose...helps them understand'...

(ii) 'Strengthens their love for Allah because He cares for them'

(iii) 'Gives peace of mind about judgement day'...developed by...'Allah will forgive them'

The candidate's Quality of Written Communication (QWC) determines the upper or lower mark - not the quality of their Religious Studies (RS). A candidate's communication has to be very poor to receive the lower mark. In this case, the candidate's communication is understandable so they will receive the higher of the two marks within Level 4.

Level 4

8 Marks

(d) (i) Personal viewpoint with one developed reason and one basic reason

(i) ...'power over all future happenings'...developed by...'our power is insignificant'...

(ii) 'He will guide who He wills and lead astray who He wills'

3 marks

Opposite viewpoint with three basic reasons

(i) 'Change it with their own souls'

(ii) 'No purpose in life' ... 'be like robots'

(iii) 'Accountable for our actions'

3 marks

Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar (SPaG) = 4

Total = 24 marks



(b) Questions should begin with a statement that identifies the answer as the candidate's own opinion. In this case the candidate says 'I would agree'...

(c) Ideally, candidates should start a new paragraph with each new reason they give on a (c) question.

(a) Believing Allah created everything in the world.

(b) yes I do think Allah communicates with humans, I think the main way he does this is through muslims going to the mosque and praying to him. Prayer is the main way muslims communicate with Allah. I also think Allah communicates with ~~allah~~ humans through the Quran as it tells humans what Allah expects and what he doesn't expect of you. I also think "miracles" are a way of Allah communicating with humans because he has given/done something they have wanted, so he ~~has~~ listens to people which again is another way of communicating.

(c) I think the belief in mercy and compassion in Allah is very important to muslims as it allows them to believe he is kind, caring and he is always doing the best he can do.

it is also important because it allows humans to trust Allah and believe what he tells them to do will help them or make them better people. It also shows us that Allah is omniscient and willing to do anything he can to help people.

Compassion is a good thing to believe Allah is because it shows he is serious about everything he does and he does everything for a reason. It also shows us how he is very caring towards people and is always there to talk to when needed.

mercy is also a good thing to believe Allah has because it shows he can forgive people even if they have done wrong and everyone deserves a second chance in what they do. I also think this suggests he will help people in pain and need to stop people from being unhappy with their lives.

So both mercy and compassion are good things to believe Allah is.

(d) (i) I do ~~belive~~ feel believing in the Qadar takes away your freedom to choose, because Qadar means allah has control over your future events, so believing in it doesn't give you much control or choice over what you want to do, or you would always be worried you were doing the wrong thing, or you were doing something allah wouldn't want you to do.

(ii) I think muslims would disagree with me here because they believe allah gives them a choice and gives them freedom if they do believe in the Qadar because that is what allah wants them to believe, so they would think ~~the~~ "allah would take away our freedom for following things he wants us to follow"

(a) Correct definition although different wording from the glossary
2 marks

(b) Personal point of view with two developed reasons

(i) 'through the Qur'an'...developed by...'tells what Allah expects'

(ii) 'Miracles because he has given/done'...developed by...'he has listened', which is another way of communication

Level 2

4 marks

(c) Three brief reasons

(i) 'Believe He is kind, caring and doing the best He can do'

(ii) 'Allows them to trust Him'

(iii) 'Can forgive people'

The candidate's QWC determines the upper or lower mark - not the quality of their RS. A candidate's communication has to be very poor to receive the lower mark. In this case, the candidate's communication is understandable so they will receive the higher of the 2 marks within Level 3.

Level 3

6 Marks

(d)(i) Personal viewpoint with one developed reason

(i) 'Allah has control'...developed by...'so believing it doesn't give you much choice'

2 marks

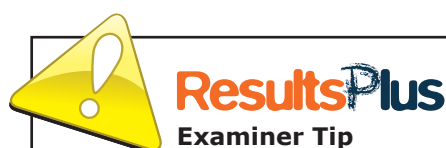
(d)(ii) Opposite viewpoint with one reason

(i) 'Allah has given a choice'

1 mark

SPaG = 3, high intermediate performance

Total = 18 marks



(d) Development must link with the question and to the reason already given.

Question 2 (a) (b) (c) (d)

This question is based on Section One in the specification: each of the sub-questions covers a different bullet point within the specification.

- (a) This question asked for the definition of *din*. It was answered very well by candidates; most candidates who did not know the glossary definition were able to give an alternative correct wording.
- (b) Most candidates were able to state their own opinion and then give a reason for why they believed or did not believe that Muslims should look after the world. However, frequently the candidates simply described how they should keep the world clean, which did not answer the question as set.
- (c) This question was generally well-answered by candidates, with the majority able to explain why the belief was important. Some able candidates linked the belief with how it would affect the lives of Muslims today.
- (d) Many candidates answered this question very well; they gave reasons for both sides of the argument.

In order to receive full marks on the (a) question it is necessary for candidates to show that they understand that *din* is more than just belief.

- (c) is a good example of a candidate using only two reasons but developing them to achieve full marks.

(a) *Din is the way of life*

(b) *I think all Muslims must look after the world because Allah has appointed humans as the stewards of the world, therefore we must treat Allah's creation with respect and use skills to look after the world. Allah will also judge us humans on our stewardship so we should take care of the world because we are appointed as khalifas.*

(c) Belief in Akiraah is important for Muslims because they believe when they die they will be judged on the grounds of their deeds. So Muslims will

be motivated to do the best of their ability from small to large things. Muslims believe when they die the good will go to jannah and the bad will go to jahannam. In order to go to go Heaven Muslims will observe the 5 pillars, concentrate on Allah, show kindness to others, be honest and fair, Avoid committing the sin shirk, Work in a job that is acceptable to Allah and Avoid paying interest.

(d) (i) I think 'expecting a reward for doing good' is wrong because Allah judges people if they have the right intentions to actually help someone. It also shows the greed and how selfish the person really is because they are thinking about their own benefit in order to do something you should expect something in return.

