

Examiners' Report

June 2016

GCSE Religious Studies 5RS11 01

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Introduction

This paper continues to be popular with both Muslim and non-Muslim candidates.

The overall standard of responses this year on Unit 11 was excellent. Candidates were able to demonstrate their knowledge of Islam and use this knowledge to show understanding of key concepts within the religion. More candidates used their time well and so were able to answer Section 4 successfully.

Note: SPaG is Spelling, Punctuation, and Grammar

Question 1 (a)(b)(c)(d)

Many candidates answered this question (Q) very well and were able to gain full marks. Some candidates were unable to develop two reasons for the importance of belief in the creativity of Allah.

A large number of candidates misunderstood question (c) and wrote at length about the importance of the Qur'an, but did not mention the role of Muhammad. This was the specific focus of the question and so they were unable to gain full marks.

(a) Ibadah is any form or act of worship of Allah

(b) Yes, it is important as it strengthens your faith in him as you know that when you look around, everything around you was created by Allah, your Lord who is the most powerful. It also allows you to understand the extent of Allah's power and creativity when you look at the world around us.

Also, when you believe in the creativity of Allah it helps you understand the origin of the universe as you know the universe could not have simply created itself (ie - Steady State Theory)

(c) It is important because it is one of the huge miracles in Islam, as the Prophet Muhammad could not read or write yet he received verses for through Angel Jibreel.

Therefore it was a miracle and this increases the importance of the event to Muslims.

Also, it is important as the Quran is the last revelation of Allah and the final revelation, and is a perfect guide on how Muslims should live their life.

Also, it is important because it was revealed on Laylatul Qadr - the night of power, in Ramadan. This night is better than 1000 nights of worship and Muslims are encouraged to spend the night in worship and devote it to prayer and ibadah.

Also, it is important because it is mentioned in the Quran a numerous amount of times and as a very important event in Islamic history.

(d) (i) I disagree because the Quran is a guide for Muslims on how to live their lives according to Allah's law and how to avoid haram acts which Allah dislikes. In the Prophet's last sermon, he stressed the importance of following the Quran and his example (Hadith) in order to not go astray.

(ii) People may agree because holy books may control your life and prevent you from living it to the maximum as holy books set out rules and regulations which ~~see~~ control the way you live your life. For example, the Quran states that many acts are haram and forbidden.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

a) This is the correct definition = 2 marks

b) Personal opinion, with two developed reasons = 4 marks

1. strengthens faith..... when you look around everything was created by Allah developed by.... understand the extent of Allah's power

2. helps you understand the origin of the universe...developed by...could not have simply created itself

c) Here, there are two reasons, with one as a fully-developed reason.

1. huge miracle...developed by....could not read or write...further developed byreceived verses through angel

One basic reason, bringing it to Level 4

2. last and final revelation

Level 4 = 8 marks

di) The candidate has given a personal viewpoint and supported it with one developed reason and one brief reason = 3 marks

1 live their lives according to Allah law.....developed byhow to avoid haram act

2 the importance of following the sunnah

dii) This does not answer the question about whether holy books can help in daily life = 0

SpaG = 3 marks

Spelling, punctuation and meaning is accurate, and there is some use of specialist terms.

20 marks



ResultsPlus

Examiner Tip

In dii) the answer must relate back to the question.

- (a) Ibadah means believing and worshipping Allah.
- (b) I think it is important to believe in the creativity of Allah and as it is written in the Quran that Allah created the universe and the prophet taught us in his Sunnahs that Allah created everything. It is also one of the 6 articles of faith.
- (c) It is important as the revelation to Muhammed s.a.w tells us that he is the chosen one. It is also important as this was the final message the Allah had sent down to earth.

P// = New Paragraph.

This means that ~~after this~~ now there will be no more messages. P// It is also important as it is the one true message of Allah. All the other books had been changed but this holy book has been preserved and is protected so can never be changed, which means it is the ¹ true message of Allah. It is also important to Muslims as it is their guide to paradise, this book contains everything a muslim needs to know to follow the right ~~path~~ path.

Risalah ~~mean~~ mentions all the other prophets such as Musa (a.s) and Isa (a.s) and other prophets proving they exist and proving that ~~that~~ the Quran is the write book as it contains all of that.

(d) (i) I ~~that~~ disagree with this statement as the holy books ~~teaches a message~~ have many teachings in them. Books like the Quran teaches a Muslim how to live a simple life and not backbite or steal. It ~~teaches~~ is a guideline on how to live life. The books also have one true message which means it can never be dated. ~~A~~ ~~for~~ Holy books like the Quran have stories of ordinary people and the greatest example of the prophets and how they lived life and it helps us live a pious and good life in an evil world. It contains the Sunnah of the prophet which shows how ordinary man lived life.

(ii) However, some may disagree as they believe that ~~message~~ what the book teaches is now irrelevant as we live in a modern world. They think that everything has changed from how it was when the prophets ~~were~~ were around. They also believe that you have to adapt to how ~~the~~ the world is nowadays. They also believe that some laws stop you from doing many things that you would have done to abide by the holy books therefore they do not help in daily life.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

a) Correct definition ...worship of Allah = 2 marks

b) There are three brief reasons, here, but only two can be credited; none is developed = 2 marks

1. Qur'an ...Allah created the world
2. one of the six articles of faith

c) Four reasons = Level 4

1. shows he is the chosen one
2. final message sent down by Allah
3. unchanged
4. guide to paradise

Level 4 = 8 marks

di) Personal viewpoint supported by three reasons = 3 marks

1. how to live a simple life and not backbite or steal
2. one true message which can never be dated
3. stories of ordinary people....helps us live a pious and good life

dii) Three reasons in disagreement = 3 marks

1. now irrelevant in a modern world
2. everything has changed since the prophets were around
3. you have to adapt

SpaG = 3 marks

Spelling, punctuation and meaning is accurate and there is some use of specialist terms.

