

Examiners' Report  
June 2015

GCSE Religious Studies 5RS04 01

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## Introduction

The specification continues to be a popular course as teachers and schools recognise the benefits of an examinable course that both interests and educates young people. The variety of choice within the specification allows teachers to teach the course that best suits their candidates and, as such, the examination is unique.

Unit 4 covers Religion and Life from an Islamic perspective. The course engages the interest of young people, it addresses many moral and spiritual issues affecting young people today and, importantly, it fulfils all the requirements for the present Key Stage 4 statutory Religious Education.

It was especially pleasing to see that candidates were making relevant use of contemporary issues in their responses, such as recent discussions about euthanasia and the law changes regarding same gender marriage.

The candidates have achieved a wide range of performance levels as would be expected from an examination with mainly a whole cohort entry.

The mean on this paper showed a slight increase from last year. This would be expected during the course of a specification as teachers and students improve their exam technique in response to previous feedback and exam results.

Please note: Words within inverted commas in candidate examples indicate the sense of the candidate's response. This may or may not be quoted *verbatim*.

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

- (a) The (a) questions (Q) ask for either a definition or examples. Q1(a) asks for a definition of natural evil. Examples without the definition were only awarded partial marks as per the mark scheme.
- (b) This concerned whether or not people should have a religious upbringing. Answers describing a religious upbringing that did not link with the question asked gained no marks. Answers needed to include a personal opinion and more able candidates used examples from religious texts as development of opinion.
- (c) This question required candidates to outline how religious experiences lead to belief in Allah. Most candidates were able to describe religious experiences but many did not link them with belief in Allah. There were some excellent responses showing that many teachers were introducing candidates to modern and AS-style religious arguments. It is important that candidates are taught the difference between a religious experience, eg a miracle, and an experience of religion, eg going to the mosque.
- (d) Here, candidates needed to evaluate a statement about whether suffering is proof that Allah does not exist. It was possible to use a wide range of material to respond to the question. Many candidates concentrated on the inconsistent triad and gave well thought-out responses. Most candidates are now familiar with the layout of the (d) question and were able to state their own opinion and give reasons for it in (d)(i) and give an opposite view in (d)(ii).

Write your answer here:

(a) Suffering which has nothing to do with humans.

For example: earthquakes.

(b)

Yes, A religious upbringing allows children to learn about their religion.

For example - a child will go to mosque to seek knowledge about Allah and Islam.\*

Furthermore, ~~the~~ ~~parent~~ as parents are role models this will impact the child when they grow up. Fasting with parents influences ~~of~~ the children and this practise will remain until a very old age as it is a habit.

\* This allows the child to read the quran and hadiths so it can ~~implement~~ <sup>benefit</sup> them in the hereafter.

(c) A numinous experience is a feeling of a presence greater than you. Someone could be on top of a mountain and will experience a feeling of <sup>awe</sup>

convincing them that there must be a God/Allah as the experience is overwhelming. Also, a conversion is when your life is changed by giving yourself to Allah and dedicating time to him. Cat Stevens (Yusuf Islam) had a conversion experience and changed his life for Allah when he learnt about Islam.

In addition to this, when a prayer is answered it leads someone to believe in Allah. This makes them feel as though Allah is listening and answering their prayers. A person could be praying for their friend to recover and that very friend may recover from an illness.

Lastly, a miracle may allow someone to believe in Allah. The Quran states that the prophet (S.A.W) split the moon and also, there are many modern day miracles. A piece of food had the name 'Allah' engraved within. Science can not explain this as it breaks the laws of science.

(d) (i) If Allah ~~was~~<sup>is</sup> omnipotent he would stop suffering. If Allah ~~was~~<sup>is</sup> 'Al-rahman' and 'Al-rahim' then suffering would cease to exist. If Allah existed there would be no suffering as innocent people suffer for no reason.

(ii) This life is a test and suffering is a part of this test. Suffering allows people to become closer to Allah and strengthens faith. Also, suffering occurs as part of Allah's plan and humans are unaware of his plan.



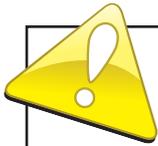
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**Examiner Comments**

- (a) A correct answer  
2 marks
- (b) Two reasons with examples 'Learning about their religion, for example going to the Mosque' and the 'parents being role models which children will copy for example fasting'  
4 marks
- (c) Two developed reasons 'numinous' and 'conversion'. The candidate did not need to write the rest of the answer to receive full marks.  
8 marks
- (d)(i) Three reasons based on the characteristics of Allah  
3 marks
- (d)(ii) One fully developed reason about Allah's reasons for evil and suffering  
3 marks

Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar (SPaG)  
4 marks

**Total = 24 marks**



**ResultsPlus**

**Examiner Tip**

- (b) These questions should begin with a statement identifying that the answer is the candidate's own opinion. In this case the candidate says ' Yes '.
- (c) Ideally, candidates should start a new paragraph with each new reason they give on a (c) question.
- (d) Candidates should ensure they identify an **Islamic** reason in (d) questions: this is asked for clearly, in the question.

Write your answer here:

(a) Natural evil is suffering which is not caused by humans.

(b) Yes, I do think everyone should have a religious upbringing because it helps everyone to have that sense of acknowledgement that ~~of~~ God exists. In addition to this, it makes people have faith and hope into something that they are committed to not only does it make people believe in God it boosts their self esteem of having a religious upbringing that they can trust because of a well ~~respet~~ respected adult believing so also ~~mat~~ making everyone abide to it.

(c) Religious experiences may lead to people believing in God because ~~they~~ when people have experienced religious things happening to them it makes

them wonder if only someone that is ~~omni~~ <sup>Omni-potent</sup> ~~All-powerful~~ can only do such a thing. In addition to this, some people may think a religious experience is a miracle. A miracle is when something which breaks the law of science and can only be explained by Allah doing so. They may believe if something is impossible and it came true there's only one explanation. Furthermore, religious experiences only makes oneself question themselves by saying am i believing in the right belief. There are so many religious experience things that happen for example, some people were going to burn the Quran the holy book of Islam but didnt because they were all killed. That makes you think only something as powerful and magnificent can stop this from happening making them believe in Islam.

(d) (i) I disagree with this because All-h has put us on this earth to test us and to test our limits. Suffering is caused by All-h because he is trying to test our limits and abilities to see whether we can help. Furthermore All-h is omni-potent, all powerful, so he can do whatever he wants and he can only control ~~some~~ things that he wants to control. In addition to this, ~~All-h~~ in the Quran <sup>if says</sup> All-h has to push our limits <sup>so then</sup> if we do good in this world a secure good place is <sup>reserved</sup> for us in the here-  
~~after~~ after.

