

Examiners' Report
June 2014

GCSE Religious Studies 5RS04 01

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Introduction

The specification continues to be a very 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 new specification allows teachers to teach the course that most suits their students and, as such, the examination is unique.

Unit 4 covers Religion and Life from an Islamic perspective and remains popular with candidates from a Muslim background, as well as some non-Muslim students.

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

The rise in the mean on this paper showed that as a result of year 11 only entry the knowledge and understanding of the subject amongst the candidates had increased.

Question 1 (abcd)

This question is based on section one of the specification. Each of the sub-questions covers a different bullet point within the specification.

1(a) asked for two examples of natural evil. Most students answered this accurately, using a variety of natural disasters such as tsunamis and hurricanes. Some students defined the word and received one mark. A small number of candidates confused natural evil with moral evil.

1(b) asked a question about whether a religious upbringing leads to belief in Allah. Most students answered this well, although some gave examples of an Islamic upbringing without saying that this would lead to belief eg a child will be given an Islamic name, go to the Mosque, learn to read the Qur'an and so on but no link was given to how this leads to Allah.

1(c) asked students to explain how Muslims respond to the scientific explanations of the origins of the world and this was answered well, with many candidates achieving full marks.

1(d) was a question about religious experiences and, unfortunately, some students are still confused by the term. The best students wrote about miracles, numinous experiences and answered prayers.

This is a student who has answered each part of the question but has not managed to obtain all the marks available because they lack exam technique

Read each question twice, read through the answers and count how many reasons are given, re-read the question and make sure that it is being answered.

Write your answer here:

(a) Evil that is caused by natural disasters not caused by mankind.

(b) As a muslim i believe that this statment is true because ~~from~~ from a very young age muslim children ~~get~~ ^{get} to mosque to learn about ~~the~~ islam and read ~~understan~~ the Quran. Also influences from parents can lead to belief of Allah for example the mothers duty to keep the home halal and Fathers Sons going to Friday

Jumma (prayers).

Although ^{the belief in Allah} ~~upbringing~~ doesnt have to be influenced by upbringing, for example people who convert to Islam may not have ^{had} a Islamic upbringing and discovered Islam by friends who are fellow muslims or research from TV programmes or books based ^{on} islam

(c) Muslims believe that Allah is omni potent (~~all~~ All powerful) from this they believe that the world is so complex there must be

a almighty creator from this concludes it must be Allah. Also Muslims may respond by having numinous experience (a feeling of a great presence) ~~may of been caused~~ for example climbing a mountain and looking at the view ^{world} ~~may~~ make Muslims think that there is so many things ~~like~~ in detail in the world it couldn't just happen from a other theory such as the big bang, something greater & more powerful. Or maybe something almighty ^{may have} ~~caused~~ ^{the} ~~being~~ however some people may disagree such as Atheists who believe that there is no evidence that religion such as Islam played no part from creating the world and from scientific research provided more information.



(d) (ii) As a Muslim myself I agree with this statement because of spoken experiences from fellow Muslims going to perform Hajj, it also provides a numinous feeling of a great presence and almost feel that Allah is right in front of you & guiding you. Also by Salah (prayers) from this trusting Allah because he is Omnipotent (Allah ^{controls} knowing what happens now and in the future) from this Muslims trust his actions and experiences caused by Allah ~~may~~ make the belief more stronger.

(iii) Some people may disagree with me such as Atheists may say that if Allah is Omnipotent (all good) why ~~does~~ is there still suffering in the world and if people pray to him why isn't ~~he~~ Allah responding ~~some people may say that religious experiences majorly a myth and only~~



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Turn over ▶



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Examiner Comments

- (a) Natural disasters = 1 mark
- (b) Going to the Mosque to learn and understand the Qur'an from a young age = 2 marks; influences from the parents lead to belief in Allah with an example = 2 marks.
- (c) The world is so complex it must have a creator = 2 marks; a numinous experience proves that the world is too beautiful to have come from the Big Bang = 2 marks; Allah could have caused the Big Bang = 2 marks
- (d)(i) A fully developed reason based on the feelings that religious experiences inspire, using examples.
- (d)(ii) A simple reason for saying that atheists would disagree, and a simple reason for asking why Allah is not responding to prayer. The sentence in the middle about evil and suffering is irrelevant to the question – the reasons must refer to the question asked.
- The Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar (SPaG) mark is 2 because the spelling is reasonably accurate but there are some mistakes.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Tip

- (b) Questions should begin with a statement that identifies that the answer is the student's own opinion. In this case, the student says ' As a Muslim I believe...'
- (c) Ideally, students should start a new paragraph with each new reason they give on a (c) question.
- (d) Students should ensure that they refer to Islam in (d) questions, because this is required by the question.

This student needs to look at their exam technique and make sure that they give separate reasons to obtain all of the marks available.

Write your answer here:

(a) Earthquakes & Flooding.

(b) I do believe religious upbringings leads to belief in Allah as firstly, if a child is born to Muslim parents the child will be given a Muslim upbringing which would lead to them believing in Allah for the rest of their lives. Also, a religious upbringing leads to belief in Allah as the child is brought up in an environment where religion is practised and at home they see first hand the acts of worship to Allah.

(c) Muslims respond by describing the design argument which argues that the world is too complex and beautiful to be justified by scientific explanations such as 'The Big Bang Theory' and 'Evolution'. Instead the Muslims respond by stating

that there must be something more powerful which created the world and that is Allah. Despite the Big Bang Theory and Evolution having an explanation the Qur'an already talks about the 'Big Bang' ^{centuries} ~~years~~ before scientists came up with that theory so Muslims can respond by saying this. Muslims can also not believe in these scientific explanations and go about their lives whilst believing in Allah.



(d) (i) I do agree, this is because religious experiences ~~make~~ ^{convince} people to believe that there is a superior being. An example is going on hajj which allows Muslims to ponder that Allah exists otherwise they wouldn't be on hajj. Also, religious experiences prove Allah exists as after having a religious experience a person could then convert to Islam.

(iii) Some people may disagree with me as they may argue that religious ~~that~~ experiences don't prove that Allah exists due to the fact that they believe scientific explanations have more proof. They also may argue that religious experiences do not prove anything as they believe that you do not see anything spectacular to prove Allah exists.



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Turn over ►



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

(a) Correct answer = 2 marks

(b) The student receives 2 marks for saying that they are in an environment where religion is practised, and they see acts of worship at first hand.

The first sentence does not receive any marks because the student does not say how having Muslim parents would lead to a belief in Allah for the rest of their lives.

(c) A fully-developed answer about the design argument, plus a basic reason about the evidence in the Qur'an.

(d)(i) 2 marks for saying that hajj allows a Muslim to ponder that Allah exists, otherwise they would not be there. There is no mark for conversion because the student does not show how this proves that Allah exists.