21 marks

Question 2 (a)(b)(c)(d)

Q2 abcd was answered well and especially di) and dii), where candidates gave excellent reasons to support their viewpoint.

Q2 c) caused some difficulties because many candidates wrote about the four rightly guided caliphs, instead of Khalifah, as a custodian of the world and so were unable to reach full marks. The question was looking for the concept of all humans as being stewards of Allah.

(a) Islam is the religion followed by muslims. It is the belief that there is no God besides Allah and ~~the prophet~~ ^{the} prophet is the final messenger.

(b) I do think belief in prophethood is important because prophethood taught people and still does teach people the way of life and how to live their life according to their beliefs. Prophethood came to a person of good nature and character and taught them the right way so they may pass it on to other people and so on so forth and like this spread knowledge.

Another reason why I think ^{Risalah} Prophethood is important is because, prophethood is more than getting the message of God, it is all the other things that play apart with it such as character, respect, honesty, manners etc. and through the message of ~~the~~ risalah, these qualities were taught to people.

(c) The Islamic belief that humans are khalifah's is important because muslims are taught that they will be asked about everything that they do and what they used etc. because muslims ~~to~~ have to answer to their creator Allah, ~~the~~ this leads them to be careful in the things they do and

amanah.

use because they are taught not to waste, or to take advantage of the things they have.

Another reason why the belief is important is because muslims are taught that they are shepards and it's their duty to look after the world. Muslims are given the example of giving their item to someone else to borrow and that person damaging or losing that item, in the manner ~~way~~ that they wouldn't like it, they shouldn't do it to anything else because Allah has given it to them as an amanah and they should be grateful and take care of it, not damage it and take advantage.

furthermore muslims are taught that it's their responsibility to look after the things that ~~to~~ they have been given because one day it'll go back to their creator, Allah.

your beliefs are more important than your actions

(d) (i) I disagree with this statement because, people are judged and looked at based on their actions and not their beliefs, as many times people's beliefs can't be seen from the way they choose to dress and ~~to~~ it's their actions that define them.

Another reason why I disagree is because although ⁱⁿ beliefs, rules and regulations are put in, many people don't follow them or they follow them to a certain ~~amount~~ extent and through their actions ^{their} ~~it~~ can views etc. can be seen.

furthermore, it's not necessary to have a belief to be able to do good or bad, a person makes those choices which are then reflected through actions as actions speak louder than words.

(ii) Someone may disagree with me because many people are very loyal and strict on their beliefs and because of this their beliefs are more important because they follow them very strictly.

Also in Islam, Muslims are taught to follow what is right and do good and not go against this. In this matter Muslims' beliefs overpower their actions and sometimes they must do what is right according to their beliefs ~~even if it is against their actions~~.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

a) This answer is only partially correct because it is not a definition of Islam = 1 mark

b) A personal opinion, supported by two developed reasons = 4 marks

1. taught people and still does teach people the way of life....developed by...how to live according to beliefs

2. came to a person of good nature...taught them the right way.....developed by...pass it on to other people and ...spread the knowledge

c) One brief reason and one fully developed reason = Level 4

1. asked about everything they do and what they used

2. duty to look after the world....developed by...the example of borrowing...developed further by given to them as an amanah

Level 4 = 8 marks

di) A personal viewpoint supported by one fully developed reason = 3 marks

1. people judged based on their actions...developed by....beliefs can't be seen...further developed by....actions define them

dii) The opposite viewpoint, supported by one brief and one developed reason = 3 marks

1. beliefs are more important because they follow them strictly

2. taught to follow what is right...developed by...beliefs overpower their actions

SPaG = 4 marks

Spelling, punctuation and meaning are accurate, with a good use of specialist terms.

23 marks

(a) ~~To worship your creator to become a better person~~

A religion of peace.

(b) ~~Yes I believe that it is important to believe in~~

~~the creativity of Allah~~

Yes I think belief in risalah is important for firstly because through risalah - prophethood we have learnt more about religion and by looking at the lives of the prophets we learn lessons and try to include that in our lives.

Secondly because without risalah the holy books would not have come down, the quraan was revealed to prophet (s.a.w) for the muslim ummah as a guide and without this guide we would be lost.

(c) I think humans as khalifah is important to muslim firstly because it is our duty as muslims to help keep the environment clean and away from harm.

As muslims it is our duty to keep the environment safe. This environment and world is not ours and so we as muslims should take ^{care} of it.

We should refrain from causing pollution as muslims we can stop this by cutting down less trees using less cars, either walk or cycle.

Some resources on this earth are limited and will end one day and so in order for generations to come and use it we should not waste it and take care whilst using it.

As muslims cleanliness is half of faith and so we should try to keep our environment clean and tidy we can do this by picking up litter and throwing it in bins.

Instead of putting all our rubbish into dumps we should try and recycle the paper, plastic and cardboard in order to be used again.

(d) (i) No I do not agree with this firstly because I believe that not just our ^{beliefs} intentions should be there but also actions.

~~without actions~~ yes your beliefs have to be there but without actions your beliefs will not make a difference.

(ii) Someone may disagree with me and say that by just having your beliefs at least you know you are thinking right actions don't always have to be done.

Actions are just to show in our head we already have the beliefs so we don't have to engage in actions.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

a) This is partially correct. A fully correct answer would be....peace gained through submission to Allah. See mark scheme = 1 mark

b) A personal opinion, supported by two developed reasons = 4 marks

1. looking at the lives of the prophets...developed by....we learn lessons...