(ii) Someone who disagrees with me would say that the Quran and hadiths state that if you do a good deed you will get rewards such as reaching to paradise. By doing a good thing you should deserve a reward because it states it under the shariah law. Also to reach heaven you must do good things to gain the reward of heaven. Also the prophet highlighted in his teaching the people who do good things should expect rewards because Allah will judge you.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

(a) Correct definition
2 marks

(b) Personal opinion with two developed reasons

- (i) 'Appointed Stewards'...developed by...'use skills to look after it'
- (ii) 'Will be judged because we were appointed as khalifahs'

Level 2
4 marks

(c) Two developed reasons

- (i) 'Will be judged'...developed by...'motivated to do the best'...
- (ii) 'Rewarded or punished'...developed by...'so will observe'

The candidate's QWC determines the upper or lower mark - not the quality of their RS. A candidate's communication has to be very poor to receive the lower mark. In this case the candidate's communication is understandable so they will receive the higher of the 2 marks within Level 4.

Level 4
8 Marks

(d) (i) Personal viewpoint with one developed and one basic reason

- (i) 'Judges if they have the right intentions'
- (ii) 'Shows greed and how selfish'...developed by...'thinking of their own benefit'

3 marks

(d) (ii) Opposite viewpoint with three reasons

- (i) 'Stated in the Quran and hadiths'
- (ii) 'Deserve a reward because in Shariah law'
- (iii) 'Prophet also taught it'

3 marks
SPaG = 4

Total = 24 marks



ResultsPlus

Examiner Tip

If candidates change their mind about which question they are answering, they should cross through the work that they do not want to be marked.

(a) Din is what is in your heart, where your actions are right or wrong.

(b) Yes, I think all Muslims must look after the world because it is every Muslim's duty to look after the world for God. God has said in the Quran that it is the duty of Muslims to look after the world, as they believe in Allah and want to be closer to God. This can only happen if they do what God asks and that is to look after the world.

(c) Belief in Akhirah is important for Muslims because ~~Allah~~ Allah has said in the Quran that there is life after death and that all living things will die and return to Allah. Therefore, if you do not believe in Akhirah, you are not known as a Muslim and Allah says that those who do not believe in Akhirah will go astray. Also, there are many signs showing to Muslims that Akhirah will soon come. There are many signs and all come in different ways which shows Muslims that there is Akhirah. Furthermore, when a Muslim dies they will go to the Akhirah, this is an important belief that God does not create humans ~~that they~~ so they do not return to Allah. Allah creates humans and they will also return to Allah.

(d) (i) Yes, I think the statement is true as when you do good, you should do it from your heart and be generous, not by doing good and expecting a reward as that is not good. That is known as selfishness as you giving something just so you can get a reward.

(ii) Some people may disagree with me because they would say ~~the~~ people are still doing a good deed no matter what they think. They are being generous by doing something which belongs to that person. Allah says that if you do something good, I will give you a reward, something much greater. A person is still doing good to please Allah and help others.



- (a) This answer includes the idea of belief and practice and so receives full marks
2 marks
- (b) Personal viewpoint with one developed reason
The candidate has repeated the same reason and therefore is only credited once.
(i) 'Duty to look after the world'...developed by...'become closer to God'
Level 1
2 marks
- (c) One developed reason and one basic reason
(i) ...'taught in the Quran'....developed by...'will die and return to Allah'
(ii) ...'those who do not believe will go astray' Much of the response at the end of this does not answer the question.
Level 3
The candidate's QWC determines the upper or lower mark - not the quality of their RS. A candidate's communication has to be very poor to receive the lower mark. In this case the candidate's communication is understandable so they will receive the higher of the 2 marks within Level 3
6 marks
- (d) (i) Personal viewpoint with one basic reason
(i) ...'should be generous not selfish'
1 mark
- (d) (ii) Opposite viewpoint with three reasons
(i) ...'still doing good'
(ii) 'Allah promises a reward'
(iii) 'Pleases Allah'
3 marks
SPaG = 3 marks

It is intermediate performance but at the higher level. There is general control and a fair level of accuracy in spelling so it is the higher mark.

Total = 17 marks



- Definitions should be learned from the Edexcel glossary
- Candidates must identify their reason clearly in a (b) question. It may be for, against or may be undecided, as long as the candidate indicates that all reasons are their own opinion rather than 'Others may think....'
- Candidates are able to gain maximum marks in a number of ways: look carefully at the mark scheme
- Candidates should read the questions carefully and make sure that they understand the focus of the question

Question 3 (a)

Q3 was more popular than Q4, with the majority of candidates scoring well.

It is always best for candidates to learn the glossary definition but correct alternatives are accepted and are included in the mark scheme.

Question 3 (b) (c) (d)

This question is based on Section Two in the specification: each of the sub-questions covers a different bullet point within the specification.

This was a very popular question with candidates performing exceptionally well.

- (b) Most candidates were able to state their own opinion about whether respect should be shown to the Qur'an. Many Muslim candidates answered from a purely Islamic point of view, which was acceptable.
- (c) The majority of answers to this question about the role of the imam were very good. The strongest candidates developed their answers by explaining the importance of the role of the imam.
- (d) Candidates were able to give at least one reason in response to this, but many did not really understand what is involved in following Shari'ah law.

(b) I think ~~not~~ everyone in Islam should respect the Qur'an as it tells you the way in life and as prophet Muhammed has written the Qur'an means that Allah's original words are there as it's been left sealed by our final prophet, therefore everyone should show respect for the Quran.

Another reason why I think everyone in Islam should have high respect for the Quran is because ~~is~~ for muslims it was a huge significant miracle as prophet Muhammed could not read or write.

(c) One of the roles of an imam is to teach children in a Madrasah. So they are able to learn about Islam and the teachings, which they are made aware of the religion Islam. They also hold adult classes.

Another role of the imam is to help with ~~peop~~ people who just converted by counselling. The imam is able to give tips and ideas on how to live a muslim life.

