

SECTION B

Answer ALL questions. Write your answers in the spaces provided.

Read the following passage before answering the questions.

The real meaning of Islamic spirituality lies in reforming the space of one's interiority, appeasing one's heart at the level of acknowledgement of the Creator and within a generous human action; it is loving in transparency and living in the light. This spirituality joins the horizons of all other spiritualities, which require man to be equipped with a force of being rather than being subjected to the despotic fierceness of a life which is reduced to instinct. This tension towards the mastery of the self is conveyed in Arabic by the word *jihād*. Understanding this dimension is a necessary part of a larger discussion on the meaning of armed conflict. What needs to be retained in the first instance, on the individual plane as well as on the international plane, is that God has willed this tension. He made it by His management of one of the conditions of access to faith and to humanity.

(Source: Extract from *Islam, The West and the Challenges of Modernity*, by Tariq Ramadan, Kube Publishing, 2001, Edexcel Anthology)

- 3 (a) Clarify the ideas illustrated in this passage about Jihad.

You must refer to the passage in your response.

(10)

Jihad means to 'strive' or 'struggle' for the sake of Allah.
In this passage Tariq Ramadan was for the idea of greater jihad being more important. He states 'rather than being subjected to the despotic fierceness of a life' we should understand 'the real meaning of Islamic spirituality'. Tariq highlights how as Muslims we should focus on striving to better ourselves and our personal connection with Allah, and if everyone prioritised this, a good Islamic society is built.

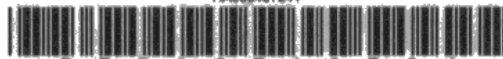
Tariq Ramadan states 'This tension towards the mastery of the self is conveyed in Arabic by the word *jihād*'. This is the idea that jihad ^{is} greater is the jihad of the self which is against one's desires and pleasures and against the 'waswasah'



of shaytan. A Hadith in Tirmidhi states that "The most excellent form of jihad is against oneself, and whomever for the sake of your Lord". This Hadith highlights how even the prophet prioritised greater jihad or 'jihad bilnafs' hence why it is called ~~jihad~~ of the greater jihad.

'He has made it by his management of one of the conditions of access to faith and humanity'. This proves that true Iman comes from greater jihad as it is a pre-condition of having higher Iman and Ihsan. 'He' refers to Allah, meaning Allah himself has made it a priority to reform Islamic spirituality and struggle of the nation in order to have a higher faith and gain Allah's pleasure which is a primal goal as Muslims.

'understanding this dimension is a necessary part of a larger discussion on the meaning of armed conflict'. Here Ramadan demonstrates the importance of understanding jihad does not just mean picking up a sword to fight - which is known as lesser or martial jihad. Rather it is a trunk which has many branches like making up for fajr, wearing a hijab and so on. Ramadan highlights it is vital to understand there is a huge discussion surrounding jihad and 'The meaning of armed conflict'. For example the verse in the Quran on 9:5 refers to killing all polytheists which is commonly used by terrorist organisations like ISIS, who misinterpreted the meaning of fighting here. Rather this verse refers



Self defense when muslims were being attacked by the
Polytheists.