The SPAG mark is 4 because the student has used grammar and punctuation consistently accurately and the spelling is excellent.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

(b) questions need to give reasons for their opinion. Repeating the question is not going to result in any marks.

Question 2 (abcd)

This question is based on section one in the specification. Each of the sub-questions covers a different bullet point within the specification. Question (Q)2 was not as popular as Q1.

2 (a) asks for a definition of conversion. Most candidates obtained 2 marks.

2 (b) was answered poorly by a number of students who confused a numinous experience with a miracle, or an answered prayer. However, where students understood the question, it was answered very well, with some excellent examples showing clearly the feeling of a greater presence.

2 (c) Most students used the arguments about Allah's omnipotence, omnibenevolence and omniscience, linked to unanswered prayer, and showed how this could lead people away from Allah. Some students did not link these with unanswered prayer and talked about suffering. Other students gave the opposite answer, and said how Muslims should respond to unanswered prayer and these did not receive the marks available.

2 (d) This was answered very well, with many students understanding the causation argument.

This student is an example of one who has considerable knowledge but has not answered the questions asked in (b) and (c).

Write your answer here:

(a) When your life is changed by giving yourself to Allah.

(b) I think a numinous experience can lead to believing in Allah because ~~the~~ something that you experience gives you ^{the} feeling of the ~~the~~ ~~the~~ presence of something that is greater than you. Something such as a miracle can make you believe that something that has way more power than you exists because only Allah can perform something that can break the laws of science. For example when you're about to involve in a fight you suddenly stop and think it's not right for you, which means it is Allah who stopping you because he is in control of your heart and brain.

(c) ~~So~~ Some people reject to believe in Allah because their prayer hasn't been answered. This could be because they could think that there is no such thing ~~is~~ greater than humans because

Allah is omniscient he would know everything if ~~there was something like that~~ ~~that their~~ before ~~his~~ wishes would come true and their ^{and all sufferings would be} prayers would be answered. An ~~an~~ unanswered ~~desire~~ prayer could lead someone in disbelieving Allah because they think that even though they are worshipping him they don't know if he actually exists because they can't see him, they can't talk to him face to face and know whether he actually exists or not. Some people might also disbelieve in Allah because they say that if he loves ~~us~~ his mankind more than a mother ^{and is omnibenevolent} so why would he watch them suffer and not destroy the evil and the suffering which also makes them ~~to~~ think that he does not exist at all. They think that if Allah is omnipotent why doesn't he use his powers to destroy the suffering and evil to create peace in the world.



(d) (i) I agree with the statement because Allah is omni-potent and he has all the power to create this world. The design argument created by William Paley proves that something as complicated as a watch has designed so the universe is much more complicated than that and it must have a creator ~~be~~ because it designed carefully. The causation argument shows that if something has been caused by someone and the big bang theory does not provide enough evidence to show that the whole universe was created by it.

(ii) Some people might disagree with this because they believe that scientific facts ~~prove~~ can prove that how the world was created. Some people also might disagree because they are atheists and they don't believe in any God so for them something other than God created the universe. Some people might be agnostics who don't believe that anything exists so for them the world is created by anything but God so they might also believe that the world was created by the "Big Bang theory" or any other scientific explanation.



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Turn over ►



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

(a) Correct answer = 2 marks

(b) This student only receives 1 mark for the first sentence. The rest of the answer is not about a numinous experience.

(c) This student receives 2 marks for saying that if Allah were omniscient he would know everything, all prayers would be answered and suffering destroyed.

The student does not receive any more marks because they then go on to discuss other reasons why someone may not believe in Allah but does not link them with unanswered prayers.

(d)(i) Allah is omnipotent (1 mark); the design argument (1 mark); causation (1 mark)

(d)(ii) People may believe the scientific argument (1 mark); people may be atheist (1 mark); people may believe the Big Bang (1 mark for development of point one)

The SPaG mark is 3 because the spelling, punctuation and grammar is used with considerable accuracy.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

Remind students to read the question again after each point they make on (c) questions, to ensure that they are answering the question that is being asked.

Timing is restricted and if students go off at a tangent, they may not have time to rectify it later.

This candidate has good exam technique in both (b) and (c).

Write your answer here:

(a) Conversion means ~~give~~ when your life is changed by giving yourself to Allah.

(b) In my opinion, I believe numinous experience leads to belief in Allah, reason being that numinous experience is the feeling of the presence of something great and the being that fits the description is Allah.

Furthermore ~~at~~ a numinous experience could be a sign to ^{show us Allah's power and} ~~us to help~~ us believe ~~in Him~~ as, therefore, we will be convinced to believe in Him.

(c) Unanswered prayer may lead some people to reject belief in Allah because the feeling of rejection makes you believe that there may be no God to hear your calls if your ^{prayer} ~~prayer~~

is not answered.

Furthermore, there are many people ~~across~~ around the globe, ^{who pray} praying for the same thing, however, nothing appears to change. This makes it easier for people to reject belief in Allah.

In addition, a God would be omni-potent* and omni-benevolent. However, if Allah were those attributes, he would surely answer those prayers.

Finally, there are many people who are suffering difficulties, yet Allah does not seem to do anything. This makes it easier to reject belief in Allah.



(d) (i) In my opinion, I believe that Allah created the world. One reason is because the Quraan states Allah's creation of the Universe including the Earth.* In addition, the Big Bang and evolution are only theories on the creation of the world, which means ~~there's~~ ^{there is} a possibility that Allah created the world. Finally, scientists claimed that Earth was caused by the Big Bang, however, Allah ~~es~~ could have caused the Big Bang.

* The Quraan is important as it is the true and unchanging words of Allah.

(ii) Some people may disagree with the statement due to the fact that there is no proof that Allah exists, let alone create the Universe world. Also, scientists believe that the Big Bang is responsible for the creation of the ~~#~~ world. Finally, there may be ~~somee~~ another being that is responsible for the creation of the world - it does not necessarily have to be Allah.



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Turn over ►



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

(a) A correct answer

(b) Two very clear reasons, both developed. It is the presence of something great (1 mark) and the being that fits that description is Allah (2 marks); it could be a sign to show us his power (3 marks) and therefore we will be convinced to believe in him (4 marks)

(c) This is a comprehensive answer, which gets a level for each paragraph – it gives a feeling of rejection, lots of people pray for the same thing but nothing happens, if Allah is meant to be omnipotent and omnibenevolent he would surely do something, and finally, there are lots of people suffering.

(d)(i) It is in the Qur'an (1 mark); the Big Bang is only a theory (1 mark); Allah could have caused the Big Bang (1 mark)

(d)(ii) There is no proof Allah exists (1 mark); the Big Bang is responsible (1 mark); the world could have been created by something other than Allah (1 mark)

The SPAG mark is 3 because the spelling, punctuation and grammar shows considerable accuracy.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

Using paragraphs for (c) questions, with a line in between, makes it clear for the examiner that the candidate is making a separate point.