Moreover, another role of the imam is to give ~~tear~~ lectures about Islam and go through the meaning of Islam. They ~~gor~~ hold adult classes and give ~~rules~~ talks about Islam and make people or muslim people ~~en~~ aware of the teachings and actions.

(d) (i) I agree ~~with~~ that muslim the only law muslims should follow is the shari'ah law because it has everything that should be done a muslim life written down. muslim people should follow the shari'ah law as it interprets what is written in the hadith. This is given in a muslim country.

(ii) However, some may disagree with me because in a non-muslim country they have their own law that they must follow. So people may choose to stick with their own countries law. Also, their Shari'ah law may be different as they are in a non-muslim country or they may not have a Shari'ah law at all.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

(b) Clear personal viewpoint with two developed reasons

(i) 'Allahs original words'...developed by...'sealed by the Prophet'

(ii) 'Huge miracle'...developed by...'could not read or write'

Level 2

4 marks

(c) Three roles outlined with one developed

(i) 'Teaches children'

(ii) 'Helping new converts'

(iii) 'Give lectures'...developed by...'aware of teachings and actions'

The candidate's Quality of Written Communication (QWC) determines the upper or lower mark - not the quality of their RS. A candidate's communication has to be very poor to receive the lower mark. In this case, the candidate's communication is understandable so they will receive the higher of the two marks within Level 4.

Level 4

8 Marks

(d) (i) Personal viewpoint with two reasons

(i) 'Everything that should be done written down'

(ii) 'Interprets the hadith'

2 marks

(d) (ii) Opposite viewpoint with one developed reason

(i) 'Non-Muslim country has own law'...developed by'Shari'ah may be different or not exist'

2 marks

Total = 16 marks

(b) Yes, I do think that everyone should show respect for the Quran. The Quran is the unchanged words of Allah so should be treated with respect. The Quran teaches Muslims how to live a halal lifestyle and that its message was spread by the Prophet Muhammad, who also treated the Quran with respect. The Quran is a holy book and so be treated with care, if dropped one must kiss the book and it should be placed on the highest shelf available.

(c) The imam leads the prayer in a mosque. The imam also teaches people about Islam and spreads the message of the religion, giving people dawah. The imam also performs at religious festivals such as weddings. The imam also helps and visits prisoners offering them religious and spiritual guidance. The imam can also help raise money for a mosque, collect people's zakat and sadaqah. The imam can also offer guidance to people who are in hardship for example those who are going through divorce or financial problems. The imam can offer counselling and guidance to people using their knowledge of the teachings of the Quran, the sunnah and understanding of Shariah law. The imam can convert those who wish to join the religion to Islam.

(d) (i) Yes, because Shariah law is compiled from teachings and information in the Quran and Hadith. Furthermore Shariah law governs what is halal and haram. In addition, Shariah law aids in uniting the ummah and outlines to Muslims what will happen on the day of judgement and how they can enter heaven.

(ii) People may argue that Shariah laws are outdated and no longer applicable in modern day society. Following Shariah law may be impractical in modern day, western societies. There is lots of media pressure which may cause Muslims to stop following Shariah law.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

(b) Personal viewpoint with several simple reasons

There are more than two reasons but none is a development - if candidates do not add new information supporting the reason and answering the question they cannot be credited.

According to the mark scheme only two reasons can be credited.

(i) 'Unchanged words of Allah'

(ii) 'Teaches Muslim how to live'

2 marks

(c) Four roles outlined

(i) 'Leads prayer'

(ii) 'Teaches about Islam'

(iii) 'Leads weddings'

(iv) 'Visits and gives guidance to people who need it'

The candidate's Quality of Written Communication (QWC) determines the upper or lower mark - not the quality of their RS. A candidate's communication has to be very poor to receive the lower mark. In this case, the candidate's communication is understandable so they will receive the higher of the two marks within Level 4.

Level 4

8 marks

(d) (i) Personal viewpoint with three simple reasons

(i) 'Compiled from Qur'an'

(ii) 'Governs halal and haram'

(iii) 'Unites the ummah'

3 marks

(d) (ii) Opposite viewpoint with three simple reasons

(i) 'Laws are outdated'

(ii) 'Unpractical in modern society'

(iii) 'Media pressure causes problems'

3 marks

Total = 16 marks

Question 4 (a)

Most candidates knew what was meant by *masjid* although some confused it with *madrasseh*.

(a) place of prostration



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

Mark scheme definition
2 marks



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

It is unnecessary to write long sentences in answer to (a) questions. A simple definition is all that is required.

(a) Masjid is a mosque that all the Muslims go there to pray five times.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

Although this is not the wording used in the mark scheme it is a sufficient paraphrase of the correct answer.
2 marks

Question 4 (b) (c) (d)

This question is based on Section Two in the specification: each of the sub-questions covers a different bullet point within the specification.

- (b) Many candidates found it difficult to develop their reasons on this question.
- (c) This question was answered well, although some candidates were unable to show how certain actions affected a Muslim's life, eg praying together.
- (d) Most candidates gave very good answers to this question and could give excellent reasons for both sides of the discussion.

(b) No, I don't think the differences between Muslims groups matter because at the end Shi'ahs, Muslims etc all believe in the oneness of Allah and that's the main beliefs which others beliefs stems out of. This is the foundation of every group and that's the significant part in Islam which is having Allah at the focal point. Secondly, I don't agree with this because even though conflicts may arise between the groups, it's human conflicts and can be stopped. and equality Islam is also a religion of peace, therefore the different groups should not become a barrier.

(c) Belonging to the ummah affects a Muslim's life in different ways. Firstly, being a part of the ummah, creates a sense of belonging and identity within the community as

everyone shares common beliefs. Due to this shared common beliefs unity increases for example Jummah prayers or the month of fasting, where ~~to~~ which is carried out by everyone no matter rich or poor.

Further, being a part of the community, increases compassion and love for one another. As ~~for~~ at time of difficulty a ^{Muslim} person will know that they have an imam, brothers, ~~or~~ sister in Islam that will support them. Therefore it gives them strength and live a happy life.