2. without risalah the holy books would not have come down....developed by... the example of the Qur'an

c) Three reasons, with one developed reason = Level 4

1. duty as Muslims to help keep the environment clean.....developed by....the world is not ours

2. future generations.....not waste it

3. cleanliness is half our faith

Level 4 = 8 marks

di) A personal viewpoint, supported by one developed reason = 2 marks

1. not just beliefs but also actions...developed by....without actions beliefs won't make a difference

dii) The opposite viewpoint, supported by one developed reasons and one brief reason = 3 marks

1. you know you are thinking right....developed by...actions don't always have to be done.

2. actions are just to show we already have the beliefs

SPaG = 3 marks

Spelling, punctuation and meaning are accurate, with a limited use of specialist terms.

Question 3 (a)

Although this question was generally answered well, many candidates lost marks by omitting to note that the Hadith were the sayings of the Prophet.

(a) Hadith are things that the prophet said or did as well as sunnahs.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

Fully correct
2 marks



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Always learn the glossary definition to be sure of gaining full marks.

(a) Hadith is a statement from someone who was with the prophet during the time he ~~was alive~~ and quoted or saw what he was doing.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

This answer gains 2 marks because of ...'with the Prophet..... and quoted' thus referring to sayings of the Prophet, which is an alternative wording from the mark scheme. This is fully correct.

2 marks

Question 3 (b)(c)(d)

This question was answered extremely well.

(b) Yes, I believe mosques should be ~~mosques~~ special buildings. My first reason is that mosques in the eyes of a muslim are classed as the house of Allah. Therefore the house of the creator of everything must be special in order to show respect. My second reason is that muslim's worship inside mosques and worshipping the almighty Allah is a great blessing. We thank Allah for what we are and what we have. ~~It is~~ ^{It is} ~~for~~ ^{for} worship it must be a special building because we are thanking Allah, and asking for ~~forgiveness~~ forgiveness.

(c) Sunni muslims believe that Muhammed (saw) is the final messenger of Allah whereas Shias believe that instead of ~~that~~ Muhammed (saw) he-receiving prophethood

Hazrat Ali (ra) should've received prophethood.

This is what their beliefs are based on; but

that's what SOME shias believe in. The majority of

shias believe that Ali (ra) should've been the

first Khalifah of Islam rather than Abu Bakr

Siddiq (ra), due to this reason they do not believe in the khulafas and they believe that the prophet (saw) gave hints for ~~after~~ ⁱⁿ all (ra) to become the next khalifah and they believe that they the people made the wrong decision by choosing Abu Bakr Siddiq (ra).

Shias also believe that because Hassan (ra) the beloved grandchild of muhammed (saw) became or how he was killed they believe that they should hit themselves and make themselves bleed like he bled on the 10th of muharram. Shias also believe that the Imams are free from sin whereas Sunnis only believe that the prophet's are free from sin. They also believe that muslim leaders or Imams have to be from the family of AH (ra). Shias pray 3x namaz whereas sunnis pray 5x salah.

(d) (i) I disagree, the muslims do not need a new prophet because the prophet (saw) taught us everything we need to know. muslims believe that muhammed (saw) was the final messenger of Allah and that he is the Seal of all the prophets until the end of time. If anyone claims to be a prophet after him, they are wrong.

and false. He was sent down with the Quran the final uncorrupted message of Allah. Muslims have the Quran and hadith to teach them and don't need a new prophet. The prophet Qawim was the perfect role model for all mankind. His sayings and actions are all that we need in which are the Sunnah and the hadith.

ii) People may disagree with me by saying most people are misguided, but they must seek out people who will help them back on the right path and not be lead away. If they are lead away only Allah can help them.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

b) Personal opinion, supported by two developed reasons = 4 marks

1. classed as the house of Allah...developed by...must be special in order to show respect
2. worshipping Allah is a great blessing...developed by...must be special because we are thanking Allah

c) One fully developed reason = Level 4

1. dhias believe Ali should have been the first Khalifah
2. do not believe in Khulafas....
3. remember Hassan
4. Imams are free from sin

Level 4 = 8 marks

di) Personal viewpoint, supported by one fully developed reason = 3 marks

1. the Prophet taught us everything we need to know...developed by...was the final messenger...further developed by...seal of the prophets

dii) This does not answer the question which is whether or not a new prophet is needed = 0 marks

15 marks

(b) Mosques should be special buildings because they are a place of worship, and places of worship are places that deserve to be respected. ~~and~~ The mosque is the heart of the muslim community and is where people get married, have funerals, pray, have gatherings, etc. Therefore, mosques are seen as the central point of the muslim community. As the main point of the community, the mosque deserves to be special.

Also, the mosque is said to be where people are closest to Allah.

(c) One difference between Sunni and Shia Communities is that Shias believe only Ali was the rightly guided Caliph, whereas Sunnis believe that ~~all~~ ^{all the prophets} Caliphs were rightly guided.

Sunnis therefore respect the Caliphs, whereas the shias are quite dismissive of them.

Shias also put great importance on the month of Muharram, whereas for Sunnis its not as important.

- (d) (i) I disagree with the statement 'we need a new prophet for the 21st century because we've had enough prophets for us to realise that what we need to do and what we're not supposed to do. ~~the~~ According to the Quran, there have been 25 prophets (that have been mentioned), but there is an unknown number of prophets not mentioned. ~~All you have~~ Also, the prophet Muhammad is the seal of the prophecy and there are no prophets after him.' (sm)
- (ii) Some people disagree because they think times have changed and we need a new prophet to address issues of the time, instead of looking back at older examples.