(ii) Some people may disagree with me because some people may think if All-h is "Omni-benevolent" why is he causing suffering to ones he created. Furthermore other people may disagree with me because they may be Atheist people who don't believe God exists. Also some other people may think if he is "Omni-potent" why doesn't he stop the suffering to end endless deaths.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

- (a) A correct answer  
2 marks
- (b) Two reasons  
'It helps people' and 'it gives them faith and hope'  
Neither of the reasons is developed  
2 marks
- (c) One developed reason  
'a miracle' The rest does not answer the question  
4 marks
- (d)(i) One fully developed answer about being tested  
3 marks
- (d)(ii) Three reasons  
'If Allah is omnibenevolent and omnipotent' and  
'people may be atheist'  
3 marks

SPAG = 3 marks

**Total = 17 marks**



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

Encourage students to use the key words and to spell them correctly. This, along with the use of paragraphs, is most likely to be awarded 4 marks for SPaG.

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

- (a) This was a glossary definition question about prayer. This question was very well answered by candidates; most candidates who did not know the glossary definition were able to give an alternative correct wording. Very few only gave an example. The description of someone who prays gained no marks.
- (b) Most candidates were able to state their own opinion and then give a reason for why they believed or did not believe Allah designed the world. However, frequently, the candidates simply described creation, which did not answer the question set. More able candidates discussed the design argument and developed their answers with examples from religious texts or science.
- (c) This question was not answered particularly well, generally. Many candidates wrote very vaguely, with few examples and did not link the media with belief in Allah. A number of students wrote well about how Islam is perceived because of the media, but did not then link this with belief.
- (d) Some candidates answered this question well, using examples such as the baby crying crystals and the name of Allah appearing in fruit, as well as experiences that they see as miracles, such as the sun rising each day.

Write your answer here:

(a) An attempt to contact Allah, usually through words.

(b) Yes, I do think Allah designed the world. This is because there is evidence to back the thought. First of all, DNA seems to be a piece of evidence of design in the world. It is a nucleic acid that forms the material of all living organisms. It's made of two strands that form a double helix. The structure and ~~design~~ formation of DNA seems to lead to the ~~best~~ evidence of design in the world. The only ~~person~~ being who can make something as complex as this must be Allah. Also, the laws of science also leads to the idea that Allah designed the world. The laws of gravity, motion, electricity, bonding, gases e.t.c all involve complex things working together. Therefore the only being who can design something as complex as these things must be God.

(c) The film Bruce Almighty can affect a person's belief in Allah in many ways. Firstly, in the film God gives Bruce his powers. This contradicts to the

belief in Allah that only ~~God~~ Allah has powers and is omnipotent. Muslims would therefore question as to how humans can get powers from Allah.

Additionally, God is seen as a person in the film. This goes against Muslims' beliefs that God is a being who does not have human form. Muslims believe God is not human nor does he have features of ~~a~~ human, e.g. eyes, ~~and~~.

On the other hand, in Bruce Almighty, God answers prayers. In this case, he answers Bruce's prayers. This is same in Islam, where a person believes if they pray to Allah, then he will answer the prayer in some way or another. It is a common belief in Islam, to think that God answers prayers.

Also, the film Bruce Almighty presents a scenario where God helps those in times of needs. This again is same in Islam where Muslims believe that if you ask or attempt to contact Allah, then he will help in times of needs.

(d) (i) I agree as science is used to explain miracles. Science professors have used science to explain miracles in some scenarios.

Also, some people may wonder why miracles are performed for the rich and not those who are poor and starve in the East. Additionally, there is no evidence that these miracles have been performed. There is no non-biased evidence such as an article written by a non-religious person. Some people may even lie about miracles.

(ii) some people may disagree as they may think that as God is omni-potent, he has the powers to perform miracles. This can be reflected in Islam as ~~other~~ miracles were performed years ago in history.

Also, people may think that all the other religions ~~should~~ mentioned miracles as the same ones ~~but~~ they are ~~different~~ but in different stories, so there must be some truth to it.



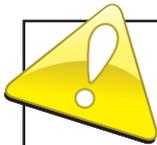
## ResultsPlus

### Examiner Comments

- (a) A correct definition  
2 marks
- (b) Two developed answers  
Evidence, eg DNA and the laws of science eg gravity  
4 marks
- (c) Four ways in which the film *Bruce Almighty* may affect belief in Allah  
8 marks
- (d)(i) Three reasons  
'Science explains it', 'there is no evidence' and 'people may lie'  
3 marks
- (d)(ii) Two developed reasons  
'Allah is omnipotent' and 'other religions also have miracles'  
3 marks

SPAG = 4 marks

**Total = 24 marks**



## ResultsPlus

### Examiner Tip

- (a) If a candidate changes their mind about which question they are doing they should cross neatly through the work that they do not want marked.
- (b) Make sure candidates read the question carefully and do not confuse creation, design, and causation.
- (c) Write each reason in a new paragraph.
- (d) Development must link with the question and to the reason already given.

Write your answer here:

(a) Communication with Allah, usually through words.  
There are 5 daily prayers that Muslims read.

(b) Yes, I do think Allah designed the world. This is because the world is well ordered and balanced to sustain life. This means that a power being far greater than humans created the world. The world is a beautiful complex place, with parts that make a whole. If there is night in one part of the world, there could be day in the other. Someone must have designed that.

Another reason is William Paley said that if someone sees a watch for the first time, they will think someone designed it. This is because if one part of the watch doesn't work the others also don't. The world is far more complicated, so it is designed by Allah.

(c) Television programmes might affect a person's belief as they will touch upon

controversial topics. They might show things in certain ways which might be different to what a person believes. One example is that on a TV programme a young girl got pregnant while she was still in school. This programme showed abortion as an easy topic to discuss. This programme showed things like promiscuity, and this could affect a person's belief in Allah as they might stray from the right path.

Radio programmes might affect someone's belief in Allah, as they might discuss topics and have people questioning what they believe in. They might have one belief with good reasons to support that belief, which would lead to people questioning their belief in Allah.

Films might affect people's belief in Allah as they might portray religion in a comedic sense. They would discuss known topics but make fun of them, which might affect a person's belief as they will start thinking about what they believe in and believing what is said.

Television programmes, radio programmes and films all make people question what they know and believe.

~~the~~ in. This might affect a person's belief as they will start researching their religion more.

(a)(i) I disagree with this statement because a person who is ~~the~~ seriously ill could recover <sup>miraculously</sup> ~~naturally~~ when there was no chance of survival.

Another reason in the Quran is a miracle as its words and message have not changed. ~~A third reason is~~

(ii) Some people might disagree with me because they will say that it was just luck that the person recovered.

Another reason is miracles happened before because the Quran was being revealed and now the Quran is already revealed.