Being a part of the ummah also encourages Muslims to do good in life because they are part of the community and are representing the ummah. This way everyone can help each other become good Muslims.

The prophet ~~also~~ greatly emphasised on the significance of the ummah as he said "the ummah is joint like parts of body, when ^{part} one feels pain so does the rest." ~~1st~~ ^{1st} Mohammd is our primary role model and his teachings help us live a good life.

As being a part of the ummah increases sharing and caring with and for each other.

(d) (i) "All mosques should look the same." No, I don't agree with this statement because I believe that worship doesn't get accepted because of the ~~look~~^{design} of the building but however by the intention of the Muslim, it's the pure intention which matters.

Allah is everywhere, whether the mosque looks the same or not doesn't affect one's capability of worship.

Also, ~~some may say~~ I think Islam is a religion that focuses more on the inner heart and intention rather than materialistic factors.

(ii) Some people may disagree with me because they may say, the building and design of mosque being similar gives it an identity that it's a mosque and a place of respect and worship.

Some people may focus on the important features of mosques as significant such as the dome, minaret, mihrab so they may say it's important for the buildings to be the same because they each symbolise something, i.e. the dome being the symbol for universe. Others may believe in freedom and says people's opinion will differ.



(b) Personal viewpoint with two developed reasons

(i) 'Oneness of Allah'...developed by....'foundation of every group'

(ii) 'Conflicts are only human'...developed by ...'can be stopped so should not be a barrier'

Level 2

4 marks

(c) Three ways outlined with one developed

(i) 'Creates a sense of belonging'

(ii) 'Compassion and love for one another'...developed by...'giving strength'

(iii) 'Encourages Muslims to do good as they are representing the ummah'

Level 4

8 marks

(d) (i) Personal viewpoint with two reasons, one developed

(i) 'Worship not accepted because of the design of the building'...developed by...'pure intention that matters'

(ii) 'Allah is everywhere'

3 marks

(d) (ii) Opposite viewpoint with two reasons, one developed

(i) 'Gives it an identity'

(ii) 'Some features are significant'...'developed by...'symbolise something'

3 marks

Total = 18 marks



Candidates should read through their work after they have completed it.

They should check that they:

- have written what they intended to write
- cannot add anything else to their answers

(b) I don't think the differences between the muslim groups matter as after all all muslims are the same regardless of ~~their~~ beliefs and what their groups tell them to do. The differences they have make them right against each other

(c) Belonging to a ummah affects a muslim's life as a muslim acts like it's fellow muslim brothers and sisters and doing wrong can ~~effect~~ ^{affect} the whole ummah, as the ummah is supposed to be together and the ummah protect one another as they are from the same religion. An ummah is supposed to be united and bring everyone close to one another and may bring new convert into the religion as well.

whole ummah, as the ummah is supposed to be together and the ummah protect one another as they are from the same religion. An ummah is supposed to be united and bring everyone close to one another and may bring new convert into the religion as well.

(d) (i) I disagree because the mosque can look differently but as long as you can pray in it and read the Quran it is then further classified as a ~~mosque~~ good mosque.

(ii) Some people may disagree with me because all mosques are supposed to look like each other and then they can be classified as a mosque as people may get confused if that is a mosque or not



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

(b) Personal viewpoint with one reason

- (i) All Muslims are the same regardless of their beliefs and what their groups tell them to do.

This reason is not developed in any way. The next sentence goes against the candidate's opinion.

1 mark

(c) Two ways are outlined

- (i) 'Gives protection'
- (ii) 'Brings people close together'

This is rather confused.

Level 2

4 marks

(d) (i) Personal viewpoint with one reason

- (i) 'As long as you can pray in it and read Qur'an'

1 mark

(d) (ii) Opposite point of view with one reason

- (i) 'Can be classified as a mosque'

1 mark

Total = 7 marks



ResultsPlus

Examiner Tip

You can develop a reason very easily by giving a relevant example.

Question 5 (a)

This question caused some difficulties for candidates who confused *qiblah* with *Ka'aba*.

- (a) Qiblah is the direction which way muslim pray towards (Ka'abah).



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

Slightly different wording from the mark scheme but a correct definition
2 marks

- (a) The Qiblah is the house of Allah in Makkah which everyone goes around 7 times.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

Incorrect definition and no indication of the direction to face for prayer
0 marks

Question 5 (b) (c) (d)

This question is based on Section Three in the specification: each of the sub-questions covers a different bullet point within the specification.

Both questions in this section were equally popular and both were answered well.

- (b) Most candidates could give reasons for celebrating *Eid ul-Fitr*. Only a few mixed the two *Eids*.
- (c) All candidates could give reasons for the importance of *zakah*, with the most able also showing a good understanding of its spiritual significance.
- (d) Some candidates did not answer this question very well because they missed the word 'all' and consequently gave confused answers.

The candidate has given excellent reasons for the importance of *zakah*.

Far too many candidates resorted to phrases such as 'it is taught in the Qur'an which is the word of Allah' or, 'the Prophet did it and we must follow his example'.

They did not show either knowledge or understanding of *zakah*.

(b) I think all muslims should celebrate Id-ul-Fitr because muslims would fast for a ~~month~~ month and they would need a break from this by celebrating it.

I also think that muslims should celebrate ~~be~~ because it gives a chance to spend time with family and friends so you could have fun together.

(c) Giving zakah is important for muslims because it reminds them that the money they have is not theirs. It is a gift from

Allah which means that ~~that~~ they need to give money to the poor for food and shelter.

Secondly When Muslims give zakah is ~~purified~~ purifies them because having too much money can make someone very ~~stingy~~ selfish and it could make them very stingy because they can't let go of their money.

~~It~~ Finally is in the 5 pillars of Islam which means that if someone ~~wants~~ ^{wants} to be a good ~~muslim~~ muslim then they need to give zakah to ~~feel~~ feel better about themselves and others.

