

Examiners' Report/ Principal Examiner Feedback

June 2011

GCE Religious Studies
6RS04_1F
Islam

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1F Islam

Congratulations are due to many candidates who achieved success in their thorough understanding of the selected passage and for their commendable examination techniques. It is essential for candidates to examine the passage on the exam paper. Candidates must relate what they have learned and apply it to the extract. What is essential is an explicit focus on the text, whatever method is used to examine it. There was evidence of some candidates inserting several paragraphs of material not linked to the question.

The division on the paper into the two assessment objectives is intended to assist candidates to structure their answers and to enable them to make sensible use of their time in the allocation of material. In most cases candidates had the required examination technique to make effective use of their material. There is no necessary requirement to follow the structured division as seen in the question. However, for candidates creating a holistic answer, there is a tendency to pay inadequate attention to AO2, especially in relation to the implications aspect of part (b).

Assessment Objective 1: Most answers reflected sound subject knowledge of the Muslim belief of *akirah* and its implications in the life of a Muslim. Successful candidates provided background details relating to Ibn Sina and demonstrated the ability to explain the passage correctly. The better responses contained detailed background knowledge of the passage and set text as a whole as well as an understanding of Islam that enhanced the examination and analysis of key ideas within the passage. Candidates made reference to such relevant philosophers as Plato, Kant and Descartes; belief systems such as dualism and materialism and to other World Religions.

Weaker responses did not focus so tightly upon the passage and were generally more descriptive and basic whilst some simply gave an account of life after death and judgement or described the religion of Islam at an introductory level. A few candidates presented an overview of the total source and this was at the expense of a focused examination of the selected text itself.

Assessment Objective 2: Though some candidates spent too little time on part (b) of the question, a few spent the greater amount of time writing much fuller answers for part (b). This was a problem for some candidates as marks available for part b) were only two thirds of those available for part (a). Hence candidates should be aware of the distribution of marks and time their sections carefully in order to gain maximum for each section. Responses gaining marks in the higher levels made their points clearly and with confidence, contrasting their ideas with those of Ibn Sina and other related scholars. Weaker responses lacked focus on the question, some gave their own views without supporting them with evidence and others gave partial answers.

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