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- b) Personal opinion supported by two developed reasons = 4 marks
1. place of worship...developed by...places that deserve to be respected
 2. heart of the community...developed by...where people get married etc.
- c) Three differences = Level 3
1. Shias believe only Ali was rightly guided.....
 2. Sunnis believe all the Caliphs were rightly guided
 3. Shia put great importance on the month of Muharram. Level 3 = 6 marks
- di) Personal viewpoint, supported by one developed reason and one brief reason = 3 marks
1. enough prophets for us to realise what to do...developed by...Qur'an, 25 prophets
 2. Prophet Muhammad is the seal of the prophets
- dii) Opposite viewpoint, supported by one developed reason = 2 marks
1. times have changed...address issues of the time...looking back at old examples
- 15 marks

Question 4 (a)

Many candidates lost marks because they confused a qadi with ulama.

(a) The leader of the Islamic Law.



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Examiner Comments

The reference to Islamic law makes this response partially correct, although 'leader' is incorrect.

1 mark

(a) A qadi is an Islamic Judge.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

There are two elements of judge and Islam so this is a fully correct answer.

2 marks

Question 4 (b)(c)(d)

There were some excellent answers to this question, with candidates showing good knowledge of Shari'ah law.

(b) YES, I think an Imam is important in a mosque because they lead the prayers for all ~~diffet~~ Muslim men in the ^{masjid} ~~mosque~~, therefore it's important.

The Imam also educates people who are lost, the Imam can guide someone, as some people do not get easily guided by books, rather someone physically lecturing and guiding them therefore it's important.

(c) The Shari'ah law is important for Muslims as they believe it is a law based on the Qur'an, and the Qur'an is a holy book of Allah, therefore it's important

Muslims also believe it's a law based on the prophet's hadith, the Prophet is special to Muslims therefore it is important to follow Shari'ah law.

Another reason is because the Shari'ah law is the only ~~the~~ Islamic law for Muslims right now, therefore ~~they~~ Muslims will follow it as there is no other Islamic law.

The last reason is because the Shari'ah law sticks with halal and haram food, Muslims would find it more easier to stick to it rather than being in the UK, not being sure if such a thing is permitted in Islam.

(d) (i) I disagree because ~~Allah~~ they are Allah's exact words, if somebody was to change them then Muslims wouldn't follow it as it's not Allah's exact words, just a human's.

Another reason is because the Qur'an has not been changed and Allah promised, therefore it is impossible and can not be changed, or updated by a human being.

(ii) Some people may disagree with me and say that the Qur'an was sent long ago, we didn't live so long ago therefore we need something relevant to us today.

Some other people may say the world has changed since then, people ~~are~~ need something new as they need more guidance in the present.

Another reason is because it can unite religious people together.
~~Another reason is because people can say by~~
~~it can unite religious people together if a new~~ making holy book



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

b) Personal opinion, supported by one basic reason and one developed reason
= 3 marks

1. lead the prayers for all Muslim men
2. can guide someone, physically lecturing...developed by...some people do not get guided easily by books

c) Two developed reasons = Level 4

1. law based on the Qur'an ...developed by...the Qur'an is the holy book of Allah
2. based on the prophet's hadith...developed by ...special to Muslims

Level 4 = 8 marks

di) Personal viewpoint, supported by two reasons with one developed = 3 marks

1. Allah's exact words...developed by ...if changed Muslims wouldn't follow it
2. Allah promised it would not be changed

dii) Opposite viewpoint, supported by two reasons with one developed
= 3 marks

1. sent long ago...developed by need something relevant for us today
2. world has changed ...need more guidance for today

The second reason is also developed, but there are only 3 marks available.

17 marks

(b) I think that an imam is an important part of a mosque. This is because he leads the prayer which encourages Muslims to pray in congregation. This strengthens bonds between the ummah and helps people to strengthen their beliefs.

The imam also holds other responsibilities, for example he gives advice on other issues. This is beneficial to those who go to the mosque seeking help. The imam has sufficient knowledge in order to give people the help they need.

(c) Shariah law defines many things for a Muslim including issues regarding food, dress and money. The shariah law is very important to Muslims as they live their lives according to this. It defines worldly issues such as what a Muslim is allowed to eat, what they must wear, how they must act, how they use their money and even gives the required sanctions for issues such as crime.

This is important for Muslims as it defines how they must live and comply to its religious teachings.

The shariah was compiled as a result of beliefs in the Qur'an as a set of rules that all muslims must obey. It is important as the Qur'an is a highly respectable book for muslims and its teachings are just as important.

It also enables muslims to gain a better understanding of the religion through its laws and teachings.

~~Follow~~ Following the shariah law helps muslims to make sense of religious teachings and put them into an easy practice.

(d) (i) I do not think the Qur'an needs updating to help people as the Qur'an was left by God to be open to interpretation. This means that the rulings and teachings must be interpreted in a way that is adapted to your environment as long as it does not go against the shariah.

As a result, people can read and interpret the Qur'an according to their circumstances so the Qur'an does not need to change.

Therefore I disagree with the statement.

- (iii) Some people might disagree with me and say that the Qur'an was written and revealed in a time where society was very different so the teachings and rules in that society does not necessarily fit in modern day society. Some people may believe that it is outdated and needs to be changed in order to align with society's morals* and help answer any issues faced in modern society.



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Examiner Comments

b) Personal opinion supported by two developed reasons = 4 marks

1. leads prayer...developed by...encourages Muslims to pray in congregation
2. sufficient knowledge...developed by ...give people the help they need

c) Four reasons = Level 4

1. defines issue
2. live their lives according to this
3. gives required sanctions
4. gain a better understanding of religion

Level 4 = 8 marks

di) Personal viewpoint, supported by one fully developed reason = 3 marks

1. left by God to be open to interpretation...developed by...rulings and teachings...further developed by...adapted to your environment

dii) One fully developed reason in disagreement = 3 marks

1. society very different...developed by...do not necessarily fit in modern day society...further developed by...needs to align with society's morals

Question 5 (a)

Most of the candidates who answered this question gained full marks.