A third reason is that at earlier times, Allah's messengers were there and they were special so miracle happened at that time.



## ResultsPlus

### Examiner Comments

- (a) A correct definition  
2 marks
- (b) 2 developed reasons  
One based on the world being designed to sustain life and one based on Paley's watch  
4 marks
- (c) Two ways – a radio programme and a comedy programme, both with a basic explanation  
  
The part about abortion was not credited because the candidate did not address the issue in the question  
4 marks
- (d)(i) An example of a miracle and the existence of the Qur'an  
2 marks
- (ii) Two points made  
'It is just luck' and 'they happened in the past but not now'  
2 marks

SPAG = 3 marks

**Total = 17 marks**



## ResultsPlus

### Examiner Tip

When teaching candidates to answer media questions, encourage them to use specific examples and to remember which section they are answering.

In section one, they could use examples of issues from other sections here but they need to be clear how this may affect belief in Allah.

### Question 3 (a)

Q3 (a) asks for a definition of voluntary euthanasia. Many candidates received partial, rather than full, marks because they did not include all 'parts' of the definition: the person's choice, the person's death, the person's illness.

Write your answer here:

(a) Voluntary euthanasia is when they ~~are~~ <sup>are</sup> suffering from a painful disease and they want to end it.



**ResultsPlus**

**Examiner Comments**

The candidate receives 1 mark here because they have not shown that the person has been granted their wish.

They have not defined the words themselves. Voluntary euthanasia is the painless killing of a person who is ill/dying when they have asked for it.

Total = 1 mark



**ResultsPlus**

**Examiner Tip**

Learn the definitions given in the specification to receive all of the marks available.

Candidates who paraphrase often miss part of the definition needed for full marks.

Write your answer here:

(a) Voluntary euthanasia means ending someone's life painlessly when they are dying from a painful disease and ask for it.



**ResultsPlus**

**Examiner Comments**

This candidate received 2 marks for including all of the elements needed.

Total = 2 marks

### Question 3 (b)(c)(d)

Q3 was more popular with candidates than Q4.

- (b) Most candidates were able to state their own opinion about whether Muslims should be against abortion. More able candidates were able to refer to religious texts and examples as part of their answer.
- (c) The vast majority of answers to this question were very good. Candidates were able to answer by giving a number of Muslim reasons against euthanasia, including development using quotes. Lower achieving candidates included fewer reasons and relied upon secular, rather than religious, argument. The majority of candidates fully-understood the term, and there were far fewer who confused it with other key words, than in previous years.
- (d) Candidates answered this question well, using the full range of Islamic teachings alongside paranormal reasons and that it gives meaning and purpose to life. They were able to contrast this with a lack of evidence and the belief that it is just superstition, or to make humans behave in a certain way. A few candidates were confused by the term *life after death* and used belief in reincarnation as a reason why some people would not believe.

(b) I think all Muslims should be against Abortion because children are a gift from god and if we abort the child we are rejecting his gift. Therefore all Muslims are against abortion.

Furthermore, I think Muslims should be against abortion because the Quran teaches that we should not slay our children. The Quran is the words of Allah. Therefore, we should follow his teachings and go against abortion.

(c) Muslims do not agree with Euthanasia because life is a test and at every test there is a reward or punishment. So if we do euthanasia we are seen as cheating the test. Therefore Muslims do not agree with euthanasia.

Furthermore, The Quran teaches that "Allah does not place a burden on a soul greater than it can bear". The Quran is the words of Allah. This shows that we should patient and follow accept his teachings.

In addition,

(d) (i) Everyone should believe in life after death because the Quran teaches it. The Quran is the words of Allah. Therefore, we should follow his teachings. In addition to this, the prophet also taught life after death. The prophet is an the perfect example so we should follow his path. Furthermore, Muslims believe life is a test and at the end of every test there is a reward or punishment. Clearly this shows that there is life after death.

(ii) Some may disagree with me because, when your dead your dead, you can't function without your heart or brain. Also there is no scientific evidence in space that there is any Heaven or hell. Furthermore, some people don't believe in God so therefore they don't believe in life after death.



## ResultsPlus

### Examiner Comments

- (b) Two developed reasons  
'Children are a gift from God and abortion is rejecting the gift'  
'the Qur'an says not to slay our children' and the Qur'an is the words of Allah'  
4 marks
- (c) Two developed reasons  
'Life is a test (2), on which we will be rewarded or punished (2)  
'Allah does not place a burden' (2) and 'the Qur'an is the word of Allah' (2)  
8 marks
- (d)(i) Three reasons  
'It is in the Qur'an'  
'Muhammad taught it'  
'life is a test'  
3 marks
- (ii) Three reasons  
'You can't function without your heart'  
'there is no evidence'  
'some people don't believe in God'  
3 marks

**Total = 18 marks**



## ResultsPlus

### Examiner Tip

Candidates should be encouraged to read through their work after they have completed it, to check that they have written what they intended to write and that they cannot add anything else to their answers.

(b) I believe all Muslims shouldn't be against abortion because if the child is a result of rape, it could remind the mother everyday of the tragic event and it could possibly be very emotional for her, the mother should be allowed abortion as Islam is a religion of compassion.

In addition, if having the child is a risk to the mother's health then she should be allowed to have an abortion as other people would already be dependant on the mother and the risking of her life could possibly be classed as suicide which is haram in Islam.

(c) Muslims do not agree with euthanasia because if you are in pain then you should have to deal with it as Muslims believe that this life is a ~~test~~ test and in that test there will be hardships and to prove to Allah you are a true Muslim, a person would have to endure the pain.

In addition, only Allah has a right to take someone's life ~~away~~ away as he is the only one who gave it. To take your own life would be classed as suicide and suicide is classed as

haram (forbidden) in Islam.

Furthermore, the people before us during the history of Islam went through so much pain and suffering to get to where we are now. We should endure it and be grateful for other things in life.

Also, helping someone with euthanasia can be classed as assisted suicide and murder which are both (forbidden) haram in Islam.

(d) (i) I believe that everyone should believe in life after death because it has been stated in the seventh kalimah, "... and the day of Judgement..." This demonstrates after the death of everybody, we will be resurrected for the Day of Judgement.

In addition, it's stated in Surah Fatiha "Master of the Day of Judgement" demonstrating that Allah is going to resurrect us on the Day of Judgement and is going to judge us on how we lived our lives.

Furthermore, it has been stated in many hadith we will be resurrected for eternity.

(ii) Some may believe that you shouldn't believe in life after death because to be resurrected you would need a body which would have decayed

In addition, there is no proof as nobody has come back from the dead and told people that there is an afterlife.

Furthermore, some people may not believe in Allah therefore may not believe in life after death.