It also helps the student to be organised when writing their answer and they are less likely to repeat themselves.

Question 3 (a)

This question was answered correctly by the majority of students.

This candidate knows what the definition is.

Write your answer here:

(a) The time between death and Last Day.

(b) I think abortion should be allowed due to the person's situation. For example, if this person was raped and was pregnant she should be allowed to have an abortion, or when the baby is born it could cause her



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

(a) A correct answer = 2 marks



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

Learn the Edexcel definitions. Too many candidates paraphrase and lose marks because their definitions are not fully correct.

Another full mark answer.

Write your answer here:

(a) Barzakh is the waiting time between ~~life~~^{death} and the last day.

(b) I believe Muslims should agree with abortion. One reason is because it should be the ~~moth~~ mother's choice if she wants to keep the child or not as it is her body. In addition, many families undergo financial or emotional



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Examiner Comments

(a) A correct answer = 2 marks

Question 3 (bcd)

This question is based on section two in the specification. Each of the sub-questions covers a different bullet point.

Q3 was not as popular as Q4.

3 (b) Most students answered this question well, although this is a good example of where students may write many different, unconnected reasons rather than two developed ones. Some of the best answers were based on the compassionate nature of Islam and the need for abortion if the mother's life is at risk, whilst at the same time believing in the sanctity of life.

3 (c) This question was answered poorly, in general. Too many students did not identify any form of the media or made a brief statement at the beginning about newspapers/on TV, without being more specific; many candidates did not identify an issue, or used one from a different section of the exam (eg racism).

Many students did not answer the question about how an issue was presented and whether this was fair or unfair, but gave a lengthy answer on how Muslims respond to euthanasia/abortion, without any reference to the media.

3 (d) This was answered extremely well. Students knew both sides of the argument and were able to articulate this well.

This example shows how to answer a media question, although questions were not specific to a particular programme.

It shows good analysis of the issue and addresses the question.

(b) Muslims shouldn't agree with abortion, as abortion is haram (prohibited). Allah says in the Qur'aan, 'And Do not slay your children', ~~the~~ and the Quran is considered the word of Allah and followed by all Muslims. Also, as a Muslim I believe in the sanctity of life, the belief being that all life is holy and belongs to Allah, which shows that only Allah has the right to take a life, whether it is in the womb or not.

(c) ~~The program 'the Simpsons'~~ The program 'Simpsons' recently presented the idea of life after death, through their resident religious character, Ned.

The ~~program~~ episodes ~~storyline~~ included the death of a close relative of a character, and ~~document~~ presented the character ~~and~~, who continuously mentioned, that the relative ~~was~~ in heaven now and was an angel, as an extremist, who clearly didn't possess an ~~amount~~ of logic. Recently, on the news Abortion is often presented by the media, and more specifically on debate programs and the news, as an issue that religious people, need to move on from. It is constantly said that their ~~beliefs~~ ^{beliefs} are ^{due to} a stigma, ^{and a lack of education} and that they need to be modernised and rid themselves of their extremist views. I think that this is greatly unfair for a few reasons. Firstly I think that the media should refrain from promoting such a biased and extremely narrow ~~and~~ ^{narrow} view of people's beliefs. One of the main reasons abortion is ~~disallowed~~ disallowed, is because of the belief in sanctity of life, which is not an unreasonable view at all. ~~The~~ ^{Edwards} ~~the~~ treatment was unfair to religious people, because it presents them to the world as extreme and stuck in the dark ages, and especially targets religious people. If we look at Islam, it generally allows abortion in cases of rape, and if the mother's life is at risk.



(d) (i) I don't agree, religious people, especially should not accept euthanasia. Euthanasia is a form of suicide, and suicide is clearly prohibited by the Quran. Also, this life is a test from Allah, and illness and suffering is part of the test, by using euthanasia, you are effectively failing that test. Furthermore, life is a gift from Allah, and it is Allah's choice and responsibility to take life away, not humans.

(ii) Some people may disagree with me, because they might think, that ~~people with~~ keeping people with terminal and painful diseases, is a waste of NHS resources and money, that could be better used to save people's lives, rather than keep them alive. They might also think, that a person has a right to a quality of life, if their life has no benefits, then they should be free to end it. Lastly, they may think that every person has the right to die with dignity, for example a person ~~suffer~~ who is paralysed and cannot take care of themselves, should be given the right to euthanasia.



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Turn over ▶



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Examiner Comments

(b) Abortion is haram, developed by the quote from the Qur'an = 2 marks; sanctity of life, developed = 2 marks

(c) This is an excellent answer about how abortion has been shown in debate programmes, and how religious views are presented, with good analysis. The marks are given at 'lack of education', 'extremist views', 'sanctity of life' and 'targets religious people'.

(d)(i) Suicide is prohibited, life is a test, life is a gift = 3 marks

(d)(ii) Waste of resources, quality of life, die with dignity = 3 marks



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Examiner Tip

Practise media questions. Asking students to avoid them in the exam is not effective, because some will always choose them over the alternative.

Where the students were given advice on how to answer media questions, usually they obtained full marks.

This is an example of a candidate who has answered the media question without really referring to the media.

(b) I do not believe Muslims should agree with abortion. Muslims believe that life is a gift in which only Allah can take, as Allah had given that life too. Muslims also believe that Allah wants for a man and woman to have children so that the ummah (world-wide Muslim community) can ~~be so~~ ^{become} bigger and they can teach their children how to be good Muslims.

World poverty
(c) ~~Euthanasia~~ is an example of one issue which has been presented in television. ~~Euthanasia~~ is ~~the~~ when a seriously ill person with a painful disease dies from a painless killing. Many non-religious people feel that if God was ~~is~~ ^{is} right as someone needs to be omni-benevolent, then why does

to stop the continuous issues of poverty? They may also say that if Allah is Omni-potent, then he should be powerful enough to stop this from happening. They also say that if Allah is ^{place.} ~~omni-~~ ^{place.} ~~ben-~~ ^{place.} ~~evolent~~ then he wouldn't let this issue take place. They may also say that if Allah is ^{omni-scient} ~~omni-~~ ^{omni-scient} ~~scient~~ then He should know ~~that stopping this fro~~ ^{that people are suffering} and that it should be stopped from happening. This is unfair for religious people as they believe suffering happens for ^{reasons.} ~~reasons.~~ Muslims believe that Allah is Omni-benevolent, they believe that He is all good and He would not let ~~anyone~~ anyone face a pain they cannot bear. They also believe that Allah is Omni-potent, Allah is all powerful and life is a test, part of ~~participating~~ ^{participating} that test is being able to react to an issue in the way Allah wants you to. They also believe that Allah is Omni-scient, Allah knows what is happening however He wants ~~us~~ ^{us} to realise and help people around the world. This is a part of ~~participating~~ ^{participating} passing the test to attain Jannah/Heaven.



