



Examiners' Report

June 2010

GCSE Religious Studies 5RS11



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Introduction

This was the first year for this examination and this introduced new topics and assessment objectives to candidates. Candidates from all centres displayed excellent knowledge of Islam. However, some candidates are writing more than is required, necessitating the need for extra paper. The answer booklet is designed to give adequate space for answers. If candidates make errors or need extra paper they should be encouraged to write on the extra pages marked 'blank pages' at the end of the paper, clearly stating in the answer space that they have done so, rather than attaching extra sheets.

There were a large number of candidates not indicating which question they were answering. Candidates must put a cross the appropriate box before writing the answer to the question.

There was also a number of rubric infringements by candidates. Rubric offences are when the candidate answers a mixture of the two questions (for example they answer 1(a), 1(b), 2(c) and 2(d)). This means that candidates can only be awarded marks for the whole question for which they achieve the highest marks.

QWC (quality of written communication) was assessed in part (c) questions. The level of the response was determined by the Religious Studies content and then the QWC was considered. The lower mark of each level was awarded only if the answer did not fulfil the QWC descriptor. Hand writing was not a criterion for assessing QWC.

Question 1 (a)

(a) Shirk is associating partners with Allah, which is forbidden and also one of the biggest sins in Islam.



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Examiner Comments

The majority of candidates gained two marks for this question. Those candidates who did not use the specification definitions often did not display a clear understanding of what the word meant.

This is an example of a correct definition. The candidate has used the specification definition appropriately.

Question 1 (b, c, d)

- (b) Al-Qadar is the night of power and although it is important for Muslims, it is not the most important belief in Islam. This is because the most important belief in Islam is the oneness of Allah. As said ~~dee~~ in the declaration of faith the shahadah which is also the first pillar of Islam. The shahadah states 'I declare there is none worthy of worship except Allah and that Muhammad (s-a-w) is the messenger of Allah'. We learn from this that no-one shares Allah's power and no-one has the right to be worshiped apart from Allah. The second reason is that it only happens during the month of Ramadhan and so is not ^{more} ~~as~~ important ^{more} ~~as~~ other than other beliefs. Lailat al-Qadar is the night the Quran was revealed to Muhammad (s-a-w) and this night is better than one-thousand months. This is why people try their best to do good and worship Allah on this special night as ~~they~~ their prayers are more likely to be accepted. So although al-Qadar is important it's not the most important belief.
- (c) The belief of akhiraah or life after death affects different Muslims in different ways. For ~~some~~ ^{most} Muslims the thought of life after death is scary as they know their destiny lies with Allah. They therefore try their best to lead

their lives as best they can in hoping to achieve their goal of going to Jannah-paradise. For most Muslims, this can mean trying to be nicer to people, trying to do more good deeds and thinking twice before committing any sin. Because of the society Muslims live in now, they have to try to focus on their religion and not let their desires for worldly things distract them. They have to learn not to be selfish and give charity and also keep to the rules of Islam - the Shariah laws which are set out in the Quran and hadith. For other Muslims, this all comes naturally and easy and they accept it as a way of life. These people are always grateful to Allah in the good times and bad times and are usually respected as Imams or sheikhs by their community because of their never ending patience, ~~and~~ spiritual connections and inspirational knowledge. But for a minority of Muslims, try to be the best Muslim ^{they} can it leads them to making unconscious sacrifices. For example, some fathers try to feel spiritually connected with Allah and spend a lot of time praying and reading Quran in the Maghrib. This sometimes leads them to abandon their family and focus their lives in trying to be good Muslims instead of good fathers. In Islam, we are encouraged to be sincere in our religion but not over the top. So when Muslims think about the afterlife, it can give them motivation to be good and patient in life hoping to go to paradise or become paranoid and over the top with their

(d) (i) I agree that Allah created the world because he is our creator and sustainer. In the Quran, he mentions that he created the universe in six days. I think that no-one but Allah could have created the ~~un~~ world as it is so complex and ordered there is no way it could have ~~been~~ evolved by chance. This is also expressed in the design argument for God's existence. In Islam, it is explained that Allah created the world and so it belongs to him. In ayat-ul-Kursi a verse states 'His throne extends over the heavens and the earth and he feels no fatigue in ~~pre~~ preserving them'. This tells us that Allah created the earth because he looks after it and loves it.

