



Pearson
Edexcel

A level Religious Studies

9RS0 4D

Study of Religion - Islam

Scripts for Feedback
training





Question 1:

1 Explore the Muslim belief in tawhid.

(8)

The muslim belief in tawhid is essential as it is one of the six articles of faith. There are three types of Tawhid, the first one is Tawhid al Rububiyyah, this is the belief in the 'oneness' of God and the idea that God is the divine creator of all things. The shirk that negates this belief is Polytheism as this belief system worships more than one thing, which in the time of Jahiliya this is seen as idols. The second type of Tawhid is Tawhid al asma wa as sifat, this is believing in the oneness of God through his 'attributes' and characteristics, such as his 99 names which are used to describe God. An example of God's attributes is stated in Surah 1 of the anthology extract, which is the "Most gracious Most merciful". The shirk that negates this belief is anthropomorphism, which is giving God human attributes, an example of this can be the christian belief of God being through human form as a holy spirit. The last Tawhid is Tawhid al ibada, this is believing in the oneness of God through 'praise and worship', for example practising the five pillars of Islam which is belief (shahada), Prayer (salah), fasting (sawm), charity (zakat) and Pilgrimage (Hajj). There are two shirks that negate this, outward shirk which is the explicit belief that God doesn't exist and ~~inner~~ hidden shirk which is the Muslims that are hypocrites and pretend to be devoted muslims. The importance of Tawhid is shown through the fact that it is believed in by all muslim sects, including sunni, shia and sufi muslims.



Question 2:

2 Assess the importance of the Rightly Guided Caliphs in relation to the spread of Islam.

(12)

The first caliph after the death of the Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W) was the caliph Abu Bakr (Muhammad (S.A.W)'s closest friend) and essentially his main role was to solidify Islam as a religion, especially after Muhammad (S.A.W) death. 'Those of you who follow Islam understand that the Prophet has now passed on, however Allah (S.W.T) and the message of Islam lives on forever,' is what he preached and cemented ~~as~~ further into Islam in order to deter anyone from straying away. ~~He~~ He can be said to be very important, as in doing so, it allowed for ~~them~~ ^{people} to understand the true meaning of Islam at it without the Prophet (S.A.W) as well as the fact that if he hadn't done so it wouldn't been a risk to people worshipping the Prophet or going against each other which is against Islam, making him overall important. However he isn't seen as important for Shia Muslims due to them ~~having~~ holding the firm belief that Ali was meant to be the first 'rightly guided' caliph.

~~However~~ Moreover, the second Caliph was Umar ~~to~~ and he is considered as the most important by many muslim scholars today as well.



an ~~active~~ learner of Islam such as Karen Armstrong.
Umar essentially carried out the expansion of Islam by conquering lands which were never thought to ever have been conquered such as Damascus and Egypt as well as creating ties with prominent chiefs and ~~the~~ establishing Islam as a culture. His main ~~significance~~ importance is seen through his strong personality in implementing Islamic laws such as the prohibition of gambling and drinking, as well as the expansion of Islam into different tribes and cultures. His importance is ~~limited~~ can be said to be limited ~~as~~ although by Shias for the same reason as Abu Bakr however I still hold the belief that he was of great importance as if Umar did not use his strict techniques, Islam ~~would not~~ could've been subject to change and ~~not~~ going against Islam, making Umar very important.

Uthman was the next caliph after Umar and he was of greater importance in terms of ~~the~~ making sure the Qur'an (the holy book/scripture for Muslims) was ~~to~~ to be remained unchanged. He gathered all scribes and ruled out pieces which were unnecessary which can be seen of great importance ~~to~~ is the preservation of the Qur'an as well as for Muslims today is acknowledging



the fact that the Qur'an was 'unchanged' being purely the 'word of Allah.'

However, it can be argued that Uthman wasn't very important as in doing what he did, pieces of the Qur'an were left out which some sects believe as well as minority sects of Islam. This however ~~would~~ does not address the fact that Allah said that the Qur'an will never be altered/changed so it is not upto humans to ~~change~~ decide whether or not it has been. ~~This~~

The fact that the Qur'an is one of the six beliefs shows the significance of it to this day in muslims everyday lives through prayer and worship. This therefore leads me to believe that Uthman was a key figure in preserving the Qur'an as at the time different versions existed, and if not eliminated would have then caused the Qur'an to not be the true word of God.

~~Overall, I would say Overall, I would agree~~

Ali came after ~~to~~ Uthman and his role was to essentially carry on what the previous Caliph did, maintaining the peace.

Overall, I believe that all three of the rightly guided Caliphs had a great impact on the spread of Islam due to all contribution affecting Islam today, however.

~~I would support the view that~~

(Total for Question 2 = 12 marks)

Umar can be seen as the most important due to his great advances for Islam.