(d) (i) ~~#~~ Religious people should not accept euthanasia. This is because Muslims believe that committing suicide is forbidden as Allah had given life and only He can take it - Euthanasia is a form of committing ~~suicide~~ suicide. Euthanasia means that life is ended without having died a natural death. Life is a test and part of that test is to pass it - euthanasia is cheating the test. A quality of life is important for a person to have. Regardless of a person's situation they must persevere to attain a good quality of life and thereafter Heaven.

(ii) However, some people may disagree as they may feel that for a person to have a good quality of life, they will actually have to enjoy life. Euthanasia allows someone ~~to~~ ^{with} a bad quality of life to stop living. People may say that euthanasia should be accepted as if they notice a person is in severe pain and cannot ask, however the person may feel that they ~~would~~ ^{would} have wanted them to do so (i.e. kill them painlessly), then it should be allowed for their sake and well-being. Lastly, a person may ~~be~~ feel that euthanasia should be accepted if someone asks for death and they are in great pain.



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Turn over ▶



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

(b) Life is a gift = 1 mark. This is not then developed. Allah created men and women to have children = 1 mark, developed by increasing the ummah = 2 marks

(c) This student receives 2 marks for identifying the issue of world poverty in the media. Unfortunately, the student does not address the question, the media is not mentioned at all after the first sentence and the answer does not suggest that this is a TV programme or film.

(d)(i) Suicide is forbidden (1 mark); only Allah can give and take life (1 mark); life is a test (1 mark)

(d)(ii) Quality of life (1 mark); it should be allowed for their sake (1 mark); if someone asks for it and they are in great pain (1 mark)



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

Remind students to choose their question based on the (c) and (d) questions because these have the most marks available.

Question 4 (a)

This question was one which exemplifies the point that students should be taught the correct definitions.

A number of students did not obtain full marks because they did not identify all of the elements of non-voluntary euthanasia, or they only gave an example.

This student identified correctly that it is done to remove suffering and that it is not the patient's choice.

Write your answer here:

- (a) Ending someone's life because you think it's the right thing to do, because they are suffering from a ~~serious~~ ~~or~~ painful disease.
- (b) I do and I don't. War is a mainly the cause of poverty in the world because it causes suffering. Suffering such as being poor, falling ill etc. However war isn't the only reason, ~~there~~ there is also unemployment



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Examiner Comments

(a) A correct answer = 2 marks



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Examiner Tip

Learn the definitions.

Different wording but equally valid.

write your answer here:

- (a) Non voluntary Euthanasia is when the ill person is unable to speak or communicate but you end their life anyway thinking they would want you to do so
- (b) Yes, I think the main cause of poverty is ~~war~~ war because the amount of money spent on war could end world hunger all together. So instead of spending thousands and millions on war it should be spent on ending world poverty.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

(a) A correct answer = 2 marks

Question 4 (bcd)

This question is based on section two in the specification. Each of the sub-questions covers a different bullet point.

4 (b) was answered well, with most students disagreeing, using other reasons for world poverty such as natural disasters and corrupt leaders.

4 (c) Many students obtained full marks for identifying correctly four elements of the abortion law in the UK. However, a significant number of students believed that the British law specifies abortion for rape and for underage girls.

4 (d) A large number of students obtained full marks for this question, making clear points about Islamic beliefs versus atheistic/scientific beliefs.

This candidate has not revised the British law on abortion and this has disadvantaged them in what is otherwise an excellent answer.

(b) Yes, I do think the main cause of world poverty is war because due to the fact that war is happening homes are getting destroyed and people are being made homeless, also people lose all their belongings and money, they are forced to live on the street.

Also, the money used to buy the weapons is a very big amount of money, people who ^{don't} ~~are~~ even have enough money to buy simple stuff have to pay tax, so the government can buy weapons for the war.

(c) The British law has said that abortion is allowed because it is the right of the mother who would have to carry the baby in the womb for 9 months and also

Send for it to decide ~~whether~~ if she wants to keep the baby or not, ~~it is~~ it is her body so she should have the right to decide.

Also women have been given the right to decide what they want to do, as ~~for~~ no one knows what they are going through and why they want to ~~take~~ ^{take} such ~~big~~ big measures. They may be going through a bad time so they believe it's not a right time to bring a innocent child into the world.

Less than 10 years ago abortion was not allowed in Britain, but ~~women~~ ~~ladies~~ ladies protested that it's their body so it's their right to decide what they want to do, it was then made a law that ladies are allowed to have a abortion.



(d) (i) NO, I do not agree with the statement that "when you are dead, you are dead and that is the end of you" because Allah has said in the Quran that this world is not our permanent home. After we die we will either be put in Jannah (heaven) and Jahannam (hell) and that will be our permanent place, Allah has also described in the Quran how heaven and hell is

(ii) Some people may disagree with me because they believe that when you are dead, you are brain dead. You won't be able to do anything else as your brain is dead, your brain controls your body so without your brain, you can't do anything.



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ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

(b) This is a good answer with two separate, developed reasons why war is the main cause of world poverty – it destroys homes and money is spent on weapons.

(c) This student has not identified any of the British laws, although they receive 2 marks for saying that abortion is legal.

(d)(i) This is a fully-developed, answer based on Muslim beliefs.

(d)(ii) The student has written a fully-developed answer on the brain dying, which 'controls your body', which means 'you can't do anything'.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

Make sure students understand the difference between the law (on abortion) and the different arguments for and against.

This student has developed their points in (b) and (c). In (b), they do not separate it into two reasons, however, and therefore do not receive all of the marks available.

taking the opinion of the person.

(b) No, other than war and moral evil there is also natural evil. Although war does contribute to poverty so does natural disasters like volcanic eruptions and earthquakes. Allah has the power to give anyone poverty and, so it is the decision of Allah. So not only does moral evil cause suffering but natural evil too.

(c) The British law says that abortion is allowed as long as it meets the conditions for it to be done. If a person has been raped and the baby is not wanted then abortion can be

carried on. This also means that if the child were to be ~~severely~~ severely handicapped then and the mother wouldn't want their child to be ~~part of~~ living with such difficulty then the abortion can go forward.

Also if the mother's life is at risk of being damaged then the abortion can go forward. This happens because the mother's life is much more valued ~~to~~ than the child.

Although some people believe that abortion shouldn't be done as it is a life that someone is taking. Even though ~~it~~ it is a baby it is still an innocent life that someone is ~~been~~ taking. No one has the right to take life only Allah. When someone does take the life of someone it can be seen as murder.