(iii) I think scientists may disagree with me because they think the Earth created itself. They always need evidence that God created the world even though it is there right under their noses. I also think that atheists would disagree with me because they don't agree that Allah exists and so they don't believe He created the world. Atheists also rely on scientific evidence to prove something before they can believe in it.

**ResultsPlus****Examiner Comments**

In this example for part (b) the candidate has not answered the question and consequently can not be awarded any marks. The part (b) questions now assess Assessment Objective 2, which is looking for the candidates own opinion with supporting reasons and evidence.

For part (c) the example shown here is a full mark answer demonstrating knowledge of the belief in akhirah and understanding of how this affects the lives of Muslims.

In part (d) this response gives developed reasons for the different points of view.

**ResultsPlus****Examiner Tip**

On the (b) questions candidates must give two reasons for their opinion and give development for these.

Question 2 (a)

(a) Creativity means God creating the whole universe.

**ResultsPlus****Examiner Comments**

Question 2 was a less popular question than question 1 in this section. The majority of candidates gained full marks on part (a) of this question.

This is an example of a response that gained full marks by giving a correct definition.

**ResultsPlus****Examiner Tip**

Learn and use the specification definitions for the key words.

Question 2 (b, c, d)

(b) No. Everyone should look after the world because not only muslims live in the world and if the world is going to be a better place it must be looked after and this duty can not be thrown on the muslims.

(c) Risalah is important For Muslims as For Muslims the ~~Prophets~~ Prophets were a good example of how Muslims should live their ~~lives~~ lives. So if the Muslims followed the prophet's way of life they would be pleasing Allah

by living a life that Allah told them to. Also the prophets were chosen by Allah so they must have been good people with the right way of life.

(d) (i) I agree because Al-Qadr is Allah's control of future events and we can't do anything to change them. Everything has already been written.

(ii) Some people may disagree ^{with me} by saying human beings have freewill and we can make our destiny more fortunate by performing prayer.

**ResultsPlus****Examiner Comments**

This question was much less popular than question 1. Many candidates did not get the higher marks due to a lack of understanding of the key issues and in some cases not answering the question. Candidates should be encouraged to read the question slowly and carefully consider what it is the question is actually asking.

In part (b) of this example the candidate clearly gives their opinion "no" and then goes on to give a developed reason.

In part (c) this candidate gives one developed reason to why risalah is important for Muslims.

This example of (d)(i) shows the candidate giving one reason for their own opinion whilst in (d)(ii) their response shows an understanding of the reasons why someone may disagree with their opinion.

**ResultsPlus****Examiner Tip**

Practice developing reasons by writing a reason and then adding some supporting evidence or example. This is then clearly a developed reason and examiners will recognise this and award marks.

Question 3 (a)

(a) Masjid is a Mosque where Muslim prostrate themselves, themselves in front of Allah. It is Holy place of worship for Muslims.

**ResultsPlus****Examiner Comments**

The majority of candidates answered this question correctly. There were some candidates who gained 1 mark for a partially correct answer for saying that the masjid was a 'place of worship'. This is an example of a correct response.

Question 3 (b, c, d)

(b) yes I do think the sunnah is the most important guide for muslims as it's the teaching of the ~~prophet~~ last prophet, what he did and taught ^{us}, Allah said to follow the way of the prophet.

(c) The mosque is important for muslim's communities as it's a place where muslim ~~will~~ unite and where kids or Adults get taught how to read the Quran and more islamic ~~stuff~~ information. It's also a place where you

pray to Allah. mosque show guid to muslim's, there are imams in the mosque which help muslim's out ~~by~~ giving them advise and help them to become better muslim's.

(d) (i) yes I do agree the ummah shows the unity of islam as were all like one big family. All muslim's around the world help other muslim's out. We are all one, noone ^{is} different as Allah created us.

(ii) Some people may disagree disagree with me as some muslims are bad and do ~~to~~ bad stuff so they don't conside them as part of the ummah or show the unity of islam as there charging the meaning of islam.

**ResultsPlus****Examiner Comments**

Question 3 was the most popular in this section. Candidates again showed a strength in knowledge and understanding in Islam but were weaker at giving opinions and reasons for them.

This example is brief and to the point, and uses the space wisely. There is no need for extended writing to gain full marks if the relevant points have already been made.

In this example of part (b) the candidate gives one developed reason.