In addition, there is no scientific proof for life after death also because once the heart stops beating it can't start up again.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

- (b) Two developed reasons  
One based on rape, and the effects of rape, and the second about the mother's health  
4 marks
- (c) Two developed reasons  
'Life is a test' (2), developed by 'the reason for pain' (2)  
'only Allah has the right to take life' (2) developed by 'suicide is against the Qur'an' (2)  
8 marks
- (d)(i) A complete answer based on Islamic teachings  
3 marks
- (ii) Three reasons  
'The body decays' (1)  
'there is no proof' (1)  
'no-one has come back to tell us' (1)  
3 marks

**Total = 18 marks**

### Question 4 (a)

Fewer candidates chose this question.

There were very few incorrect answers for Q4 (a).

Write your answer here:

(a) The belief of life after death.



Write your answer here:

(a) Muslim ~~beliefs~~ beliefs about life after death.



#### Question 4 (b)(c)(d)

- (b) Candidates were usually able to state their own opinion about whether they felt the media should be able to criticise what religion says about matters of life and death.

Most candidates were able to give one reason for their opinion, some found it difficult to think of two reasons and frequently these answers were repetitive. Candidates who did less well were those who provided examples that had nothing to do with this section, 'matters of life and death'. For example, often they referred to a cartoon of the Prophet and as such did not answer the question set. Candidates need to be prepared to answer questions on all parts of the specification.

- (c) This question required candidates to explain how Islamic beliefs about life after death affect the way they live. The vast majority of candidates were able to answer well, but some described beliefs about life after death without linking it to how they live. Some able candidates lost marks here by giving a very detailed answer on why Muslims believe in life after death rather than the questions as asked.
- (d) Most candidates responded well to the question and were able to state their own opinion about whether abortion should always be allowed. Some candidates gave responses that ignored the word *always* and as such, limited the marks they could be awarded.

(b) I think that the media should not be allowed to criticise what religions say about life after death because the media has a big influence on today's society. <sup>This</sup> can weaken someone's faith in Islam.

Another reason why I think the media should not be allowed to criticise what religions say about matters of life after death because every religion has the right to be practiced and to co-exist.

(c) One reason how <sup>Muslim</sup> beliefs ~~are~~ <sup>about</sup> life after death can affect the way they live is that they will commit less sin. This will <sup>benefit</sup> ~~give~~ <sup>them</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>is</sup> in

the hereafter as ~~these~~ <sup>their</sup> good deeds will get them into paradise.

Another reason how the muslims beliefs about life after death can affect the way they live is that they will fear Allah more e.g. if they are going to do something that is bad they will think and that fear will come to them which will prevent them from doing something bad.

Another reason how muslims beliefs about life after death <sup>can</sup> affect the way they live is that they will turn to Allah more and ask ~~for~~ <sup>for</sup> forgiveness. Allah is Ar-Rahim ~~the~~ which means he is merciful this will make them turn to Allah as they will know they will be forgiven.

Final reason ~~what~~ how muslims beliefs about life after death can affect the way they live is because they will stay on the right path. ~~to~~ The muslims will read Quran more because they will receive reward when they die which will help ~~the~~ <sup>them</sup> ~~to~~ go to heaven.

(d) (i) I disagree with this statement because in the Quran abortion is only allowed if the mother's life is at risk. This is because the mother has more responsibility to take on as the child's parent.

Another reason why I disagree <sup>with</sup> this statement is because if abortion is always allowed people may take advantage of this and ~~have~~ have an abortion for a stupid reason.

Final reason why I disagree is because in the Quran ~~it states that abortion is haram~~ ~~and Allah says~~ that abortion is haram in Islam.

(ii) Some people may disagree with me because they will say humans have free will and they have the right to make their own decisions.

Another reason why some people may disagree with me is because they ~~will~~ will say what if the child is unwanted e.g. if the mother was raped.

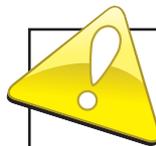
Final reason is that the parents may not be able to provide for the child financially.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

- (b) One developed reason  
'The media has a big influence, and it may affect someone's faith'  
The second point made does not answer why the media should not be allowed to criticise what they say.  
2 marks
- (c) Two developed reasons  
'They will commit less sins' (2) 'which will benefit them in the hereafter' (2)  
'they will fear Allah more' (2) 'this will prevent them doing something bad' (2)  
8 marks
- (d)(i) One developed reason about the mother's health plus one brief reason about stupid reasons for abortion  
It is not banned in the Qur'an so this cannot be credited.  
3 marks
- (ii) Three reasons  
'Freewill'  
'rape'  
'financial reasons'  
3 marks

**Total = 16 marks**



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

Candidates must be aware of other views within the religion. Marks are not given for 'Islam bans abortion' but marks will be given for saying many Muslims do not allow/accept abortion in any circumstances.

(b) The media should be allowed because it makes aware of how some people feel on matters. Freedom of speech should be allowed unless it is intentionally causing hatred.

The media criticises other controversial topics so why should this be any different? Freedom of speech should be allowed.

Religion is no different to other controversial topics and everybody is entitled to their opinion.

(c) Muslims believe that they will be judged on their actions and thoughts from this life. This means they will try to be a good person because they want to live the afterlife in

Paradise. Muslims will try to fast (sawm) in the month of Ramadan, this is following one of the five pillars of Islam and is pleasing Allah.

Muslims will also pray Salaat 5 times a day, which is observing another pillar of Islam.

Muslims will be charitable and give Zakaat to help the less fortunate and the needy. This is another pillar of Islam.

Muslims will try to follow the Sunnah of Prophet Muhammad as he is the perfect example and this will also please Allah.

Pleasing Allah will grant Muslims paradise in the afterlife and Muslims will try to please Allah with all acts of Ibadah.

(d) (ii) Abortion should not always be allowed. A child is a gift from Allah and killing the fetus is ~~haram~~ bad in the eyes of Allah. This will interfere with Allah's family planning.

Allah does not like abortion. It says in the Qur'an that <sup>a mother having</sup> an abortion is like "they had slain mankind entirely". It also says "do not take a soul for a soul" unless there has been corruption of the land.

The ~~body~~ fetus was created by Allah and can only be killed by Allah. Muslims believe in the sanctity of life.

(iii) Some people may disagree with me because if the mother has been raped, she will not want to be reminded of this terrible incident everytime she looks at her child, and this may lead to bad treatment of the child.

Some Muslims believe that ensoulment takes place at 120 days so it is allowed to abort a fetus before then.

If the mother's life is endangered because of the pregnancy then it is the lesser of the two evils to abort the child.

"Do not kill unless it is yours by right".



## ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

- (b) One simple reason and one developed reason  
'It makes people aware of how people feel' (1)  
'the media criticises other controversial issues and this is freedom of speech' (2)  
3 marks
- (c) Four points  
'They will try to be a good person' (2)  
'Muslims will try to fast' (2)  
'Muslims will pray' (2)  
'they will be charitable' (2)  
8 marks
- (d)(i) A fully developed reason  
'A child is a gift from Allah, killing is bad, it disrupts Allah's plan'  
3 marks
- (ii) Three reasons (or two with one developed)  
'Rape'  
'ensoulment'  
'health'  
3 marks

**Total = 17 marks**



## ResultsPlus

Examiner Tip

Encourage candidates to split their reasons into two clear ones on (b) questions and use examples or quotes to develop them.

### Question 5 (a)

This question was answered correctly by the majority of candidates.

Write your answer here:

(a) Re-constituted family is ~~step~~ brothers, sisters (step-brothers, step-sisters) and divorce parents who get married again.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

A correct definition  
2 marks

Write your answer here:

(a) re-constituted family is when two divorced ~~family~~ men and women marry bringing together a step son and a step daughter for example.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

Alternative wording but a correct definition  
2 marks

### Question 5 (b)(c)(d)

- (b) This question was one that really benefitted those candidates who had been taught to separate their reasons. Too many candidates gave numerous reasons without any development and a significant number changed the question to write about divorce. The best answers used the increase in cohabitation and the change in law for homosexuals.
- (c) Most candidates answered this question using the teachings. Some answers were repetitive because it is more difficult to find four separate reasons than it is to develop reasons on a question like this. Less able candidates found it hard to achieve more than 4 marks.
- (d) There were some excellent answers to this question, which evidently held great interest to the candidates. Answers were based mostly on religious and sociological ideas surrounding the use of contraception. The best answers to this question discussed issues such as natural and artificial contraception and the different methods of contraception. However, a significant number of candidates confused contraception with abortion and therefore lost marks.

(b) I think attitudes towards marriage have changed in the U.K because many people are living together without being married.

Secondly, people are having sexual intercourse even though they are not married, <sup>this can cause major prob</sup> and the government ~~are it~~ are not doing anything to stop this.

(c) Muslims do not accept sex outside marriage because it is forbidden in Islam.

Secondly, it is a great sin in Islam.

thirdly, it can cause family problems.

Finally, the prophet Muhammad (S.A.W) said in a hadith that that this can get you out of the fold of Islam.

(d) (i) I disagree with this because contraception is the choice of the couple. Secondly, ~~contraception~~ contraception is not like abortion which is banned <sup>according to</sup> in the Qur'an. Finally, the couple might ~~not~~ have a big family and don't have the financial support to have another baby.

(ii) Some may disagree with me ~~because~~ because contraception is preventing life from happening, this is bad because the prophet muhammad (S.A.W) wanted the muslim Ummah to ~~go~~ increase, not decrease. Secondly, contraception is another way of abortion. Finally, Allah said in Qur'an "don't kill your offsprings because of the fear of poverty, for it is we who shall provide for you" (Surah II)



**ResultsPlus**

**Examiner Comments**

- (b) Two brief reasons  
'Cohabitation'  
'sex outside marriage'  
2 marks
- (c) Four points  
'It is forbidden' (2)  
'It is a sin' (2)  
'it can cause family problems' (2)  
'Prophet Muhammad' (2)  
8 marks
- (d)(i) Three reasons  
'Choice'  
'different to abortion'  
'finance'  
3 marks
- (ii) Three reasons  
'Increase the ummah'  
'like abortion'  
'Allah will provide'  
3 marks

**Total = 16 marks**



**ResultsPlus**

**Examiner Tip**

Although many (c) questions may receive full marks using four brief reasons, there are some that do not lend themselves to this way of answering.

Candidates should be encouraged to develop each point they make, using examples or quotes.

Candidates must be clear in the difference between abortion and contraception. Whilst some forms of contraception can prevent implantation if an egg has fertilised, they cannot be said to be the same as abortion because not all sexual intercourse fertilises an egg.

Candidates can argue against contraception because some forms work this way but some students used sanctity of life - it is killing a baby and so on - as reasons not to accept contraception, without any explanation.

(b) Yes, I do think attitudes to marriage in the UK has changed, as things like divorce have started becoming more popular, as women are less dependant on men.

Also, marriage is becoming less ~~or scarce~~ <sup>common</sup>, as people are now more towards cohabitation and promiscuity, so marriage is starting to fall less in the favour of people.

(c) Muslims do not accept sex outside marriage because, firstly, it's strictly forbidden in the Quran.

Secondly, it's resulting in an ~~increa~~ <sup>increased</sup> number of STD's.

Thirdly, the promiscuity and cohabitation shows a lack of shame, and the prophet said 'If you have no shame, do as you wish' <sup>(or to the nearest effect)</sup>.

Finally, there's an increasing number of children outside marriage, who don't have a stable family to live in.

(d) (i) No, I don't agree - that it's wrong to use contraception.

Firstly, the prophet (pbuh) allowed it, so it's allowed for us to use. Secondly, in case of financial issues, contraception helps people not ready for families. Finally, as long as <sup>it</sup> doesn't act as an early abortion, any contraception is allowed to stop things like spread of ~~disease~~ and STD's.



**ResultsPlus**

**Examiner Comments**

- (b) Two developed reasons  
Divorce and cohabitation  
4 marks
- (c) Four reason  
'Forbidden in the Qur'an' (2)  
'increase in STDs' (2)  
'it shows a lack of shame' (2)  
'family life not stable' (2)  
8 marks
- (d)(i) Three reasons  
'The Prophet allowed it'  
'financial reasons'  
'STDs'  
3 marks
- (ii) Three reasons  
'The Prophet disliked it'  
'it means less people in the ummah'  
'it goes against the purpose of marriage'  
3 marks

**Total = 18 marks**



**ResultsPlus**

**Examiner Tip**

Make sure that you know the difference between abortion and contraception.

### Question 6 (a)

The vast majority of candidates received full marks.

Write your answer here:

(a) ~~a~~ A person who has been married before is getting married again.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

A correct definition  
2 marks

Write your answer here:

(a) when <sup>the</sup> divorced couple get married again



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

A correct definition  
2 marks

## Question 6 (b)(c)(d)

(b) This question was answered well. Most candidates were able to state their own opinion about whether attitudes to homosexuality have changed and most linked their reasons with modern understanding of homosexuality or scriptural teachings about homosexuality.

The majority of candidates wrote a balanced answer that acknowledged changes in the law as well as in the attitudes of the general population.

