



Examiners' Report

Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2017

Pearson Edexcel GCE
In Religious Studies (6RS04)
Paper 1F Implications - Islam

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Publications Code 6RS04_1F_1706_ER

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2017 Report on 6RS04

Introduction:

There were a significant proportion of scripts that were truly excellent. Examiners had opportunities to read outstanding scripts showing independent thought. Credit should be given to candidates and their teachers who have prepared the thoroughly, fostered a love of the subject and nurtured degrees of insightfulness. Candidates used a variety of methods in their answers to these textual questions. Some concentrated almost entirely on the selected passage, analysing each part and referring to their wider knowledge. Others set the passage within the context of the overall article illustrating key points from the passage itself. Whatever method is used the fundamental requirement is an examination of the passage. These principles will apply to the anthology passages used in the new Spec in the compulsory questions taken from the Anthology. (See conclusion below for more on this topic of Anthologies in the new Spec.)

1F Islam

This Paper was generally answered in a competent manner whilst some candidates produced outstanding work.

In part (a) most answers reflected a good understanding of the passage by Nanji and Esmail, that dealt with the nature and purpose of Philosophy which had as its goal the enlarging of the meaning of religion and revelation.

Candidates accessed the material well and demonstrated a sound understanding of the authors' explanation of the development of Philosophy and its universal nature whilst also understanding that 'law and theology provided the moral and conceptual foundation of society'.

Many answers reflected upon the development of philosophy, relating details of the work of relevant Greek and Arabic philosophers as well as considering the importance of revelation and its importance to Islam. Some candidates made it clear that the nature of the passage reflected Shia Muslim beliefs and attitudes which often contrasted to those of Sunni Muslims.

In part (b) many discussed views relating to aql and naql and made reference and judgements relating to the views of Abu Bakr al-Razi who rejected revelation, denouncing religion as '...a ruse...responsible for sowing discord and division in the world...' Many balanced this view of revelation with the views of Al Gazali and Rumi who believed in the importance of revelation.

Stronger candidates focused closely upon the text, enhancing this with relevant discussion and further related material, whereas weaker answers referred to parts of the text but were less balanced in their interrogation of it. Though relevant material was used, reference to Islam tended to be more lengthy and descriptive which tended to lessen the focus upon the question.