(a) It is the circumambulation of the Ka'bah while you are doing Hajj.



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Examiner Comments

Fully correct
2 marks

(a) Tawaf is where you go to Saudi Arabia and go round the Ka'bah and ask Allah for forgiveness.



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Examiner Comments

Going round the Ka'aba is fully correct
2 marks

Question 5 (b) (c) (d)

There were some excellent answers in di) and dii), where candidates were able to show a clear understanding of the importance of Zakah, as purifying one's wealth and then using that to evaluate its importance in relation to other deeds.

(b) I think that praying makes someone a better person because it means that they are practising their religion well. For example, salah is one of the five pillars of Islam, so if Muslims pray then they are doing what they are supposed to according to their beliefs which makes them a better person. As well as this, they may pray for people they know, for example if they are ill. This shows that they have good intentions and this means they are a better person. In addition, praying shows that they are always thinking of Allah and making sure that they know he is the centre of everything. This helps them to avoid shirk and ~~practice~~ to maintain belief in tawhid - the oneness of Allah.

(c) Id-ul-Adha is the festival of sacrifice. This is very important for Muslims. They celebrate it because in the Quran there is a story about someone who had to sacrifice their son for Allah but then a goat appeared and they didn't have to sacrifice their son because Allah sent the goat to be sacrificed instead. Muslims have the festival to show their respect for Allah and to

remember the story from the Quran. This is an important festival as they become better Muslims from doing this and it shows their gratitude towards Allah for how he has gifted them with and they are giving something back in a way.

(d) (i) I disagree that it does not matter what you do as long as you give zakah. I disagree because there are other things more important to Muslims than giving zakah. For example - Salah prayers are more important as it helps them to appreciate Allah and put him at the centre of everything. Giving zakah is not the only important thing and there are other things you have to do to be a good Muslim like Ramadan. Muslims should obey all 5 pillars to be a perfect Muslim, this is what the Prophet Muhammad did and all Muslims should aspire to be like him. This involves more than just giving zakah.

(ii) Some Muslims may disagree with me because zakah is a very kind act of charity. Not everybody gives money to charity, so giving zakah is a good thing and makes you a better person. Also, zakah is 2.5% of your annual income, so for people who don't earn lots of money - this can be quite a lot. Also it is given to the poor.

which helps the less fortunate. This helps to strengthen the ummah as it supports other Muslims, which is an important factor of Islam. For this reason Muslims may argue that it is the only thing that matters, as it doesn't matter what else you do.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

b) Personal opinion with two developed reasons = 4 marks

1. practising their religion well...developed by.....salah is one of the five pillars
2. shows they are always thinking of Allah...developed by.... making sure they know he is the centre of everything

c) Three reasons = Level 3

1. celebrate it to remember someone who had to sacrifice their son for Allah
2. Muslims have the festival to show their respect for Allah
3. gratitude towards Allah for the life he has gifted them with

Level 3 = 6 marks

di) Personal viewpoint, supported by one fully developed reason = 3 marks

1. other things more important.....developed by.....prayers helps them appreciate Allah ...further developed byput him at the centre of everything

dii) Opposite viewpoint supported by three reasons = 3 marks

1. giving Zakah is a good thing and makes you a better person
2. helps the less fortunate
3. strengthens the ummah

16 marks

(b) I agree because you are following the words of Allah and you are acting upon it.

Another reason is that you are following the 5 pillars of Islam and in the day of judgement salah will be asked.

Also you are getting closer to Allah and it makes you a better person because you are making Allah happy and your self.

(c) Muslims celebrate id-ul adha for a celebration of ~~breaking~~ breaking fast and on this beautiful day

you are asking for forgiveness.

Also so they can remember the poor and help them.

(d) (i) I agree because you have a free choice.
Also you have done what ~~you~~ ^{it has} ~~was~~ ~~said~~ ~~for~~ said in the pillar of Islam. ~~said~~
Another reason is that it's their choice and they have the freedom no one's ~~about~~ going to stop them.

(ii) People may disagree because even though you have given Zakakah your ^{not} ~~not~~ ^{allowed} to do whatever you want because you still have to follow the commands/sayings of our prophet and Allah. Also you have to still follow the five pillars even though you given Zakakah because the other things matter as well!
Also ^{you} ~~you~~ will be judged on how you war in this life.

b) Personal opinion supported by one brief reason and one developed reason = 3 marks

1. Following the words of Allah and acting on it

2. Following the 5 pillars....developed by....in the day of judgement salah will be asked

c) No accurate information. The candidate has confused the Id's

= 0 marks

di) Personal opinion, supported by two simple reasons = 2 marks

1. you have a free choice

2. done what is said in the pillar of Islam

dii) Opposite viewpoint with one fully developed reason = 3 marks

1. Not allowed to do whatever you want....developed by...follow the commands of our Prophet ...further developed by...and Allah

Question 6 (a)

Most candidates gained full marks on this question.

(a) The ~~most~~ annual pilgrimage taken by Muslims to Mecca.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

Fully correct
2 marks

(a) It is an holy pilgrimage in Islam



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

This response is only partially correct because there is no mention of Makkah, therefore it could refer to any other pilgrimage, not hajj.

1 mark

Question 6 (b) (c) (d)

This question was answered extremely well by the majority of candidates. Those who lost marks did so by writing about Id-ul-Fitr, by mistake.

(b) Yes I do think that ^{every Muslim} ~~everyone~~ should visit Mina because it is a ~~speia~~ special place. Muslims believe that at Mina, Allah Prophet Ibrahim was willing to sacrifice his son in order to obey Allah. ~~If everyone~~ This reminds Muslims that they ~~must~~ must be ~~preper~~ prepared to ~~give~~ give up everything to ~~worship~~ for Allah.