- (d) (i) I think to ~~be~~ be a good muslim you need to follow the 5 pillars of ~~Islam~~ ^{Islam}. This is because to be a good muslim the minimum thing you have to do is follow the 5 pillars of Islam. This is the most least thing a muslim can do to be a good muslim. Also they need to have full commitments to follow the 5 pillars.

- (ii) Some people may disagree with me because some Muslims might have financial difficulties which means they can't do Hajj or give Zakah. This is because they have less money and still do other things that will make them a better Muslim.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

- (b) Personal viewpoint with two simple reasons
- (i) 'Celebrating the end of the fast'
 - (ii) 'Chance to spend time with family and friends'
- 2 marks
- (c) Three reasons with one developed
- (i) 'Reminds them wealth is a gift from Allah'
 - (ii) 'Purifies them'...developed by...'can make someone very selfish'
 - (iii) 'One of the Five Pillars'
- Level 4
8 marks
- (d) (i) Personal viewpoint with one reason
- (i) 'Full commitment to follow'...
- 1 mark
- (d) (ii) Opposite viewpoint with one developed reason
- (i) 'Might have financial difficulties'...developed by...'do other things that will make them a better Muslim'
- 2 marks

Total = 13 marks

(b) I think all muslims should celebrate id-ul-fitr as it is a way of breaking the fast. Allah has gave this celebration because you spend ramadan fasting during daylight hours this is also known as sawm.

Another reason why ~~it is~~ think that ^{all} muslims should celebrate id-ul-fitr is because the people who have fasted have a reward from Allah it's a way to get all the family together and go to special which will bring the Ummah together.

(c) Zakah is important to give to muslims because it removes greedyness and selfishness. Giving money for example, to poverty will purify a person as your benefiting them.

Another reason why zakah is important to give is because in the Quran it is written no matter how poor people are they should be treated as muslim brothers and sisters. You & The richer should give 2.5% of their income to the poor as people who are poor are not any different than us.

Another reason why zakah is important is because all muslims must treat everyone with respect. Giving money towards the poor will help ~~strong~~ strengthen the ummah as you will be treating people fairly. You are also obeying Allah's command by doing this as it is the word of Allah.

(d) (i) I disagree with this statement because all five pillars Shahadah, Salah, Sawm, Hajj and Zakah you must do in order to get sunnah by Allah and if you want a good life after death. They are all very important as they were ~~also~~ commanded by Allah muslim people cannot ignore that.

(ii) Some people ~~may~~ may disagree with me because they may believe it differently and think not all is relevant. For example, zakah they may not be able to give money towards the poor ~~poor~~ people as they themselves are finding it difficult to do that so they may believe it is not relevant to do zakah.



(b) Clear personal viewpoint with two developed reasons

(i) 'Breaking the fast'...developed by...'given by Allah'

(ii) 'Brings the family together'...developed by...'and the ummah together'

Level 2

4 marks

(c) Four reasons given

(i) 'Purifies your wealth'

(ii) 'Treat the poor as brothers and sisters'

(iii) 'Strengthens the ummah'

(iv) 'Obeys Allah'

Level 4

8 marks

(d)(i) Personal viewpoint with three simple reasons

(i) ...'get good sunnah'

(ii) 'Good life after death'

(iii) 'Cannot ignore command by Allah'

3 marks

(d)(ii) Opposite viewpoint with one developed reason

(i) 'Not all are relevant'...developed by...'the example of Zakah'

2 marks

Total = 17 marks

Question 6 (a)

In order to receive full marks candidates needed to show that they understood that *Eid* is a celebration, as well as knowing which *Eid* is mentioned.

(a) celebration of eid for Hajj.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

There is a clear indication that this candidate knows what *Eid ul-Adha* is.

2 marks



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

It is always best to learn the glossary definition.

Two elements are required to be fully correct: sacrifice/*hajj* and festival/celebration.

(a) Eid-ul-adha is the eid of sacrifice.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

Here, the candidate has mentioned only one element – sacrifice ...*eid* is taken from the question and is therefore only partially correct.

1 mark

Question 6 (b) (c) (d)

This question is based on Section Three in the specification: each of the sub-questions covers a different bullet point within the specification.

- (b) This question was answered well and most candidates were able to state their own opinion about whether fasting makes a person a better Muslim.
- (c) Although most candidates who answered this question received the full 8 marks, many of the responses were disappointing because they did not show any depth of understanding about the importance of *salah*.
- (d) More able candidates were able to see that this question was about the significance and symbolism of the different parts of *hajj*. They gave excellent answers expressing their viewpoint, and that of those who might disagree with them.

Some candidates simply wrote about visiting Makkah as a good thing to do and then were unable to give any reasons against their opinion.

The answer to (c) is very good in this example. The candidate understands the value of prayer.

(b) I do think fasting makes a person a better muslim because they try harder to refrain from sin, for example, ~~fast~~ smoking harms the body, and this is forbidden when one is fasting.

Fasting also enables a person to develop self control and also makes them remember the poor because of the hunger they endure. Sawm is fasting, and by fasting, a person is observing one of the five pillars of Islam, making them a good muslim.

(c) Salah is important for muslims because it was given by Allah as a gift. It was revealed to the Prophet by Allah himself, and so muslims use it to worship Allah, which is their main purpose in life. Salah is also the second pillar of Islam, which a muslim must follow if he wishes to please Allah. By not following the five pillars, a person cannot be a practising muslim.

Salah is holy, as the person performing it is coming into direct contact with Allah, and therefore they must be in the state of wudhu (ablution).

~~Salah~~ Muslims must remember Allah every day, and Salah gives them the opportunity to do this; at five allocated times per day. The Prophet stressed the importance of salah, as even ill people can do it. It has been stated that even if one is dying on their death bed, Salah is compulsory. The Quran lays out strict punishment for those who do not perform it, or delay it.

(d) (i) I disagree with this because the Prophet said that if a person performing Hajj arrives late but joins the other pilgrims at Arafat, his Hajj will still be accepted, so going to Makkah ~~is~~ is not the most important part of Hajj.