(d) (i) I disagree, as in the Quran itself it is mentioned that your bodies will be resurrected and brought back to life. Allah will do this for the ~~per~~ people to face judgement and be decide to go to heaven or hell. Also even though our bodies have been buried our souls still exist and they are the ones that will be judged. Allah has also promised that this dunya is a test and that there is life after you die. The result of this test is wether you go to heaven or hell.

(ii) Some people may disagree and say that if your body is being decomposed and buried how will you live after death if your body is buried. Also there is no after life as there has been no one to prove it. Some people have travelled in space to find heaven and hell and haven't found anything. This means that after you die it is the end of your life.



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9

Turn over ▶



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

(b) The student identifies natural evil as a cause of poverty, and develops this with volcanic eruptions and earthquakes. Unfortunately, they do not give a second reason.

(c) The student identifies two of the British laws – the mother's health, and the health of the baby, and develops them, to achieve 8 marks.

(d)(i) This is a fully-developed answer based on Muslim beliefs.

(d)(ii) The body is decomposed (1 mark); there is no proof (1 mark); people have travelled in space and not found it (1 mark).



ResultsPlus

Examiner Tip

Teach students to separate their two reasons on (b) questions because this will make it easier for them to make sure that they answer it correctly.

This student could have developed a reason about Allah testing the world but the way the response is written, it is clearly used as a reason for their existing point.

Question 5 (a)

Most students knew what 'promiscuity' meant and obtained full marks.

A correct definition.

write your answer here:

(a) having sex with a number of people without any commitment.

(b) I do think mosques help with the upbringing of children. As they provide a number of services to welcome children into the mosques, they initiate clubs for boys and girls to participate in and make children feel apart of the ummah from a young age.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

(a) Correct answer = 2



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

Learn the correct definitions.

This student has confused promiscuity with civil partnership.

write your answer here:

(a) Homosexuals having the ^{same} right to marriage as non-homosexuals.

(b) I think mosques help the upbringing of children as the mosques has madrasah class were children are taught to the Qur'aan an the deen which helps with their upbringing. Also children can learn to pray from watching people at the masjid. Further more, children



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

(a) Incorrect answer = 0 marks

Question 5 (bcd)

This question is based on section three in the specification. Each of the sub-questions covers a different bullet point.

Q5 was more popular than Q6.

5 (b) Most candidates answered this using examples of how mosques teach children religiously, and how they are places for socialising.

5 (c) The majority of candidates obtained full marks on this question. The ones who did not either confused contraception with abortion or they gave reasons why Muslims should not use contraception, rather than answering the question.

5 (d) Well-answered, balancing Allah's hatred of divorce with the compassionate nature of Islam. Many students obtained full marks on this sub-question.

A full mark example.

partners without any commitment.

(b)

Yes, I do think mosques help with the upbringing of a child. This is because mosques provide Islamic education for children which helps them become a good Muslim in the future. In addition to this, mosques provide youth clubs which keep the children away from bad therefore, it helps their upbringing in a positive way. Lastly, mosques give advice to children.

(c)

Some people use contraception for many reasons and they are as follows. Firstly, parents ~~sometimes~~ want their babies

to be wanted and not a mistake since wanted babies get true love which makes them a happy baby. On top of this, contraceptions are used as parents are sometimes too young to have a baby because in some occasions parents are teenagers - young adults still studying. Along with this, people use contraceptions due to the fact they don't want a baby because of their child life being harsh and they don't want their child to feel what they felt. Also, contraceptions are used by people who already have a big family and they aren't keen on having another baby since it is a lot of work. Moreover, there are contraceptions used as sometimes parents don't want their already born child to feel miserable at the arrival of a new baby. Contraceptions are even used to avoid babies as the



(d) (i)

I agree with the statement as religious people should try their upmost best to maintain their marriage. as Muhammad s.a.w never divorced any of his wives and he always tried finding solutions to the marital issues.

Along with this, Allah does not like divorce and from all the lawful acts, Allah despises divorce the most. Lastly divorce shouldn't occur between religious couples as they should try hard to find resolutions regarding their problems instead of a divorce.

(ii)

people may disagree with me as they might think that when a married life has no love, respect or trust, divorce is the best option for both the male and female. Similarly people might feel that after a divorce, a person can marry someone again whom they love instead of being with someone where there is no commitment and love.



P 4 2 7 3 3 A 0 1 3 2 0

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Turn over ▶



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

(b) Mosques provide education = 1 mark, which helps them become a good Muslim in the future = 1 mark, mosques provide youth clubs = 1 mark, this keeps children away from bad and is therefore positive for the upbringing = 1 mark. Total 4 marks

(c) There are four clear reasons why people use contraception, some of them developed.

(d)(i) Muhammad never divorced (1 mark); Allah hates divorce (1 mark); of all the lawful acts it is the most despised (1 mark)

(d)(ii) It may be the best option (1 mark); people can remarry someone who loves them (1 mark) rather than someone where there is no commitment and trust (1 mark)



ResultsPlus

Examiner Tip

Using paragraphs for each reason is good practice.

This candidate has given an almost perfect answer but has not included enough for the (d) questions.

(b) I think mosques help the upbringing of children as the mosques has madrasah class where children are taught to the Quraan an the deen which helps with their upbringing. Also children can learn to pray from watching people at the masjid. Further more, children can also mosques also have youth centers where children can learn to socialise.

(c) People use contraceptions for many reasons. Firstly people can use contraceptions if the mothers life is at risk if she gets pregnant. People also use contraceptions if there life is not suitable for a child to live for. example if the parents

are always on business trips and things. Further more, people use contraceptions if they are not serious series with the partner. They also use contraceptions if they are too young to have children. They also use contraceptions if they are not financially stable to have children. They also use contraceptions if they are committing adultery.

(d) (i) I don't agree that religious people should never divorce because it is not against Islam to divorce ~~because~~ ^{as it} is ~~also~~ allowed in the Quran. Also if the parents are not getting on well ~~then they have~~ and cannot live together they have a right to divorces.

(ii) People may disagree as divorces is the only allowed thing in Islam which angers Allah the most and people should never make Allah angry.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

(b) The candidate has given three reasons but has only developed one of them, so receives 3 marks.

(c) There are many brief reasons here and some are developed, so there are different ways to achieve 8 marks.

(d)(i) It is not against Islam to divorce (1 mark); they have the right to divorce (1 mark)

(d)(ii) Divorce angers Allah (1 mark); people should never anger Allah (1 mark)



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

Ask students to count their reasons in (d) questions - if they have not written three, they need to develop the ones they have.

Question 6 (a)

This question is either right or wrong. Some candidates confused it with other key words.

A correct answer.

write your answer here:

(a) When a couple live together even though they arnt married.

(b) Islam is against the idea of homosexuality because of his comandments was to procreate (make babies) from this to of the same sex ceunt be possible. In the Quran it mentions



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

Correct answer = 2 marks



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

Learn the definitions.