(c) This question was well answered by the majority of candidates. It required candidates to discuss why Muslims might disagree with the use of contraception. Most candidates knew why they might accept contraception although a significant number answered that contraception was the same as abortion. Some candidates then gave reasons for not accepting abortion and these lost marks. The best answers included the purpose of marriage being to bring up children within the faith and to increase the ummah. Some candidates also gave reasons why it can be accepted, which did not receive marks and wasted time in the exam.

(d) Most candidates were able to give reasons supporting their view about whether divorce is bad for family life in (d)(i) and reasons for an alternative view in (d)(ii). More able candidates quickly realised this was not a 'for and against' divorce question and they responded to the questions as it was posed. They used examples to support their opinion. Less able candidate responses simply gave arguments for and against divorce.

(b) Yes I do think attitudes to homosexuality have changed in the U.K because homosexuals now have the same rights as husband and wife.

Also it is seen as ~~an offence~~ <sup>normal</sup> to be homosexual these where - as a couple of years ago it was frowned upon.

(c) Some Muslims do not agree with the use of contraception because they say that the reason of marriage is to make new life and contracept is preventing that from happening.

Secondly the Prophet Muhammad said, "...I want the biggest Ummah on the day of Judgement..." So the use of contraception will decrease the number of people ~~being born~~ instead of increasing it.

Thirdly children are a gift from God and the use of contraception is like refusing to accept the gift that God wants to give to you.

Lastly some Muslims do not agree with contraception because they might say that it is taking the right of the woman away because she has a right to have babies.

(d) (i) I disagree with this statement because if a husband and wife are unhappy then they should get a divorce because they might commit adultery. A

Also there might be a lot of arguments that take place between the couple which could affect the children.

Lastly there is no reason to stay in an unhappy marriage.

(iii) Some people might disagree with me by saying, "The prophet said that 'Allah hates divorce and the devil loves it', so this is why divorce is not allowed."

The children will grow up in a single parent family and this will be hard for the children and both of the parents because they are or the parent will only get limited time to spend with their children.



### ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

- (b) One reason and one developed reason  
'They have the same rights as husband and wife' (1)  
'it is seen as normal whereas it was frowned upon a couple of years ago' (2)  
3 marks
- (c) Four points  
'The reason of marriage is children' (2)  
'increasing the ummah' (2)  
'children are a gift from God' (2)  
'it takes rights away from the woman' (2)  
8 marks
- (d)(i) Three points  
'An unhappy couple may commit adultery' (1)  
'it could affect the children' (1)  
'there is no reason to stay in an unhappy marriage' (1)  
3 marks
- (ii) Three points  
'Allah hates divorce' (1)  
'single parent family is hard for children' (1)  
'hard for the parents' (1)  
3 marks

**Total = 17 marks**



### ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Practise reading the question a number of times. Candidates lost marks for not addressing the question properly in both (c) and (d), here, and this will have affected some candidates' overall mark.

(b) Attitudes towards homosexuality have changed ~~be~~ in many different ways. Homosexuality is now acceptable and tolerated because it's seen in the media that some celebrities have become homosexuals ~~and~~ and they share their stories with the public this makes it more acceptable.

Homosexuality is now allowed by the government and homophobia is ~~not~~ not allowed and seen as an act of criminalisation by the eye of law.

(c) Some muslims don't agree with <sup>the use of</sup> contraception ~~because~~ for many ~~reasons~~ reasons, firstly they believe that life ~~start~~ is given at Conception.

Secondly, some of the contraceptive methods are not

allowed in Islam.

Thirdly, they believe that the purpose of sex is procreation

lastly, they believe that if you use contraception then you are going against the plan of Allah.

(d) (i) I agree with this statement because divorce might cause alot of problems and arguments between the two families also, the children won't have a ~~stated~~ stable place to grow up in and family is the corner stone of society so if it breaks then it will have an affect on society.

(ii) Someone may disagree with me because ~~the~~ the 'marriage couples' might not be a happy with their marriage then divorce is the best solution to avoid arguments in front of their children also children can live with either of the parents and Allah will be totally ~~at the~~ fine.



**ResultsPlus**

**Examiner Comments**

- (b) Two developed points  
'It is accepted and tolerated because it is seen in the media' (2)  
'homosexuality is legal and homophobia is criminal' (2)  
4 marks
- (c) Two points  
'The purpose of sex is procreation' (2)  
'it goes against Allah's plan' (2)  
4 marks
- (d)(i) Three points  
'It causes arguments between two families' (1),  
'the children have no stability' (1)  
'family is the cornerstone of society' (1)  
3 marks
- (ii) The candidate has not referred to Islam  
0 marks

**Total = 11 marks**



**ResultsPlus**

**Examiner Tip**

Always refer to Islam in (d) questions - 3 marks were lost in this example. If the candidate had written 'in Islam, the family is the cornerstone of society' they would have received more marks.

## Question 7 (a)

Most candidates achieved full marks on this question.

Write your answer here:

(a) Religious freedom is the freedom to practice and change your religion.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

A correct definition  
2 marks

Write your answer here:

(a) Religious freedom is when a person is free to choose the religion they want to be a part of.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

A correct definition  
2 marks

## Question 7 (b)(c)(d)

It was noticeable that many responses to Q7 and Q8 were not complete; candidates should be advised to spend about 20 minutes on each question.

- (b) More able candidates were able to answer this question about equal rights in religion using both the information they had been taught and their personal experience. Lower scoring responses confused equal rights in religion with equal rights in society and gained no marks.
- (c) This question was answered poorly by many candidates, who did not identify either an issue from this section (eg discrimination, religious freedom etc) or a form of the media (eg film or TV) and gave general answers that did not receive marks.

The best answers were about the newspaper article concerning discrimination against the Muslim who won a case against a hairdresser for not being given a job and it was clear that these students had been taught this well.

Some candidates wrote passionately about terrorism and how Muslims are portrayed in the press and on the news, but did not link this to community cohesion or prejudice/discrimination, which was a pity.

- (d) Most candidates were able to respond to the quote about whether conversion is desirable but many were unable to use scripture or evidence to support their reasons. Some candidates were able to give their own opinion and reasons for it but were unable to explain why others might disagree with their opinion.

It is important that for (d) questions candidates are encouraged to discuss fully both their own opinions and their reasons for them and those opinions that other people might hold.

- (b) Yes I do believe that men and women should have equal rights in religion because firstly, Allah says "I have created both men and women from a single soul". This shows that both women and men are equal in the eyes of Allah. Secondly, Prophet Muhammad in his last sermon said "All humans are equal . . . like the teeth of a comb . . . nor a ~~man~~ <sup>man</sup> over a woman". This clearly shows that in the religion of Islam, a woman is equal to a man. Allah has also said that "Only the one who is more pious and righteous is superior to me". This shows that gender <sup>are</sup> equal and the only thing that makes one

superior' is how pious and righteous they are as a person.