For part (c) the candidate gives three reasons why the mosque is important to the Muslim community.

And in part (d) this candidates shows the ability to give their own opinion with reasons, however the answer is weaker when required to recognise the alternative opinion and the reasons for it.

**ResultsPlus****Examiner Tip**

Candidates should be encouraged to give alternative points of view and recognise the reasons for them.

Question 4 (a)

(a) A Qadi is a Judge in Islamic law.

**ResultsPlus**

Examiner Comments

Only about half of candidates on this question gained two marks, the rest of the candidates generally scored zero.

This is an example of a correct answer.

Question 4 (b, c, d)

(b) yes I agree that Quran is the only book to follow. Firstly, because it was revealed directly to the prophet by Allah. In addition the message is original and has been unchanged since it was revealed.

Prophet also taught to follow the Quran. It was revealed to the last prophet. It is a direct message from Allah, therefore must be true and should be followed in order to please Allah.

It is also the final word/message for all humanity.

(c) Muslims believe that Allah sent many messengers over time for different nations and for people at that particular time and Muhammad was also a prophet.

but is the Seal of the prophets because. The word 'Seal' mean to close finally and nothing will be added and is also to show authority.

Muhammed was also the prophet of Allah but with the following difference. Muslims believe that he is the last prophet which Allah will sent. Muhammed (pbun) also completed the message. In addition his message was for the whole of the humanity. whereas other prophets like Musa for Jews and Isa for Christian ~~was~~ only brought the message for that particular nation and time. His message is completed and is for everyone that is why he is referred to as a Seal of the prophets.

(d) (i) Yes I agree that the Imam is the most important person in a mosque. Firstly because, ^(Salah) prayer is important and Imam leads the pray which makes him important. Imam also helps young children learn Quran from the early age. Imam also gives kutbahs before and after Juman prayer and outlines the teachings of the Quran. Lastly Imam is a person of great knowledge about the Quran.

(ii) Where as some people might disagree because of their different way of looking at it. Some might say that anyone who is able to read the Salah can lead other people. In addition young children can learn Quran from their parents at home. Lastly, Many other people who know the Quran in detail not just the Imam.

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Examiner Comments

Although question three was more popular, candidates overall performed better on these questions than question three.

In this example this candidate understood the questions extremely well and answered them confidently. There is an obvious balance between the two assessment objectives.

**ResultsPlus**

Examiner Tip

Time should be spent preparing the candidates to answer the question set.

Question 5 (a)

(a) Tawaf is performed during Hajj (the pilgrimage) and involves a muslim going around the kabah seven times.

**ResultsPlus****Examiner Comments**

In section three both questions were equally popular.

This section saw a large number of rubric offences. This is when a candidate swaps between the two questions. Marks are awarded for the question they would have gained the most on, however, this still leads to candidate not achieving as many marks as they could have had they answered all the parts of one question.

The majority of candidates gained two marks on this question. This is an example of one correct response.

**ResultsPlus****Examiner Tip**

Candidates should be encouraged to cross out the question they have not chosen to do to avoid rubric infringements.

Question 5 (b, c, d)

seven times.

(b) I think that by praying five times a day, it does not make someone a good muslim muslim because anybody can pray five times a day but it depends on their mind and how they pray with what thought in their mind. A person rushing and praying so that they can get their prayer over and done with would not be seen as a good muslim. However someone else who prays purely for the sake of Allah and for the love of Allah because they have taqwa and also get a piece of mind after praying would be known as a good muslim. Also by praying it does not make you a good muslim because you could be drinking ^{alcohol} and praying, so really it depends on state of mind.

(c) The events of Hajj at the Arafat are important for muslims because when you are stood at the Arafat it is a barren place with no grass or

trees, you have nothing except your self in the state of Ihram and your good and bad deeds, which is preparation for the day of judgement. Also the Arafat is where the prophet gave his last sermon / speech to the muslim community where over thousands of people ~~are~~ were participating, so people feel emotional at the arafat because of the last sermon of the prophet and also they feel as if they are standing before God because it is preparation for the life after death where we will be judged with nothing but our selves in Ihram and our good deeds and our sins, so you know what it will be like and how it is to confront Allah by your self with no-one by your side to take for your actions and to back you up.



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Examiner Comments

This question proved to be popular with candidates and it was obvious from the responses that they had been well prepared to answer the questions.