A correct definition.

write your answer here:

(a) Living together without being married

(b) I don't think that all people should accept homosexuality as (as a Muslim) it is forbidden on religious grounds. Homosexuality is a major sin in Islam and is considered to be unnatural, thus being another reason why I don't think it should be widely accepted. It is proven that it is



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

Correct answer = 2 marks



ResultsPlus

Examiner Tip

Learn the definitions.

Question 6 (bcd)

This question is based on section three in the specification. Each of the sub-questions covers a different bullet point.

This question was not as popular as Q5.

6 (b) Usually, this question was answered by disagreeing and using reasons from the Qur'an. However, it also had the largest number of 'neither agree nor disagree' answers, balancing the Islamic teaching with the modern acceptance and the law of the land.

6 (c) This was answered poorly, in general. Many candidates wrote a lot about the role of women and divorce without referring to family life at all. Where students received full marks, they often did this by writing much less but concentrating on how family life has changed, rather than why.

6 (d) This was well-answered by most students.

(b) Islam is against the idea of homosexuality because one of his commandments was to procreate (make babies) from this to of the same sex can't be possible. In the Quran it mentions a story about a man called Lut, he lived in a city full of homosexuals and one day Allah burnt the city because of the sin and only saved Lut's family.

Although I also believe in the idea of equality, even though it is against Islam doesn't mean they don't deserve the same respect or tolerance in society.

(c) Before the war many families were nuclear (father, mother, children) from this a very stereotypical lifestyle. After the

War ended many women had the rights to divorce or ~~many~~ others become widows from this developed single parent families. There is also families such as reconstituted families where two divorcees get married and ~~provide~~ ^{provide} a family of step brothers sisters. There are other families that have been kept the same from a long period of time, such as an extended family which consists of grandparents, ~~and~~ aunts and uncles. More ~~recent~~ ^{modern} types of family such as homosexual families which gay couples adopt and build a family from this. ~~these~~



(d) (i) As a muslim i believe this statement is correct because of the idea that this sort of it may breaks families which is the bases in Islam. It also says is better to have sex after marriage because of the the trust and sustainability from Allah to procreate which is one of Allah's main comandment.

(ii) Some people may disagree such as Cohabitors (a couple who live together without marriage) may say that if they are serious about the relationship it doesn't matter if they want a marriage because the bond would be strong. Also people may say that it is old fashioned to have sex ~~before~~ after marriage because it is socially accepted now 21st century.



P 4 2 7 3 3 A 0 1 3 2 0

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Turn over ►



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

(b) Although the candidate says 'Islam is...' rather than 'I think', further down they say 'I also think...' indicating that they hold both views. The question lends itself to this type of answer, where Muslim students try to balance Islamic teaching with the idea of understanding different attitudes. This is an acceptable way of answering the question and receives all of the marks available.

(c) This is a clear answer, showing how family life has changed, mentioning single parents, reconstituted families, extended families and homosexual families.

(d)(i) This sort of intimacy breaks families (1 mark); which is the basis of Islam (1 mark); sex is from Allah to procreate (1 mark)

(d)(ii) An unmarried relationship can be serious (1 mark); the bond can be as strong (1 mark); marriage can be seen as old fashioned (1 mark)



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

Although this student has rectified it further on, ask students always to write 'I think...' or 'I disagree that...' otherwise the examiner will assume they are not answering the question.

(b) I don't think that all people should accept homosexuality as (as a Muslim) it is forbidden on religious grounds. Homosexuality is a major sin in Islam and is considered to be unnatural, thus being another reason why I don't think it should be widely accepted. It is proven that it is a major sin in Islam by a Hadith where the Prophet (p.b.u.h) states "Kill the one who is doing it and the one who it is being done to." This reflects the intensity of the sin in Islam as it is punishable by death. The idea that it is unnatural is also in the Quran, which states "What! Of all creatures do you come into mates and leave behind wives that your Lord has created for you?" This shows that Islamically, the natural way of life would be within a heterosexual relationship as Allah had created men for women, not men for men.

(c) Attitudes to family life have changed in the UK massively, altering the traditional family dynamics that were present as early as ~~20~~⁵⁰ years ago. Before Father or in UK history, the idea of ~~abstract~~ a nuclear family was

considered the most ideal, also being the one that was most widely supported by religion. Recently, however, attitudes have changed and more and more re-constituted families and single-parent families are becoming prevalent. ^{In the} ~~past~~, the very idea of pre-marital sex would be frowned upon and looked down at with contempt; presently, however, engaging in pre-marital sex is becoming the norm and thus leads to children being born outside of marriage - a concept which would not have happened before.

Cohabitation is also a recent change in family life within the UK, as more and more people opt to live together without being married, which is seen as either just a piece of paper, or too big a commitment. In the past that was different - cohabitation barely existed as you would only live with your marriage partner.

Also, a recent change in family life is owed to the growing homosexual community as an increasing number of homosexual couples want to adopt children - this is a dramatic change from the UK in the past as homosexuals weren't accepted, ~~and it~~ ^{presently} ~~was~~ were they allowed to have kids ~~themselves~~, however, it is becoming more usual to have same-sex parents.



(d) (i) I agree with the statement, as, as a Muslim, I believe that it is forbidden. Islam strictly forbids pre-marital sex, as sex is seen as an act which is halal only within marriage. As the purpose of sex (Islamically) is to have kids, any kids born outside of marriage would be considered in some places as illegitimate and also may be at a disadvantage as they might not have a stable family home. Muslims also believe that it is wrong as modesty and chastity (before marriage) are seen as a very important thing in Islam, as shown in the Quranic verse "Say to the believing men to lower their gaze and to guard their modesty." This shows that pre-marital sex is wrong as it is immodest and also a sin in Islam.

(ii) Some people may disagree, however, as they may feel that there is nothing wrong with pre-marital sex so long as the two people really love each other. Others may believe that sex is less of a commitment than marriage, and they that they are currently not ready to commit to matrimony, leading them to engage in pre-marital sex.



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Turn over ▶



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

(b) This student has two reasons: firstly that it is a sin and secondly that it is unnatural. They develop both.

(c) The candidate has written a good answer, using lots of ways it has changed and good development. It achieves 8 marks before the last two paragraphs, with two ways, with one fully developed (reconstituted families and single parent families)

(d)(i) It is strictly forbidden (1 mark); it is only halal within marriage (1 mark); it leads to children being born outside wedlock (1 mark)

(d)(ii) It's ok as long as people love each other (1 mark); it is less of a commitment than marriage (1 mark); they are not ready for commitment (1 mark)



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

Candidates should be encouraged to develop their reasons.

Question 7 (a)

Most students answered correctly. Where they did not, it was due to a confusion of race and faith, or that they did not address the word 'harmony'.