TOTAL FOR SECTION A = 20 MARKS



Question 3:

Surah 1. The Opening

1. In the name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful. *Mr. names*
2. Praise be to Allah, the Cherisher and Sustainer of the worlds;
3. Most Gracious, Most Merciful;
4. Master of the Day of Judgment. *Akumh*
5. Thee do we worship, and Thine aid we seek.
6. Show us the straight way, *Islem* not *polytheism*
7. The way of those on whom Thou hast bestowed Thy Grace, those whose (portion) is not wrath, and who go not astray.

Surah 2: 21-22

21. O ye people! Adore your Guardian-Lord, Who created you and those who came before you, that ye may have the chance to learn righteousness; *Christianity, Hinduism*
22. Who has made the earth your couch, and the heavens your canopy; and sent down rain from the heavens; and brought forth therewith fruits for your sustenance; then set not up rivals unto Allah when ye know (the truth). *polytheism*

(Source: Extracts from 'The Holy Qur'an (Classics of World Literature)', by Yusuf Ali, A., Wordsworth, 2000, Edexcel Anthology)

- 3 (a) Clarify the key beliefs about Allah illustrated in these passages.

You must refer to these passages in your response.

(10)

A verse from one of the 114 Surahs is called an aya. In aya 1 the phrase 'Most Gracious, Most Merciful' is a reference to Allah's 99 beautiful names. These names are either from the Qur'an or derived from the belief in Allah and the beliefs that come with



That for example Tawhid shows us Allah is all powerful. Other names are mentioned in sura 2 'Cherisher and Sustainer of the world'. Sura 3 makes reference to 'the Day of Judgement' which links to the belief in Akhirah. When the day of Judgement comes, Israel will send the trumpet and the world will end. We will be resurrected and judged on our actions in our life whether we go to Al-Jannah (Heaven) or Al-Jannam (Hell). There are 7 levels to heaven which Muhammed ascended through during the night journey, with the top being the greatest heaven. Sura 5 mentions 'worship' or ibadah. This is doing the duty of completing the 5 pillars, a muslim must do to receive an after-life in heaven. Sura 7 mentions 'go not astray' referencing monotheist religions which have followed the wrong path such as Christianity or Judaism.



Smith 2 mentions 'chance to
learn righteousness'. The Qur'an has
a strong emphasis on justice for
everyone whether a friend or enemy.
Muslims are taught to always be
just. Finally the phrase 'set not
up rivals unto Allah' is another
way of saying polytheism is
rejected. The belief in many gods.
Not only is it rejected, it is
also shirk making it an unforgivable
sin. Muslims should avoid.



so beautiful. Much shorter 114
(b) Analyse the claim that the Qur'an is the revealed word of Allah.

These many other Quran is as 12 volumes

Qur'an has not together
(20) by chief
sch

The Qur'an is the formation of the 114 surahs Muhammad received in order of length (with the exception of surah 11). The first surah was revealed to Muhammad on the night of power (Laylat al-Qadr) by the Angel Jibril (Gabriel) who instructed Muhammad to recite. They would later be written on pieces such as leather and stored in a box by Muhammad's wife. Muhammad died before he could place them in chronological order so Abu Bakr ordered them to be put together in order of length. For all Muslims the Qur'an is the revealed word of Allah however some sceptics may challenge this belief. I personally am sceptical if the Qur'an is the revealed word of Allah.

Muslims agree the fact that the Qur'an is written so beautifully



that it has to have been sent
by Allah. To this day Muslims are
taught and so they can read
and recite the Quran as this is
when it sounds its best. It is
said the writing and language are so
beautiful that many converts as they
just because they hear it. For
Muslims this is a strong argument
the Quran is the revealed word
word of Allah.

Muslims also agree it is not
possible for the Quran to have
been made up by Muhammad as
he was illiterate. They would agree
it is almost impossible for Muhammad
to have fabricated

A skeptic might question how
or why an all powerful god would have
to send so many revelations in
order to save humanity. A Muslim
would say the previous books had
been corrupted but a skeptic
may respond arguing that all powerful
but surely would have been



able to make sure humans do not corrupt his word. Muslims may agree the Qur'an has to be the revealed word of God as otherwise we have no knowledge of him we need a good after life. The Qur'an provides the essential details as to how a Muslim can lead a good life and receive his accepted to Al-Tammah (paradise). Without this knowledge we have no way of knowing how to avoid Al-Tammah.

A sceptic might question the motives of Muhammad. They might agree the Qur'an justified giving Muhammad power and this was as seen when Muhammad was made leader of Yathrib (later called Medina). It is plausible Muhammad had this ~~and~~ then created so he could further his power.

A Muslim ~~and~~ would reject this view as even before Muhammad's prophethood he was ~~had~~



litter such as al-amin (the
burial of one). Muhammad was
somebody many people buried making
him very unlikely to lie for
the sake of power.