In this example for part (b) the candidate has given two reasons for their own opinion, and develops one of these. The mark scheme was looking for arguments about one's intention (niyyah) being more important than the act; and evidence that some good Muslims might be exempted because of illness etc.

In part (c) the mark scheme was expecting reasons such as it being the defining moment in hajj and that it reminds Muslims of how they will stand before Allah on the Day of judgement.



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Examiner Tip

It is important to have the knowledge of Islamic belief, practice and teachings and understand how this affects people lives.

(d) (i) I disagree with the statement "fasting is the best way to get closer to Allah" because to get closer to Allah it depends on state of mind and heart, not by just not eating until the sun sets. However fasting is done out of purity and chasteness because it teaches you how the poor feel like without eating for so long every day and also teaches you not to waste food, which is a good thing, as nowadays people waste food like it's nothing, and in third world countries people are dying out of starvation.

(ii) Some people may disagree with me because they may believe that because fasting is such a pure and chaste act it can get you to get closer to Allah because you are sacrificing food and water which is essential to live for the sake of Allah and you are not wasting food which makes you more aware of the presence of God (Allah) making you feel closer to Him as most of your time is taken in prayer.

Question 6 (a)

(a) Sawm is the fourth pillar of Islam and means fasting in the holy month of Ramadan.



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Examiner Comments

This question was answered well with more than half of candidates gaining 2 marks.

This is an example of a correct answer.

Question 6 (b, c, d)

(b) Yes I do think the shahadah is the most important pillar of islam as in order to become a muslim you have to believe in the 5 pillars or you are not a muslim. The shahadah states Allah is one and has no partner.

(c) Id-ul-Adha is important for muslims as sometimes they lose their family or their loved ones. For example a prophet built a boat and told everyone to get on it or they'll flood, every muslim got on the boat except

his own son, he didn't believe there was going to be a flood, he's going to die. The prophet had to leave his son knowing he's going to die as there was nothing he could do about it.

(d) (i) Yes I do agree that "Giving zakah shows that someone is a good muslim", as it's one of the five pillar and as a muslim should follow all the pillars ~~it~~ including that one, it also shows that the person is generous and has a good heart.

(ii) Some people may disagree with me as ~~Giving~~ Zakah because ~~in~~ there are lot's of other thing's to make you a good muslim not only Giving zakah. when people give zakah they may still be doing bad stuff thing's.



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Examiner Comments

In this question the best answers were confident about the pillars of Islam and why id-ul-Adha is important for Muslims.

In this example the candidate gives one developed reason in the part (b) question.

In part (c) question there is no relevant information given, whilst in part (d) the candidate gives a developed reason for their own opinion and recognises the alternative point of view and offers a simple reason to support this.



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Examiner Tip

The formulas used in the legacy specification to help structure answers do not work with the new specification. For (d) questions on the new specification candidates should remember one way to gain full marks is to give three reasons for and three against the statement.

Question 7 (a)

(a) riba mean's interest. This is when someone lend's someone else money, and in return the other person is expected to give the person more money in return.


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Examiner Comments

Less than half of candidates gained full marks on this question. This is an example of a correct definition.

on (a) NO, because everything that has been
 taught to a muslim why gambling is
 wrong. They just sometimes take it as a lie.
 (b) and then just disobey it.


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Examiner Comments

In this example the candidate has given the answer to part (b) in part (a) space. This is acceptable and will be marked. If a candidate starts or continues an answer elsewhere it is advisable to state this in the appropriate answer space.

Question 7 (b, c, d)

the person more money in return.

(b) ~~Akikah~~ is known I believe that muslims teaching in gambling is relevant today. Allah translates in the quran that gambling is sinful and that the quran is right and will always be relevant. Gambling is like making sinful money. Money can make people greedy and those who practice gambling will be punished by the worst punishment in hell. No one has the right to gamble even if the person's life depended on it. The prophet muhammad (s) banned gambling for everyone, so we should follow the teachings of the prophet.

(c) Akikah is known as a celebration for the birth of a baby. When the baby is born the father of the baby must recite the azan in the baby's ear. The baby's hair must be cut, and if the baby is a boy they must precede circumcision. The babies

Parents must kill either a sheep or goat. They must cook the meat off the bone and give it to their family, relatives and the poor. This is very important ceremony, many Muslims bring in a Imam to bless the child and many Muslims give their child a drink of the Zam Zam water (a holy water running through Makkah). Doing this ceremony may help the baby as it is blessed by Allah and its birth was celebrated in an Islamic way. Doing this ceremony can prevent the baby from dark-arts and suffering.