This student has not addressed either race or harmony, therefore cannot receive any marks.

write your answer here:

(a) ~~Accepting each others religion as a true faith and respecting it. Treating everyone the same and ~~coming~~ being together as one.~~

(b) Yes, I do think all Muslims should help asylum seekers in the UK. This is because Islam teaches us to ~~be~~ help one another and be kind and just. The Prophet (S-A-W) used to help everyone.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

(a) Incorrect answer = 0 marks



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

Encourage students to use the Edexcel definitions.

A fully correct answer.

write your answer here:

(a) Racial harmony is when different races of different colours get together in a community to share a common image. All people get along from different races.

(b) I don't think all Muslims should help asylum seekers in the UK, only some. This is because many Muslims have jobs & are unable to have time or effort left to help them properly. ~~Only~~ Secondly, some specially trained Muslims would work much better at helping



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

(a) Correct answer = 2 marks

Question 7 (bcd)

This was more popular than Q8.

7 (b) Most students answered this well, although a significant number only wrote about Muslim asylum seekers. Most made the point that helping others is sunnah of the Prophet and will be rewarded.

7 (c) The majority of candidates answered this question very well and achieved full marks. Those who did not either confused race and faith, or ran out of time.

7 (d) This is the last question on the paper and is often rushed. It is the section where students often forget to refer to Islam and lose half of the marks. This question, when answered well, was thought-out properly, using examples from students' lives and comparing it with the time when their grandparents were young.

An almost full mark answer demonstrating good exam technique.

(b) I don't think all Muslims should help asylum seekers in the UK, only some. This is because many Muslims have jobs & are unable to have time or effort left to help them properly. ~~Only~~ Secondly, some specially trained Muslims would work much better at helping ~~and~~ asylum seeking families than all Muslims who may be poorly skilled at this or have no clue how to help. In fact, it may make things worse.

(c) Muslims should work to promote racial harmony for several reasons. Firstly, the sunnah of the prophet was to promote racial harmony, & following the prophet's sunnah is the best way to go to heaven - the

goal for all Muslims. Secondly, a Muslim should always aim to do good in their community as, to be a "Mumin", they must love for their brother what they love for themselves. Thirdly, promoting racial equality is good. Doing good ~~is a good~~ earns a Muslim good deeds. Muslims ~~sh~~ aim to get as many as possible to go to heaven. Finally, a hadith states that if you see a wrong you must strive to fix it, either with your hands, tongue or heart. As a result, all Muslims should promote racial harmony as racism is a wrong that must be fixed.



(d) (i) I agree with this statement. The UK has implemented gender discrimination laws that ensure both genders are equal in rights & responsibility. Secondly, as a Muslim, I know that Muslims & other religions promote gender equality. Thirdly, the common attribute among all theists is one for gender equality. UK's society today is against any form of discrimination, even gender.

(ii) People may disagree with me for several reasons. Firstly, ~~see~~ studies have proven this to be false. Job employment opportunities are very much open more to males than they are to females. ~~Thus too~~ Secondly, although majority equal, many parts of the UK ~~are~~ still ~~not~~ do not accept gender equality, so as a whole, the UK is not gender equal, but majority is. Lastly, people who have changed their gender are still discriminated, ~~as~~ showing a difference in how men & women are treated & that gender discrimination is still not abolished.

TOTAL FOR PAPER = 84 MARKS



P 4 2 7 3 3 A 0 1 7 2 0

17



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

(b) An interesting answer – the first point = 1 mark because it is not developed. The second reason = 2 marks, for saying that some people are better at this work than others, developed by the idea that some people might make the situation worse.

(c) Another good answer, which reaches 8 marks before the last point. The marks are given at sunnah of the prophet = 2 marks, to get to heaven which is the goal for all Muslims = 2 marks, they must love their brothers = 2 marks, doing good earns good deeds = 2 marks. Total 8 marks

(d)(i) The UK has gender discrimination laws (1 mark); Muslims promote gender equality (1 mark); the common attitude is equality (1 mark)

(d)(ii) Studies have proven this to be false (1 mark); opportunities are more open to males (1 mark); there are still people who do not accept gender equality (1 mark)



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

Remind students to use paragraphs to separate points.

An excellent example, showing how development can be used to obtain the marks, rather than brief reasons.

(b) I think that Muslims should help asylum seekers in the UK, as they are people seeking asylum are in distress and ~~it~~ are fleeing from something terrible. This makes a Muslim obligated to help as ~~all~~ a Hadith states that "What you want for your ^{self} ~~rather~~ you should want for your brother." thus indicating that as every Muslim wants to live a peaceful life, they should strive to make the lives of others peaceful too. I think they should definitely help for another reason - they never know when their circumstances are going to change and they might come at time when they find themselves in the same position as the Asylum seekers. By helping them, Muslims are showing to Allah that they are grateful for all Allah has given them and they are acting upon their gratitude by being merciful to others.

(c) Muslims should work to promote racial harmony, as the idea that some races are superior to others is haram in Islam. This is shown by a Hadith of the Prophet (p.b.u.h) which states "No Arab is superior to a

Non-Arab and no Black man is ^{superior} ~~superior~~ to a White man!"

This shows that the concept of superiority does not exist in Islam when it comes to race and, as the Prophet (p.b.u.h) only spoke by the command of Allah, it also shows how racism is forbidden by Allah Himself. This ~~before~~ ^{makes} Muslims obligated to promote racial harmony as they are acting upon the words of the Prophet (p.b.u.h) and therefore fulfilling Allah's command.

Another reason why Muslims should promote racial harmony is due to the idea of Ummah - all Muslims around the world are a part of it, regardless of their race or colour. This obligates Muslims to promote harmony amongst races as all members of the Ummah are seen to be brothers and sisters in faith - by promoting harmony, Muslims are promoting peace amongst the global family, and also actively being part of the Ummah which is a very important belief in Islam. This is due to the concept being very ~~per~~ prevalent in the Sunnah, which Muslims try to emulate as best as they can.



(d) (i) I agree to an extent with the statement, as currently in the UK, women are more equal with men than they ever have been. The idea of equality amongst genders is supported by Islam, which forbids sexism and views men and women as equal. This is shown in a Hadith of the Prophet (s.a.w.h) which states "All people are equal as a tooth of a comb." The statement is correct in that currently in the UK, women are able to work and build their own careers, which was virtually unheard of 75 years ago. They are also able to no longer centre their lives around their home and family, allowing them more freedom than they had before.

(ii) Some people may disagree, however, as they would bring up the argument of equal pay - women work the same hours as men, yet they get paid less on account of their gender, thus rendering the statement false. Another argument ~~that~~ draws attention to the fact that some employers are reluctant to give women ^{between} 20-30 years old a job as they are most likely to ask for paid maternity ~~of~~ leave.