Another reason why I think this is because Mina is the place where Muslims go to ignore the Devil. ~~Also~~ Pilgrims throw ~~the~~ stones at the devil to show that they must ~~stop~~ stop the Devil from having an effect on their lives. If every Muslim does this they will know to only focus on and worship Allah.

(c) Firstly, fasting is important for Muslims because it helps develop self-control. When going without food and drink ~~at~~ from dawn ~~to~~ ^{in Ramadan,} dusk, Muslims can remove selfishness from their lives and get ~~closet~~ closer to Allah.

Secondly, fasting is also ~~isnot~~ important for Muslims because it is commanded by the Quran. ~~Also~~ Muslims believe that the

Qur'an is God Allah's direct word and so they must abide by it and fast as a form of ibadah.

Finally, the last reason why fasting is important for Muslims is because it strengthens the Ummah. During ^{the time of Ramadan,} ~~this time~~ rich Muslims can put themselves in the feet of the poor and this pushes them to help out and give zakah for not to the poorer members of the Ummah. This is to ~~ensure~~ ^{ensure} that wealth which is a gift from God is shared out amongst all ~~people Muslims~~ people equally.

(d) (i) I agree that saying the Shahadah is the most important pillar of Islam. A Muslim might agree with me by ~~saying~~ ^{repeating} that the Shahadah is a declaration of faith and reminds Muslims everyday that they have submitted to Allah by accepting Islam.

Another reason why I agree with this statement is because saying the Shahadah ~~strengthens~~ helps Muslims to reflect on the most important belief in Islam, ~~For Tawhid~~ - Muslims believe that The Shahadah states that there is no God but Allah and this reminds Muslims of their faith ^{and beliefs} ~~on~~.

(ii) However, some people may disagree with me because they might believe that salah is the most important pillar. This is because Muslims pray 5 times a day in order to bring themselves physically and spiritually closer to Allah.

Another reason why some people may disagree with me is because they might believe that ~~that~~ giving Zakah is the most important pillar in the Quran. This is because giving zakah is ordered by the Quran which is the word of Allah and so is more important.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

b) Personal opinion, supported by two developed reasons = 4 marks

1. prophet Ibrahim prepared to sacrifice his son...developed by....must be prepared to give up everything for Allah
2. throw stones to show they must stop the devil having an effect on their lives...developed by ...only focus on and worship Allah

c) Four reasons = Level 4

1. develops self-control
2. removes selfishness from their lives
3. get closer to Allah
4. fasting is a form of ibadah

Level 4 = 8 marks

di) Personal viewpoint, supported by three reasons = 3 marks

1. Shahadah is the declaration of faith
2. reminds Muslims everyday they have submitted to Allah
3. helps reflect of tawhid

dii) Opposite viewpoint supported by one fully developed reason = 3 marks

1. Salah is most important because...developed by....pray 5 times a day....bring themselves physically...further developed by.....spiritually closer to Allah

18 marks

(b) Yes, I do because on the way from Arafat to Mina, the pilgrims gather 49 stones which they then throw at the pillars or stoning in Mina. They do this to remember how Ibrahim (AS) stoned the ~~devil~~ shaytaan at Mina when he tempted him to disobey Allah and to not sacrifice his son. Another reason they do this is to get rid of all the evil in their heart, throwing the stones symbolise that we will reject the shaytan and all of his temptations to commit sin and do evil things; this is why muslim should visit Mina to remember Ibrahim (AS) and the sacrifice he made.

(c) muslims believe that they should fast for the month of Ramadan. This is mentioned in the Quran that they should stay away from food, sex, drinks from dusk till dawn. We believe fasting is important because in the month of Ramadan because it's a pillar in Islam and also because all our good deeds are multiplied by 70. In the month of Ramadan muslims are extra careful about what we say and do. we try not to swear and fight. we

try to pray 5x Salaah and as much quran as possible.

In the Quran it says تَشْرِيفًا لِلْأَيَّامِ الَّتِي فِيهَا أُنزِلَ فِيهَا الْقُرْآنُ
فَدَعَىٰ بَنِي إِسْرَءِيلَ فَصَلُّوا وَابْتَغِ مِنَّ الْقُرْآنَ وَالْفُرْقَانَ
This means "The month of ramadan in which was revealed the Quran a guidance for people and clear proofs of guidance and criterion. so whoever sights (the moon) let him fast."

↳ In the Quran

If Allah has mentioned, it must be important to the muslims, ↳ The month of ramadan is sacred to muslims

(d) (i) I agree, Shahadah is the most important pillar in Islam because if you do not believe in shahadah, then you cannot fulfil the other pillars in Islam. Shahadah is believing in the oneness of Allah and also believing in hawhid. In Islam, we believe that shahadah is the most important pillar because believing in one Allah makes you a muslim if you do not then you are not a muslim.

(ii) People shouldn't disagree with me because they are muslim-



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

b) Personal opinion, supported by two developed reasons = 4 marks

1. Do this to remember Ibrahim stoned the shayton...developed by ..tempted to disobey Allah
2. Get rid of the evil in their heart...developed by....symbolised by throwing the stones

c) Three reasons with one developed = Level 4

1. Mentioned in the Qur'an that they should stay away from..developed by...the quote at the end of the answer
2. It is a pillar in Islam
3. Our good deeds are multiplied by 70

Level 4 = 8 marks

di) Personal viewpoint, supported by two reasons with one developed = 3 marks

1. If you don't....you cannot fulfil the other pillars
2. ...believing in the oneness of Allah...developed by...believing in tawhid makes you a Muslim

dii) No correct information = 0 marks

15 marks

Question 7 (a)

The question asked for a definition of aqqa' and some candidates lost marks by describing something that happened at the ceremony.