(d) (i) Allah says in the Quran that we are not to eat haram food. These rules still apply today. If we eat something haram on purpose then we will be punished in the day of judgement. The prophet said that eat halal food, because this is my teaching. Allah has a reason to banning haram foods. We are not allowed to change the teaching of the Quran about haram or halal food. If we are eating haram food, then we are disobeying the Quran and therefore disobeying Allah.

(ii) Many muslims and non-religious people believe that we are allowed to change our diet or what we eat. The society and western culfers are changing so we are allowed to eat haram. many western people believe that eating haram is not a sin, because if we do not eat food that is provided to us, then we are wasting money and food. Many people believe that we are eating too much cows, sheeps and other animals that their will not be enough food for the future. Many poor people are living off garbage, so we should not waste food no matter if it is halal or



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Examiner Comments

There was evidence that many candidates ran out of time on this section. Care should be given to exam preparation and wise use of time.

Many teachers have asked what is meant by development? The mark scheme for this question shows that a development of the reason for the opinion is when a candidate offers some more supporting evidence. For example: It is in the Shari'ah (brief reason) to help Muslims follow the straight path (development of the reason).

In this example for part (b) the candidate gives their opinion and continues on about the Quran etc. This is justification for their opinion. The reasons are considered to be those of the candidate until the candidate states otherwise.



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Examiner Tip

Candidates should avoid saying 'others think...' as marks can only be given for their own opinion.

Question 8 (a)

(a) Sadaqah is when you ~~receive~~ give some donation to the poor. Giving money, gold or clothes. Sadaqah (Zakah) is the 4th pillar of Islam.

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Examiner Comments

This question was not answered well, the majority of candidates gained only 1 mark for a partially correct answer. Although many candidates thought they knew the definition, they really needed to give the specification glossary definition (or an alternative wording) to gain the full marks. In particular there needed to be clear evidence that the candidate understood the difference between sadaqah and zakah so there had to be some concept of voluntary giving in the answer. This is an example of a correct answer.

Question 8 (b, c, d)

(b) I think that those ^{certain} necessities Allah has forbidden in Islam, such as ~~a~~ alcohol, drugs and gambling should be haram. The reason being is that if Allah has done this there is always a reason. Alcohol, drugs and gambling take a muslim away from the straight path and also cause conflicts between families, having made these forbidden enables a muslim to stay on the straight path, devote and pray to Allah and be able to worship him without these temptations in the way.

(c) A muslim organisation works to help those in need to help them with their lives and aid them. It also helps them with the necessities they may require. They are also playing their part by being good muslims

and helping their brothers and sisters who are in need. By doing this there will be less poverty. They are also rewarded for their actions, and will be rewarded by Allah in the next life, for aiding and helping the needy. The prophet (v) used to help every needy person who needs help so these organisations are following his Sunnah.

(d) (i) I agree that the greatest ^{and hardest} jihad is fighting for good ^{your} near in ~~this~~ life. The reason being is because this world has many temptations which lead to the path of the shaytaan. So trying to stay faithful to Allah is a great struggle for a muslim.

(ii) Some people may disagree because this life is a test for all muslims which they have to try to pass no matter what temptations or obstacles they may come across in life. If their faith is strong in Allah then they will not be influenced by this world's temptations or by the shaytaan.



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Examiner Comments

As with question 7 there was evidence that candidates may have run out of time as the majority of candidates did not gain the full marks available in this question.

In this example the candidate gives one developed reason in response to part (b), whilst in part (c) the candidate gives three reasons why a Muslim organisation should work to relieve world poverty/and or suffering in the UK.



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Examiner Tip

In this part (c) question candidates were required to give reasons for the work, not examples or a description of the work. It is important to make sure that you answer the question set.

The responses seen in this examination showed that the candidates were in general well taught and have a good understanding of Islamic belief, practice and teaching. However, they often do not achieve important marks by being under prepared to give their own opinions and recognise that some people may disagree with them with reasons.

Grad boundaries:

Grade	Max. Mark	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U
Raw mark boundary	80	63	54	45	36	30	24	18	12	0
Uniform mark scale boundary	100	90	80	70	60	50	40	30	20	0

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