- c) One issue that was presented in the media was the 19 year old girl going to the salon to get a job, she was denied her job because she wore a headscarf and she filed a lawsuit and claimed £4000 pounds due to discriminations against her. In my opinion it was not discrimination against her or her religion but rather an owner of a salon that is looking to make profit would not have the image of her salon be of someone with a headscarf, simply because it is bad for business. Secondly the image presented of Islam by the girl was also negative because now people think that Islam is a ~~shrewd~~ shrewed or ~~steer~~ <sup>cunning</sup> religion that teaches people to take advantage of someone's innocence by claiming compensation from a lawsuit? The same could be said from a different point of view that the girl was innocent and the owner of the salon was indeed in the wrong. It could also be said that she did discriminate against the young ~~girl~~ girl or not giving her the job because she is a muslim is simply racism.

In conclusion the media can both portray a positive and negative image of the issue saying that 'the young girl was right' or that the 'salon owner wasn't in the wrong'. Therefore the media can prove a good light to community cohesion or a bad light depending on how you look at it.

(d) (i) No I do not agree with this statement because I believe in religious freedom that everyone should have the freedom to practice any religion the way without being harassed. Secondly, Islam teaches us that the 'people of the book', as in the Jewish and the Christian are correct but only had part of the truth and Islam and the Qur'an is the final truth to God.

Lastly I believe that all religions are a path to God and some religions such as Islam a faster, more efficient path whereas others are a meandering, slower path towards God.

(ii) Some people may disagree because they say that Allah has said that "Islam is the correct and final truth and those [Jews & Christians] who had the 'half truth, should be converted if they want to go to paradise".

Secondly, they believe that their religion is the correct path and that they are going to paradise and want to urge others and help them reach their paradise also.



### ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

- (b) Two points  
'It is in the Qur'an that all men and women are equal' (2)  
'Prophet Muhammad in his last sermon' (2)  
4 marks
- (c) One point  
Marks are given for the issue, which is identified clearly. Unfortunately, the candidate has not identified the form of the media  
2 marks
- (d)(i) Three points  
'Belief in religious freedom' (1)  
'without harassment' (1)  
'all religions are a path to God' (1)  
3 marks
- (ii) Two points  
'Islam is the final truth' (1)  
'Jews and Christians should be converted if they want to go to paradise' (1)  
2 marks

**Total = 11 marks**



### ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Make sure candidates are clear which issues belong in which sections so that they are able to identify the issue in media questions.

Without doing this, they will not be able to receive all of the marks available.

(b) yes I do think men and women should have equal rights in religion because firstly, it is stated in the Qur'an ~~that~~ 'Men and Women are created from a single soul' and also in the eyes of God everyone is equal and should be treated the same.

Secondly, ~~the~~ both men and women follow the five pillars and will be judged equally on the day of Judgement as only their deeds will matter on that day. Whether they are male or female will not make any difference.

(c) In the Sun newspaper, there was an article about how a muslim woman was discriminated against for wearing a hijab and she was not offered the job. The ~~man~~ muslim woman applied

for a job at a hair salon and was rejected as the owner said that she wanted her staff to reflect 'the funky urban image of their hairstyles. I found this very shocking as she was being discriminated against and she was missing out on an opportunity because of her religious beliefs. This is unacceptable as her headscarf doesn't affect her skills or how good of a hairdresser she may actually be.

The issue was dealt with fairly as the muslim woman was offered compensation for being discriminated against and the panel concluded that they couldn't understand how her headscarf affected the job and that it was unfair and unacceptable.

The article showed that discriminating a person for their religious beliefs is wrong and won't be tolerated as it's unfair and a person's belief has got nothing to do with their abilities and skills.

(d) (i) I disagree that all religious people should try to convert others to their religion because firstly, it is stated in the Qur'an, 'There is no compulsion in religion'. Which means that everyone has free will and has a choice of what they want to believe. Secondly, if you try to convert others they could feel like you're forcing them and you could end up pushing them further away from religion.

Thirdly, everyone should find God themselves and if God wants them to find the truth then he will guide them and show them the right path.

(iii) Some people may disagree with me because firstly, if we don't preach about Islam and try to convert other then no-one would convert as they wouldn't even think about it and they wouldn't have enough information, they need to be persuaded. Secondly, as a muslim it is our duty to convert other to Islam as it is our purpose and the reason we have been sent on this earth is to pass on the message of Islam. Thirdly muslims believe that only Islam contains the full truth so everyone should follow Islam as it's the only religion that can get you to heaven.



## ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

- (b) Two points  
'It is stated in the Qur'an that all men and women are equal' (2)  
'both follow the Five Pillars and will be judged accordingly' (2)  
4 marks
- (c) The candidate has identified a newspaper and an issue, and clearly says how this was dealt with  
8 marks
- (d)(i) Three points  
'There is no compulsion in religion' (1)  
'everyone has freewill' (1)  
'it could push people further away' (1)  
3 marks
- (ii) Three points  
'We need to convert or people won't know about Islam' (1)  
'it is a duty' (1)  
'it is the reason we are here' (1)  
3 marks

**Total = 18 marks**



## ResultsPlus

Examiner Tip

Make sure candidates understand the difference between religious roles and societal roles.

### Question 8 (a)

Most students understood the word *prejudice* although some lost marks by giving examples rather than a definition,

Write your answer here:

(a) Prejudice is thinking that you are superior than someone even before knowing them.



Write your answer here:

(a) prejudice is believing people are inferior or superior without even knowing them.



## Question 8 (b)(c)(d)

- (b) Most candidates were able to state their own opinion as to whether or not living in a multi-ethnic society reduces racism using both the information they had been taught and their personal experience. Lower scoring responses confused multi-faith with multi-ethnic and gained no marks.
- (c) This question was well answered by candidates who had been taught clearly about interfaith marriages and could understand the issues this might cause. Again, the more specific the candidate was, the more likely they were to receive all of the marks available.
- (d) Some candidates left this question blank because they did not have enough time.

Most candidates were able to respond to the quote. Many had obviously been taught community cohesion very well and they were able to give reasons why the government should do more. This question did not lend itself obviously to an Islamic response and many students forgot to include one.

(b) Multi-ethnic society reduces racism because it allows people to become use to one another, how they look, dress & their culture.

Also, it allows races to learn one another of how they are and races learn from each other.

It allows a better understanding of each other's ethnicity and decreases being judged by others because they understand your culture.

(c) Interfaith marriages causes problems between husband and wife because they may disagree with one another with the religion of the child.

Culture differences can disperse through the couples family and lead to fighting and racism. This ~~may~~ <sup>could</sup> also lead to the family breaking up.

Interfaith Marriage may be hard on the religious person as they may not be able to share the same views as their partner because they both have different views.