Makkah is not the only place where pilgrims go on Hajj, as other places such as ~~Arafat~~ Arafat bear significance too.
Mina

(ii) Some may agree with the statement because the Kaabah is the central part of Hajj, and is located in Makkah, therefore Makkah is the most important part of Hajj.

They may also believe that ~~be~~ the statement is correct because the Prophet was born in Makkah, and it is the most holiest place for Muslims.



(b) Personal viewpoint with two reasons, one developed with an example

(i) 'Prevents sin'...developed by example of smoking

(ii) 'Develops self control'

The continuation of the answer introduces further reasons but no development.

Level 2

3 marks

(c) Four brief reasons

(i) 'Given as a gift for worship'

(ii) 'Second Pillar which is compulsory'

(iii) 'Comes into contact with Allah'

(iv) 'Remembers Allah every day'

Level 4

8 marks

(d) (i) Personal viewpoint with two reasons

(i) 'Prophet said going to Arafat makes your hajj accepted'

(ii) 'Mina is significant'

2 marks

(d) (ii) Opposite viewpoint: two reasons, of which one is developed

(i) 'Ka'aba is the central part of hajj'

(ii) 'Prophet was born in Makkah'...developed by...'holiest place for Muslims'

3 marks

Total = 16 marks

(b) I do not think fasting makes a person a better Muslim because firstly it does not bring you any closer to Allah. And secondly fasting is not requested by Allah in the Quran, so how could you be a better Muslim for doing it.

(c) Salah (the five daily prayers) is important for Muslim because firstly, it brings the closer to Allah as they are praying to him atleast 5 times a day. Secondly as Salah is a requirement for all Muslims, all Muslims more connected when performing Salah, it brings the Ummah closer. Thirdly Salah is important to Muslims because it will help them live a good Muslim life, which ~~is~~ in turn, will end up with the being judged accordingly on judgement day. Finally it enables the Muslim to feel comforted in the Ummah as all of ~~the~~ their fellow Muslims are also doing it.

(d) (i) I do agree that ~~Hajj~~ going to Makkah is the most important part of the Hajj because it is a requirement for all Muslims to do ~~atleast~~ atleast once in their lives. Secondly Makkah is a holy place for Muslims so going there in the Hajj for Muslims brings a sense of togetherness and closeness to Allah because they have completed the Hajj.

(ii) ~~Some people~~ Some people may disagree with me because they believe that the purity of having your ~~the~~ head shaved and wearing a white robe is the most important part of the Hajj. Secondly they might argue that the Hajj is not over until you've finished ~~the Hajj~~ circling the Ka'bah seven times.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

(b) Personal viewpoint with one reason

(i) 'Does not bring you closer to Allah'

The second reason is clearly incorrect so is not credited

1 Mark

(c) Four reasons

(i) 'Brings them closer to Allah'

(ii) 'Helps them lead a good life'

(iii) 'Help on Judgement Day'

(iv) 'Joins with the ummah'

Level 4

8 marks

(d)(i) Personal viewpoint with two reasons

(i) 'Holy place for Muslims'

(ii) 'Brings a sense of togetherness'

2 marks

(d)(ii) Opposite viewpoint with one basic reason

(i) 'purity...white robe most important'

1 mark

Total = 12 marks



ResultsPlus

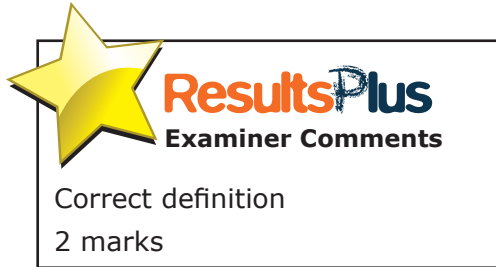
Examiner Tip

(d) Many candidates are answering this question from the perspective of what one does at *hajj* rather than the place. It is important to read the question carefully.

Question 7 (a)

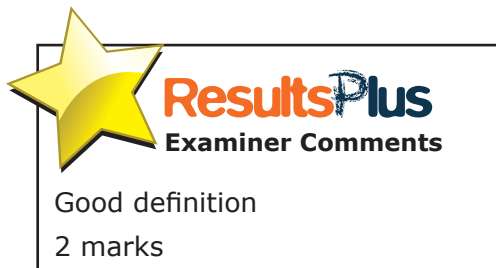
Most candidates knew the glossary definition of *halal* and so gained full marks.

(a) Something which is permitted in Islam



Candidates who simply referred to food that was allowed only received 1 mark because this would be an example of *halal*, not a definition.

(a) It means that it is allowed in Islam.



Question 7 (b) (c) (d)

This question is based on Section Four in the specification: each of the sub-questions covers a different bullet point within the specification.

It was noticeable that many of Q7 and Q8 responses were not complete; candidates are advised to spend about 20 minutes on each question.

- (b) Better candidates were able to answer this question regarding whether or not death rituals are important.
- (c) Most candidates responded well to this question concerning why Muslim laws on dress are important. They were able to develop their reasons using statements from the *hadith*. However, some candidates simply described what the laws were and such responses could only achieve Level 1 = 2 marks.
- (d) Few candidates were able to respond to the quote about community cohesion and appeared to have very little understanding of what it meant. Some candidates simply referred to the *ummah* and not to the wider community.

Some candidates were able to give their own opinion and reasons for it, but were unable to explain why others might disagree with their opinion.

For (d) questions it is important that candidates are encouraged to discuss fully both their own opinions and the reasons for them, and those opinions that other people might hold.

This is a typical example of a candidate who found it difficult to answer this question.

(b) I think death rituals are important because it allows you to reflect on your life, when you are at a funeral prayer and see these rituals, the meaning is clear, saying 'O Allah you created us, you will take us away' 'people know that they are going to die one day So they try their best to please Allah'.

(c) Dress laws for muslim are very important, Islam teaches us Women must dress modestly with loose clothing and avoid attraction, they must wear a hijab

(head scarf) and cover their whole body. And almost same principle for men, must dress modestly and wear trousers above ankle and avoid tight clothing.

(d) (i) I agree because it shows everyone is equal to each other and no one is better than each other it creates peace in society.