(a) The Islamic birth ceremony



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

This is a fully correct answer. The spelling is not judged on this question.

2 marks

(a) Aqqa is the naming ceremony for a new baby, also the weight of its hair is given to charity in gold or silver



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

This answer is an example of something that takes place at the ceremony. The question requires a definition, so this is marked as partially correct.

1 mark

Question 7 (b) (c) (d)

Many candidates answered b) and c) well but then clearly did not understand the idea of riba.

(b) I think they are still important in the UK because it provides a sense of identity for Muslim women and projects ~~as~~ that they are proud of their religion. ~~They don't~~ ~~to be judged on their eat.~~ The modest clothing is also important because it means Muslims will be judged on their actions [&] not their looks, while it provides security to women.

(c) Greater Jihad would be difficult to achieve for Muslims who have previously been hurt by others because it would difficult to ~~from~~ forgive those people ^{even in the} ~~in order to~~ purpose of greater jihad.

Furthermore, greater jihad means a muslim will always be aspiring to achieve a greater connection with Allah through things such as salah and reading the Quran.

It also means Muslims are always trying to develop better attributes such as patience and self-control, which requires a lot of time.

~~The emphasis of~~ Greater jihad is mentioned in the Quran and ~~it~~ Muhammad (PBUH) taught of its importance, which means Muslims consider it greatly important in their lives.

(d) (i) I disagree to a large extent as Muslims can use shared-equity schemes or renting in order to find places to stay in. Also, they can use Islamic banks to place their savings in which avoids interest. As well as that, Muslims can take loans from wealthier members of the ummah rather than interest-charging loans. They ~~avoid~~ can also avoid interest by paying credit-card bills one time ~~while~~ or get a debit card instead.

(ii) Some may disagree with me as they argue British business is based on interest, therefore riba laws are incompatible in places like the UK. As well as that, they ^{mention} ~~write~~ in a capitalist society majority of people who want to buy a house can't pay all of it at once, requiring mortgages & it is difficult find other schemes. Furthermore, riba laws mean that one can't take interest-charging loans, therefore ^{they argue} a Muslim who can't find a member of the ummah willing to donate would be in a tough ^{situation} ~~situation~~.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

b) Personal opinion supported by two developed reasons = 4 marks

1. sense of identity...developed by ...proud of their religion
2. judged on actions...developed by...not their looks

c) Three reasons with one developed = Level 4

1. difficult to achieve
2. forgive people who have hurt you
3. greater connection with Allah... developed through the example of salah giving better attitudes

Level 4 = 8 marks

di) Personal viewpoint, supported by three reasons = 3 marks

1. shared equity schemes
2. rent a home
3. use Islamic banks

dii) Opposite viewpoint, supported by two reasons, with one developed = 3 marks

1. in U.K. require mortgages...difficult to find other schemes
2. can't find a member of the ummah willing to donate.....tough situation

18 marks

(b) I agree that Muslim dress laws are still important and my first reason is because it is commanded in the Qur'an that all Muslims should dress modestly and appropriately therefore this should not change just because live in the UK or an non dar-ul-Islam country. My second reason is Allah gave humans free will therefore even if dress laws are not compulsory in the law of the land it is a test from Allah to see if we can continue to follow the right and straight path to heaven by avoiding temptation and continuing to dress modestly.

(c) Greater jihad is the ~~struggle~~ internal struggle to overcome evil and suffering in oneself. This could affect the life of Muslim because it provides comfort to struggling Muslims that everything happens for a purpose and we should have faith in Allah as he has all greater knowledge of the future and we should trust in his decisions. Also one may experience greater jihad from Allah to test ones ability to help themselves before asking others or Allah for help. Greater jihad can lead to greater taqwa because in order to

overcome this evil and temptation Muslims must have a strong iman and ~~correct~~ god consciousness of everything.

(d) (i) I agree with this statement because riba is the any borrowing or lending money at interest which is haram for Muslims however in a capitalist society today it is extremely difficult to find banks that don't lend money at interest. These laws of riba do not work because society as a whole is not muslim so some are unaffected by these laws such as athiests but Muslims are greatly affected. It is unfair to muslims who live in modern society today.

(ii) However. Someone may disagree with me because although the laws of riba are difficult to follow in a capitalist society, this means it is a test from God to see if Muslims will continue to follow the straight path and avoid temptation. Also it is not impossible because there are Islamic banks that lend money interest free to help muslims in a capitalist society to follow the laws of riba. Continuing to follow the laws despite difficulty shows strength in iman.



b) Personal opinion with two developed reasons

1. Command in the Qur'an.....developed by....should not change just because living in the U.K
2. It is a test from Allah.....developed by....avoid temptation

=4 marks

c) Three reasons, with one developed = Level 4

1. Everything happens for a purpose
2. Tests ones ability to help themselves
3. Leads to greater taqwadeveloped by..... To overcome temptation must have a strong iman

Level 4 = 8 marks

di) Personal opinion supported by one developed reason

1. Haram for Muslimsdeveloped by.....extremely difficult to find banks that don't charge interest

= 2 marks

dii) Two reasons with one developed

1. Test from God
2. Not impossibledeveloped by....banks lend money interest free

= 3 marks

Question 8 (a)

Generally, this response was answered well.

(a) sum of money given to charity



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

This response is marked as partially correct, because there is no mention of it being a voluntary or extra act of charity.

1 mark

(a) sadaqah is voluntary good actions or voluntary charity - excluding zakah.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

Fully correct

2 marks

Question 8 (b) (c) (d)

Candidates who answered this question demonstrated clear knowledge and understanding of all the Islamic teaching.