Some sceptics may suggest
Muhammad was just hallucinating
or was epileptic and had visions
simply due to something such as
dehydration. Muslims could silence this
point by arguing for no Muhammad
to consistently have these vivid
images is unlikely, especially as
the end product was something
as beautiful as the Qur'an.

Shi'a hold the viewpoint that
humans can add to the Qur'an
and believe mention of the 12
imams is needed. They also believe
the Qur'an can only be interpreted
by humans but they still believe
the Qur'an to be the word
of Allah.

In conclusion I believe am
sceptical of the view that



The Qur'an is the revealed
word of Allah. There is
little empirical evidence to prove
the angel Jibril did pass it
on. However, I do respect Muslims
who follow the Qur'an as it
contains good teaching which
aid the community in a positive
way.



4. Nick's ideas of moral eras have been criticised by traditional church and Christians, who have differing views on the interpretation of documents. It can be said that the idea of participating in the will of Jesus is unclear.



Question 4:

4 Evaluate the ways in which men and women are viewed in the Muslim community.

In your response to this question, you must include how developments in Islam have been influenced by **one** of the following:

- Philosophy of Religion
- Religion and Ethics
- New Testament Studies.

(30)

Islam and Gender is a huge topic at the moment you have someone like Ayatollah Khomeini and Hassan who are for return and women's rights then you have people like Sam Harris who will claim that Gender in Islam is unequal and cruel to women.

The first thing people will do when claiming that women and men are unequal in Islam is point to countries that have Sharia law and say that women are oppressed. This must be taken seriously by Saudi Arabia is a country where women have only (in 2015) been allowed to drive. It is a country where they can be married off to 60 year old men when they



are very young. It is also clearly a country where men are ~~clearly~~ clearly at the top over women. They run the country, women almost always must be accompanied by either her father, brother or husband.

Many people will point at these countries and immediately claim that the index of Islam is racist. I disagree. Countries like Saudi Arabia practice Wahabism, an extremist Sunni form of Islam. If we look at Indonesia which is over 90% muslim, women are ~~are~~ treated fairly. They have complete equal rights to men and again they will ~~be~~ ~~the~~ Queen. Hadiah and the Sunna to push women Gender equality up. It's the same is in Turkey again a majority muslim country that has complete equal rights. This goes to show that different countries have different cultures and just because some Islamic countries have less equal rights does not mean Islam as a whole does not



promote equal rights for women and men.
Another claim people will make to show
unequal rights towards women in Islam
are verses from the Koran. In the
Koran it does say that you may
be your wife (as well as in
the Hadith) to say that a woman's
testimony is half a man's and
this would go to claim that
Islam does is sexist and unequal
and is not gender equal.

However this again is not valid. The
Bible also has some awful phrases
promoting things like slavery. One we
don't point at but it has been
reformed. Islam is going through
the same reform now. People like Wary
into claiming that women and
men are not unequal in Islam
they are different, but equal. It
is clear that when people comment
in the Koran are contextualised they
are not sexist because Islam has
women they are sexist because
of the historic context and culture.



Again people will point the finger at the life of muhammad and claim that islam is sexist. For example his wife Fatima who was six when he married her. Or the fact that he had 13 wives which was more than he said you were allowed and why can't ^{women} ~~women~~ have more than one husband saying that is not gender equal.

However so again you must contextualise this. Muhammed had many wives because many men died in battle and in close times when a woman was widowed it was very tough so many will claim that muhammad took them under his 'wing' so look after them and care for them.

This may go to show that muhammad deeply cared for women and even ^{completely} ~~as~~ ^{equal}.

When it comes to gender equality this is a bubble all round the world many famous philosophers have been very sexist so like Kant who believed that women were not



national Being. So is not just religion
(ie Islam) which is racist. However people
like Richard Dawkins will claim that
Islam and Religion in general is
the 'Root of all Evil' ^{seems very evil.} However I would
disagree I would claim that it
is culture and that as culture has
developed so have gender equality.
The last point I will make is
the ~~fact~~ ^{fact} that Muslim women wear
headscarves it is the Burqa Nigab or
Hijab. Many critics will claim
that it is a sign of oppression
and that it is clearly morally
wrong and Islam is racist.
However the veil is not mentioned
in the Quran, just modesty
is so ~~the veil~~ ^{so the veil} is cultural not
Islamic. And surely L. Ahmed claims
that ~~the veil~~ ^{the veil} is cultural
so proper feminists do mention
oppression of modern feminism and
that women have to wear it.
Because they want to show
again show gender re-evaluating equality.



In conclusion it is clear that there are social problems in some Islamic countries that need to be addressed. However, I would claim that it is cultural not religious and that it will reform. I would also claim that Islam is not sexist and promotes the idea that women and men are different but equal.