TOTAL FOR PAPER = 84 MARKS

17



P 4 2 7 3 3 A 0 1 7 2 0



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

(b) This is a very good answer, with two clearly developed reasons – Muslims are obligated to help others, and being grateful for what Allah has given

(c) This answer achieves 8 marks easily. It could be given as a comprehensive explanation using one reason only for the second point on the ummah, or it can be seen as two (extremely well developed) reasons.

(d)(i) A fully developed argument with reference to Islam

(d)(ii) A fully developed argument about equal pay



ResultsPlus

Examiner Tip

Remember to practice timings - many students achieve high marks on the first three sections, only to run out of time in section four.

Question 8 (a)

Most students who answered this question knew what 'religious pluralism' was.

A correct definition.

write your answer here:

- (a) Acceptance of other religions with equal rights and co-exist.
- (b) Yes, I believe women should have different religious rights to men in Islam as Islam gives high respect to the mothers for their role in looking after children and giving birth to children this



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

(a) Correct answer = 2 marks



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

Learn the correct definitions. Where students paraphrase, usually they achieved 1 mark for defining religious freedom, rather than pluralism.

This student has not identified any part of the correct definition.

write your answer here:

(a) Religious pluralism is having the right through law to exist.

(b) No because in the Quran it says that men and women should be equal in all ways. apart from the fact that women have to bear children.

Also, it is said in the hadith of the



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

(a) Incorrect answer = 0 marks

Question 8 (bcd)

This question is based on section four in the specification. Each of the sub-questions covers a different bullet point.

This was less popular than Q7.

8 (b) was not answered as well as 7 (b). Many students did not really identify what was meant by 'religious rights' and talked about being a housewife and bringing up children.

8 (c) The students who answered this often achieved full marks, although some misunderstood completely and some left it blank.

8 (d) Those students who concentrated on government laws did well, but some students did not address this, or referred to Islam and therefore received very few marks.

This student is running out of time and has not written as much as they need to, in order to obtain all of the marks available.

(b) I don't think women should have different religious rights to men in Islam as they should be treated equally and the Quran and Muhammad (SAW)'s teaching shows that Islam should treat everyone equally.

I think women should be treated the same as men and should be given the same rights as Islam teaches us that women should be respected.

(c) Most Muslims respect all religions as the Quran tells us to. Muslims are brought up to respect other religions and even so, learn about them. However some Muslims have attitudes towards

Other religions is & less respectful towards them. Nonetheless a majority of muslims highly respect and have no objections towards other religious beliefs.

(d) (i) I agree ~~be~~ that government laws lead to community cohesion as it ~~seems~~ tends to bring to community together. The community has to unite, regardless of race, religion, colour, gender in a community event or in a government debate

(ii) However some people may disagree as it could also divide the community over political or religious matters

They may also wonder ~~HOW~~ the government ^{Laws} is supposed to lead to community cohesion



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

(b) Two brief reasons given – The Qur'an and Muhammad's teaching says they should be equal and women should be respected

(c) This receives 4 marks, for saying that the Qur'an tells Muslims to respect other religions, and for saying that some Muslims are less respectful of other religions, although most Muslims have no problems. Remember this question is not a 'why' question, but students should explain what the different attitudes are.

(d)(i) Laws tend to bring the community together (1 mark); the rest is not credited because it is not about government laws.

(d)(ii) It could disunite the community over political or religious matters (1 mark)



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

Remind students that if they are running out of time, to use bullet points for their reasons on (b), (c) and (d) in the last section. They will still achieve the marks if the bullet points are relevant.

This is a good example.

(b) No, I don't think so. As, firstly, I understand that in the sight of God women and men are equal, we are taught this from the Quran.

Also, from the life of the prophet (PBUH) I can understand that both women and men have equally important, yet very different roles in Islam, this makes perfect sense to me, as ~~it also says in the Quran~~ ~~from the Quran~~ we also learn from the Quran that men were made slightly stronger than women.

(c) Many muslims believe in religious pluralism, & so long as no one interferes with their religion, they are ok. Also, ~~many muslims~~ muslims share similar beliefs with christian and jews as they understand that their

religion is from the same source. In the Quran, they are actually referred to as 'the people of the Book'.

So, many muslims are quite accepting and promote religious harmony.

However, muslims do believe in the oneness of Allah and consequently believe that anyone who commits the sin of shirk will be ~~put~~ put into hell.

(d) (i) I agree with this statement. As our government ~~try~~ tries its utmost to ensure that ~~the~~ cohesion is taking place within almost every community, ~~It~~ ~~is~~ the fact that there are mosques in almost every community and halal meat supplies ~~are~~ are provided proves this.

(ii) People who do not feel happy with the community would probably disagree with me.

People who are racist and prejudice may not feel satisfied with cohesion in the community.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

(b) In the sight of God men and women are equal = 1 mark,
we are taught this in the Qur'an = 2 marks, men and women
are equal but have different roles = 3 marks, men were made
stronger than women = 4 marks

(c) Many Muslims believe in religious pluralism = 2 marks, they
share similar beliefs with Christians and Jews as the people of
the book = 2 marks, many Muslims promote religious harmony
= 2 marks, Muslims believe that anyone who commits shirk will
go to hell = 2 marks.

Total 8 marks

(d)(i) This needs reading twice. The candidate writes that
the government tries to do its utmost to ensure community
cohesion takes place, with an example of mosques and halal
suppliers. Taken from a local government perspective, and
making life better for individual groups, this receives 2 marks.

This is better understood when reading (d)(ii), which says that
people who do not feel happy within the community would
disagree, and those who are prejudiced and racist would not like
it. This was given 2 marks for each side.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Tip

Encourage students to be as clear as they can be in
their answers.

Paper Summary

Candidates produced some very interesting answers to the questions posed. The responses on this paper demonstrated the increased maturity of response from year 11-only students, when answering the questions. Candidates have not only studied the topic but also, importantly, have linked them to their everyday life and the society around them.

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

- There is a choice of two questions per section, each as four sub-questions.
- Candidates may either attempt the sub-questions in the top questions (odd numbers) or the sub-questions in the bottom question (even numbered). Candidates who choose questions from a mixture of the top and bottom questions will not receive marks for all their questions and are therefore at a 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.
- Answer space. 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 of 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 was a number of 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 in 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 and to 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.
- Candidates can gain the higher mark within the level by writing coherently. The *Quality of Written Communication (QWC)* mark is lost only if the candidate's writing is such that it is not easily understandable by the examiner. (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 the (d)(i) part and state reasons why someone might hold a different view in the (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 three marks.

Whilst it is understood that many schools have less curriculum time for Religious Studies than some other subjects, it is important to prepare students for all of the specification chosen. Those students who were not taught how to answer media questions were at a significant disadvantage in this paper.

There were four extra marks for spelling punctuation and grammar. There were four marks added to section one 'Believing in God'. Information on this has been sent to all centres.

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

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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