(b) Yes, I think birth rituals are significant because birth ceremonies such as *aqida*, spread love and unite families. It is also important because they have impacts on the child itself when they grow up. For instance, reciting the *adhaan* in the ear of an ^{new} unborn child blocks out *shaytan*, purifies the soul and embraces the child into *Islam*. Birth rituals are important because it shows the devotion of parents to their children and shows Allah that they care for them.

(c) Death rituals are important for Muslims because performing *Ghusl* on the dead body symbolizes washing away impurities from the dead body and also any evidence of sin. Death rituals are important as when the dead person is enshrouded in white cloths, white is pure colour and therefore the dead person goes to Allah in purified and clean form.

funeral prayer is also significant because it demonstrates that people pray for the intercession of the dead person so that the person is forgiven by Allah, the almighty.

Some people also pray Quraan and do ibadah on behalf of the dead person so that Allah forgives him and so his good deeds become heavier and help him out in the grave etc.

(d) (i) I ~~do~~ strongly disagree with the view that "small amounts of alcohol will not harm anyone" as the consumption of alcohol is strongly forbidden in Islam. It also goes against the teaching of ~~the~~ Rasulullah (saw). It is ~~Islamically~~ ^{halal} wrong, even small amounts, because it can disturb and disrupt your belief in Allah. It can digness your purpose of life which is to focus, worship and obey Allah. It is not about how much you consume, it is ~~for~~ ^{haram} forbidden, therefore should never be touched or consumed.

(ii) Some people may disagree with me and feel that "small amounts of alcohol will not harm anyone" because as long as it's small and does not affect your health and won't lead you to sin, it is okay and won't affect anyone. Small amounts of alcohol are reasonable as they don't have long lasting impacts. It does not harm anyone because you can still do worship of Allah without in this state because a small amount does not affect your brain or physical activity and you would not end up hurting anyone.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

b) Personal opinion, supported by two developed reasons = 4 marks

1. spread love ...developed byand unite families
2. reciting the adhan....blocks out shayton... developed by...purifies the soul

c) Four reasons = Level 4

1. symbolises washing away impurities
2. goes to Allah in purified form
3. prayer for intercession
4. good deeds become heavier

Level 4 = 8 marks

di) Personal viewpoint, supported by three reasons = 3 marks

1. forbidden
2. small amounts disturb belief
3. digress from worship

dii) Opposite viewpoint, supported by two reasons with one developed = 3 marks

1. small amount won't lead to sin...developed by...won't affect anyone
2. not long lasting effect

18 marks

(b) Yes,

because firstly, they are commanded in the Quran that they must be done and are important in Islam. They also symbolize how a muslim should start life or should be born.

Secondly, they are important because they teach the ~~born~~ born that Allah is one, the rituals allow the born to hear god's name as their first so that it is put in their heads and they don't forget about ~~it~~ him.

This gives them the idea of god and islam so as they grow, it stays in their minds as minds are a powerful thing / part of your body.

(c) When a person dies there are certain death rituals that a person must complete.

Death rituals are important because first of all they are mentioned in the Quran, that certain death rituals must be taken to when a person dies.

To prepare the body for the grave and the writing.

Another reason to why death rituals are important for Muslims is because Allah (s.w.t) is the most powerful and when the dead are in the grave, in a certain time the Soul will be taken and so to do this they must clean

the body from before and prepare it for that said ~~the~~ taking journey.

Another reason for this is the body will decay and teeth and nails will start to fall and for this reason, death rituals should occur to not let the certain situation interfere.

(d) (i) Some people may agree with this because firstly, in Islam alcohol is a big sin, it's the Islamic message that Allah sent to make sure everyone doesn't do it.

Secondly in Islam alcohol isn't allowed because it causes people to become drunk and don't know what they are doing which would cause them to performing bad deeds as a person wouldn't know.

Thirdly, those small amounts of alcohol will lead to bigger amounts because alcohol is addictive, and in Islam taken a bit would cause to a lot which is why it's forbidden.

(ii) Some people may disagree because, firstly, they will think that it's just a drink so it won't do anything to anyone.

Secondly people think that it's only for a short time so nothing will happen.

Thirdly, people say and think they can control it, because they think because it's a little bit, they won't be in over their heads.



b) Personal opinion, supported by two developed reasons
= 4 marks

1. commanded in the Qur'an...developed by.....symbolise how a Muslim should start life
2. hear God's name ... developed by....don't forget about him

c) Two reasons, with one developed = Level 3

1. mentioned in the Qur'an to prepare the body for the grave

2. soul will be taken so clean body....developed by.... prepare for journey

The phrase 'mentioned in the Qur'an' without any development is not sufficient on its own, to gain marks

Level 3 = 6 marks

di) Personal viewpoint, supported by two reasons, with one developed = 3 marks

1. alcohol is a sin

2. don't know what they're doing ...developed by...cause bad deeds

dii) Three reasons = 3 marks

1. just a drink

2. short time so nothing will happen

3. can control it

16 marks

Paper Summary

Candidates had been well taught and showed clear understanding and knowledge of Islam. Most marks were lost due to candidates not reading the question carefully.

The quality of answers overall was better this year because more candidates were able to answer the d) questions well, by giving opposing views supported by good reasons.

Based on their performance on this paper, candidates may improve their performance by:

- always learning and using the glossary definitions of key words
- remembering that the development of a reason must refer back to the question
- noting that in b) items, only two reasons are credited, therefore to achieve full marks these reasons must be developed
- using the mark scheme as a resource to understand how marks are awarded
- always ensuring that answers for b) and d) items begin with a clear personal viewpoint
- reading the question carefully and making sure that answers do not cross between two questions

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