This could also lead to family break up and fighting.

Interfaith Marriage can lead to the religious person being judged and bullied outside of the household.

For example, a Muslim who has married a Christian, may be mocked when he goes to work at the mosque and may be shamed for his marriage.

(d) (i) Yes, the government needs to do more to encourage community cohesion because the media still mocks faith, ethnicity and exploits differences in a bad way.

There are still many racist people in the society, and no one actually tells them off.

Many areas are only filled with one race and there is still not no mixture in some communities.

ii) Some may disagree by saying, the government has made it illegal to discriminate between sex, class, age, gender, religion & ethnicity.

There are many campaigns that the government allow to stop racism, like 'no bullying' campaign in schools.

The government do not be racist, they allow people of all colours & class to live wherever they want.

It is the people who need to do more not <sup>the</sup> government.

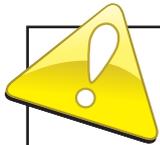


## ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

- (b) Two points  
'People become used to each other, their look, dress and culture' (2)  
'better understanding and less discrimination' (2)  
4 marks
- (c) Three points, one developed  
'Religion of the child' (2)  
'culture differences lead to fighting' (2)  
'being judged' (2) with an example (2)  
8 marks
- (d)(i) Three points  
'The media still mocks' (1)  
'there are still racist people' (1)  
'some areas are only one race with no mixing' (1)  
3 marks
- (ii) The candidate has not referred to Islam  
0 marks

**Total = 15 marks**



## ResultsPlus

Examiner Tip

Candidates need to know the difference between making a statement as though it is fact (eg interfaith marriages end in divorce) and giving a reason (eg interfaith marriages may end in divorce because...).

(b) ~~I think men and women should have equal rights in faith.~~

I think that living in a multi-ethnic society reduces racism because people can learn about other faiths and what their opinions are about other faiths.

People in multi-ethnic societies will make people live in peace and harmony together.

(c) Interfaith marriages could cause problems for religious people for many reasons.

Firstly, people will think that they betrayed their religion.

Secondly, interfaith marriage can cause conflict between the families.

Thirdly, interfaith marriage can cause a problem for the children because they will not know what religion they should follow.

Finally, inter faith marriage can cause a problem in for the son's funeral because they will have to practice their religions.

(d) (i) I disagree with this statement because the government provides education. The government in the UK gives us the right to practice our religion. The government in the UK provides halal food for us.

(ii) Some one may disagree with me because racism still exist. Not many countries provides education. ~~not~~ many violent protest still exist.



### ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

- (b) The candidate talks about faith. They do not receive a mark for the second part because there is not a reason given.  
0 marks
- (c) Four points  
'Betraying their religion' (2)  
'causing conflict between families' (2)  
'the kids will not know what religion they should follow' (2)  
'funeral' (2)  
8 marks
- (d)(i) Two points  
'Education' (1)  
'right to practise religion' (1)  
2 marks
- (ii) One point  
'Racism still exists' (1)  
It cannot receive more marks because there is no reference to Islam.  
1 mark

**Total = 11 marks**

## Paper Summary

Candidates produced some very interesting answers to the questions posed. The increased mean on this paper indicates that candidates have increased the maturity of their responses when answering the questions. Candidates have not only studied the topic but also, importantly, have linked them with their everyday life and the society around them.

Based on their performance on this paper, candidates are offered the following advice.

- There is a choice of two questions per section, each as four sub-questions. Candidates may attempt either the sub-questions in the top questions (odd numbers) or the sub-questions in the bottom question (even numbers). Candidates who choose questions from a mixture of the top and bottom questions will not receive marks for all of their answers and, as such, are at a clear disadvantage
- Candidates are asked to indicate which question they have answered by crossing in a square at the top of the paper. Some candidates did not do this: they should be reminded to do this as part of examination preparation
- Space on the examination paper: The amount of lines given is more than adequate for candidates to achieve maximum marks. There is no need for candidates to write more than this. If candidates write more than can be inserted into the allocated lineage they are using up too much time on that particular question and inevitably will place themselves at a disadvantage later in the paper. Almost all of the candidates who used extra paper had already achieved maximum marks on that question. Any candidate who needs extra space can use the space allocated to other questions, as long as they indicate clearly on their paper that this is what they have done
- Timing: There were some candidates who did not complete the final section this year due to timing difficulties. Candidates should be encouraged to spend about twenty minutes per question, leaving ten minutes to check through work at the end of the paper
- The paper is marked by examiners on a computer screen. Candidates are asked to write using a black pen: this is important so that clear images are reproduced
- Some general points can be made on how best to answer the various question types:
- Maximum marks on the (a) questions are easily gained by learning the Edexcel glossary definitions in Appendix 4 of the specification. Candidates who had learnt the glossary wording performed to a high standard
- Only the candidate's point of view is credited in (b) questions; there is no point explaining other people's views in this question. The easiest way to gain full marks is for candidates to concentrate on stating their opinion and writing two separate reasons for it, each in a distinct paragraph. Then they should develop each of the reasons with an example or a quote. Candidates who are taught to discuss why people disagree with their opinion in (b) questions are severely disadvantaged. This year, many candidates had been taught to give both sides, which will only get them marks if they show that they hold both views themselves. It is not possible to believe that life begins at conception and also that life begins at 120 days: this led to many candidates receiving only half of the marks available.
- The (c) questions were answered well this year, although some candidates are still using superficial reasons that do not address the question asked adequately (eg because the Prophet taught it, because it is in the Qur'an, because it is the hadith etc).
- Candidates may gain the higher mark within the level by writing coherently: this mark is the QWC mark. It is only lost if the candidate's writing is such that it is not easily understandable by the examiner. The (c) questions test AO1 and so are likely to ask for candidates to 'Explain why' or to 'Explain how'.

Many of the (d) questions this year produced interesting answers. However candidates should ensure that they start by stating their own view and reasons for it in (d)(i) and state reasons why someone might hold a different view in (d)(ii) rather than confusing the two halves. At least one of the reasons given in either (d)(i) or (d)(ii) must be explicitly religious, to go beyond 3 marks.

Teachers who would like to learn more about the specification and this year's examination in particular should attend an online Pearson inset, which can be booked through the Pearson website. Specific queries can be answered through *Ask the Expert*, which is also found on the Pearson website.

The new specification, together with sample exam papers, will be available on-line as unaccredited in August. Free on-line training and face-to-face training may be booked on-line at present. Pearson is also providing many resources for the new specification on-line including: schemes of work, planners, candidate exemplars and mapping documents.

## **Grade Boundaries**

Grade boundaries for this, and all other papers, can be found on the website on this link:

<http://www.edexcel.com/iwantto/Pages/grade-boundaries.aspx>

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