(ii) Some may disagree, may believe that their religion is better than others and they might not live my way some one practises their religion.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

(b) Personal viewpoint with one developed reason

(i) 'Reflect on their life'...developed by...'try their best to please Allah'

2 marks

(c) This is a description of the dress laws, not the reasons why they are important, therefore it can only reach Level 1.

Level 1

2 marks

(d) (i) Personal viewpoint with two brief reasons

(i) 'everyone is equal to each other'

(ii) 'It creates peace in society'

2 marks

(d) (ii) Opposite viewpoint with one brief reason

(i) 'Think their religion is better'...

1 mark

Total = 7 marks



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

(c) Candidates will be able to check they have written sufficient to gain full marks by using a paragraph for each reason.

(b) Yes, I think death rituals are important as Firstly, they create God consciousness and the existence of life after death. Death rituals also remind people that this life is temporary and we all have to return to Allah.

Secondly death rituals also provide comfort to relatives of the deceased as they are able to mourn the death of their loved one and also contemplate on their actions.

(c) Muslim laws on dress are important as Firstly, the laws of ~~the~~ Islam encourage people to dress modestly whether they are male or female as it prevents from other sins which may occur due to immodest clothing.

Secondly, the laws on dress are important as they are mentioned in the Quran which is the eternal guidance and unchanged words of Allah for muslims Quran is the holy book and should be respected to gain reward in the hereafter. Hence, the laws on dress are important.

Thirdly, the muslim laws on dress are important because they are encouraged by the Prophet S.A.W in the Hadith and sunnah. Therefore they should be followed in order to stay on the right path and for the pleasure of Allah.

Furthermore, muslims laws on dress are also important because they help stay away from other sins or temptation ~~by both~~ for both males and females.

(d) (i) Yes, I agree with this statement as I believe all muslims should work for social and community cohesion as firstly, it is mentioned in the Quran that all beings are equal regardless of their race, age & gender as they are all creations of Allah. Therefore, it is their duty and responsibility to live together in peace and unity.

Secondly, muslims should work for social and community cohesion as it creates love within the community and also brings together the ummah. Also, it is the sunnah of prophet Muhammad SAW to help others and look out for people in the community.

(ii) Someone may disagree with me as they may think prayer and worshipping Allah is more important than working for social and community cohesion.

They may also think that working for social and community cohesion is expensive and may be time consuming, and the time and money could be spent elsewhere. ^{Also} ~~as~~ not all people are willing to achieve social and community cohesion and it may cause conflicts.



(b) Personal viewpoint with two developed reasons

(i) 'Create God consciousness'...developed by...'remind people we have to return to Allah'

(ii) 'Provide comfort for the relatives'...developed by...'able to mourn'...

Level 2

4 marks

(c) Three reasons with one developed

(i) 'Prevents other sins'

(ii) 'Follow the Qur'an and gain rewards'

(iii) 'Encouraged by the Prophet'...developed by...'in order to stay on the right path'

Level 4

8 marks

(d) (i) Personal viewpoint with two reasons, one of which is developed

(i) 'All beings are equal'...developed by...'all creations of Allah'

(ii) 'Creates love within the community'

3 marks

(d) (ii) Opposite viewpoint two reasons, one of which is developed

(i) 'Prayer and worship are important'

(ii) 'Expensive and time consuming'...developed by...'could be spent elsewhere'

3 marks

Total = 18 marks

Question 8 (a)

Most candidates who answered this question gained full marks. Candidates who only gave an example of a country or wrote 'a Muslim country' received 1 mark for a partially correct answer because these were not definitions.

(a) Dar-ul-Islam is the name given to countries who only follow
Shariah, Islamic, law.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

Full, correct definition
2 marks

(a) A country that is governed by shariah law.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

Correct definition
2 marks

Question 8 (b) (c) (d)

This question is based on Section Two in the specification: each of the sub-questions covers a different bullet point within the specification.

This question was not answered well. Many candidates lacked knowledge and others did not have enough time. Some candidates answered parts from both Q7 (b)(c)(d) and Q8 (b)(c) (d) and consequently could not achieve full marks.

(b) Many candidates had difficulty with this question and clearly had little knowledge of *riba*.

(c) Few candidates answered this question well. Most only wrote about food laws and missed the significance of *halal* and *haram*.

(d) Some candidates left this question blank because they had no more time.

This candidate gives four clear reasons for the importance of *halal* and *haram*.

(b) NO, because in the UK there are not many banks who give interest-free loans.

Also mortgages are ~~also~~ needed and Muslim laws on Riba stop that because mortgages involve interest

In addition to this credit cards involve interest unless it's paid off at the end of the month but still people have credit cards with interest.

(c) They're important because they protect us for example the ~~prohibition~~ use of alcohol is haram for a reason, it has various health effects etc

They give us a guideline of what we can and can't do and it helps us to live a better life.

It gives us a sense of identity in the community and shows that we are Muslims.

Lastly By following Haram and Halal laws it brings us closer to Allah.

Proph

relieve suffering
most important
teaching to follow.

(d) (i) I agree because we have a duty to look after the world and we should help others because we are part of one Ummah.

Also our ~~par~~ prophet (SAW) used to help the poor as much as he could and we should try and follow his example.

(ii) Some people may disagree with this because the teaching of tawhid is more important.

Some muslim may not be able to follow the teaching because they may be helpless themselves.

Also suffering can be caused by natural disasters, which can't be helped.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

(b) Personal viewpoint with two basic reasons

- (i) 'Not many banks'
- (ii) 'Mortgages are needed'

This answer is very confused but the candidate is saying that *riba* is not important because it cannot work in the UK. This was credited as an alternative approach.

2 marks

(c) Four reasons

- (i) 'Protect our health'
- (ii) 'Live a better life'
- (iii) 'Sense of identity'
- (iv) 'Brings us closer to Allah'

Level 4

8 marks

(d) (i) Personal viewpoint with three brief reasons

- (i) 'Duty to look after the world'
- (ii) 'We should help others'
- (iii) 'Follow the example of the Prophet'

3 marks

(d) (ii) Opposite viewpoint with three brief reasons

- (i) 'Teaching of Tawhid more important'
- (ii) 'Some may be helpless themselves'
- (iii) 'Natural disasters can't be helped'

3 marks

Total = 16 marks



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

(d) Candidates can use development and examples in (d) sub-questions to improve their answers.

(b) Muslim laws on riba are important as because if we do not follow the laws we are not obeying the command of Allah. This also displeases him.

the second reason why it is important is because if ~~we do not~~ we do riba we are doing a bad deed. Also it can become addictive and ruin family life. Family life is more important than riba.

(c) The laws of halal and haram are important because if we do not follow them we are going against the teachings of Allah and the sunnah of the prophet.

The laws are based on the Quran and if we do not follow we are going against the teachings. This also means against the sharia law which doesn't make you a good muslim.

It is also important if Allah has told us what to eat and not eat this is for our benefit. Like wine if to listen to music because music can be addictive and lead you away to the wrong path.

Another reason why it is important is because Allah cares for us so we must rely on Allah as he is omniscient and knows what is right and wrong. These laws are important we want to become good muslims, and live a good life and go to jannah.

(d) (i) I agree that "relieving suffering is the most important teaching to follow" as we are doing something which pleases and pleases, earn reward and not thinking about ourselves as because we want to help other to become good people and live a happy life.

If we relieve suffering, this means relieving poverty, famine and homelessness. we are also following in the footsteps of the prophet and the sunnah.

(ii) Someone may disagree and say that believing in the angels is the most important teaching because they record our good and bad deeds on our shoulders.

Also ~~another~~ Another important teaching is to respect your parents as they are the ones who raised you up and cleaned and clothed you. It is said we shouldn't utter the 'oof' or 'ach' as we are being disrespectful to our ~~parents~~ parents. we should treat them with respect as they we are thought to be a gift from God.



- (b) Personal viewpoint with one basic and one developed reason
- (i) 'not obeying the command of Allah'...developed by...'this displeases him'
 - (ii) 'doing a bad deed' There are further reasons but no development
- 3 marks
- (c) Three reasons with one developed
- (i) 'if we do not follow them, going against the teachings of Allah'
 - (ii) 'If you go against them you are not a good Muslim'
 - (iii) 'They are for our benefit'...developed by the example of music
- Level 4
8 marks
- (d) (i) Personal viewpoint with two reasons - one is developed
- (i) 'Doing something which pleases Allah'...developed by...'earn reward'
 - (ii) 'Following the footsteps of the Prophet'
- 3 marks
- (d) (ii) Opposite viewpoint with two reasons
- (i) 'Angels – because they record our deeds'
 - (ii) 'Respect your parents as they raised you'
- 2 marks

Total = 16 marks

Paper Sumamary

Candidates produced some very interesting answers to the questions posed. The increase in the mean on this paper indicated that candidates have increased the maturity of their responses when answering the questions. Candidates had not only studied the topic but also, importantly, had linked them with their everyday life and the society around them.

Based on their performance on this paper, candidates are offered the following advice.

- There is a choice of two questions per section, each as four sub-questions. Candidates may either attempt the sub-questions in the top question (odd numbers) or the sub-questions in the bottom question (even numbers). Candidates who choose questions from a combination of the top and bottom questions will not receive marks for all of their responses and, as such, are at a clear disadvantage
- Candidates are asked to indicate which question they have answered by writing a cross in a square at the top of the paper. Some candidates did not do this. They should be reminded to do this as part of examination preparation
- The amount of lines given is more than adequate for candidates to achieve maximum marks; there is no need for candidates to write more than this.
- If candidates write more than can be inserted into the allocated lineage they are using up too much time on that particular question and, inevitably, will place themselves at a disadvantage later in the paper. Almost all of the candidates who used extra paper had already achieved the maximum marks for that question
- There was a number of candidates who did not complete the final section this year due to timing difficulties. Candidates should be encouraged to spend about twenty minutes per question leaving ten minutes to check through work at the end of the paper
- The paper is marked on a computer screen, by examiners. Candidates are asked to write using a black pen: this is important so that clear images are reproduced
- Maximum marks on the (a) questions are easily gained by learning the Pearson glossary definitions in the appendix of the specification. Candidates who had learned the glossary wording performed to a high standard
- Only the candidate's point of view is credited in (b) questions: there is no point in explaining other people's views in this question. The easiest way to gain full marks is for candidates to concentrate on stating their opinion and writing two separate reasons for it, each in a distinct paragraph, and then to develop each of the reasons with an example or a quote. Candidates who are taught to discuss why people disagree with their opinion in (b) questions are severely disadvantaged
- Candidates can gain the higher mark within the level by writing coherently. This mark is the Quality of Written Communication mark and is only lost if a candidate's writing is such that it is not easily understandable by the examiner. The (c) questions test AO1 and so are likely to ask for candidates to 'Explain why' or to 'Explain how
- Many of the (d) questions this year produced interesting answers. However, candidates should ensure that they start by stating their own view and reasons for it in (d)(i) and state reasons why someone might hold a different view in (d)(ii), rather than confusing the two halves.
- At least one of the reasons given in either (d)(i) or (d)(ii) must be explicitly religious to go beyond 3 marks

Teachers who would like to learn more about the specification and this year's examination in particular should attend an online Pearson Inset, which can be booked through the Pearson website. Specific queries can be answered through *Ask the Expert*, which is also found on the Pearson website.

The new specification, together with sample exam papers, will be available on-line as unaccredited in August 2015. Free on-line training and face-to-face training may be booked on-line at present. Pearson is also providing many resources for the new specification on line including schemes of work, planners, candidate exemplars and mapping documents.

Grade Boundaries

Grade boundaries for this, and all other papers, can be found on the website on this link:

<http://www.edexcel.com/iwantto/Pages/grade-boundaries.aspx>

Ofqual



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Welsh Assembly Government



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