



Examiners' Report

June 2024

GCSE Religious Studies B 1RB0 2C

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Introduction

This paper contributes 50% of the overall course award.

The paper includes four questions, each covers a section of the specification, and all candidates are expected to answer all four sub-questions from each section. Details of the assessment content are provided in the specification. Centres are expected to use the Edexcel specification, rather than other published resources, when planning and teaching the course content. The examination is written based on the specification content.

This paper encourages an in depth study of Islam today. 1RBO 2C focuses on two core topics, Islamic Beliefs and Living the Muslim Life with two option topics, Crime and Punishment and Peace and Conflict.

It was pleasing to note in this series a marked improvement in candidates' ability to develop reasons both in (b) and (c) questions, coupled with more effective use of a relevant source of wisdom and authority.

There was also evidence of increasing attempts to judge the quality of the arguments offered in (d) questions, not always successfully. The biggest challenge for many candidates remains the evaluative conclusion and many conclusions remain a personal opinion, in spite of the evidence presented.

There were fewer time-management issues in evidence. Many candidates completely left out questions, writing nothing: this suggests there remain gaps in candidate knowledge. This was particularly evident in the question on restorative justice, with many not linking it to forgiveness.

Question 1 (a)

(a) questions are marked using a points mark scheme. Candidates are required to give three short points.

This question concerns how angel Jibril is shown in the Qur'an.

Many candidates understood that Jibril is the angel who met with Prophet Muhammad to bring the Qur'an. Some candidates elaborated on this knowledge to gain further marks. Others used more generic information concerning the nature of angels, such as 'He has no free will.' Both approaches were credited.

The question required Muslim beliefs and did not refer to the Qur'an. As a result, statements that are widely believed, such as angels are made of light, though not mentioned in the Qur'an this is referenced in the Hadith, were also accepted.

This response is included to illustrate the work of a candidate with clear ideas about angel Jibril in Islam.

1 (a) Outline **three** Muslim beliefs about angel Jibril.

(3)

one muslim belief about Angel Jibril is he revealed the Quran to prophet Muhammad.

Another muslim belief about angel jibril is he provides messages from Allah to humanity

another muslim belief about Angel jibril is he is made out of nur which is light



The candidate states that:

- Jibril revealed the Qur'an to Prophet Muhammad (1)
- he carries messages from Allah to humanity (1)
- he is made out of light (1)

All three sentences were credited.

There is no requirement to begin each outline with 'One muslim belief about Angel Jibril is...'. The candidate may be better served saving the time by only giving the key information.

Total: 3 marks



Address the question, make your point.

This response is included to illustrate how little writing is required to gain marks for an outline.

1 (a) Outline three Muslim beliefs about angel Jibril.

His real name is Gabriel.
He is made from light
He delivers messages from God.



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Examiner Comments

The candidate gives two valid beliefs clearly and concisely in short sentences.

- He is made from light (1)
- He delivers messages from God (1)

In Islamic teaching the angel is called Jibril rather than Gabriel, therefore this is not credited. Avoid the temptation to draw parallels with Christianity, or any other religion.

Total: 2 marks



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

A short sentence is ideal.

Question 1 (b)

(b) questions are marked using a points mark scheme. Candidates are required to give two developed reasons to achieve full marks.

This question concerns the importance of prophethood for Muslims. The question refers specifically to Prophet Muhammad and his importance to Muslims.

Many candidates referenced the significance of Jibril delivering the Qur'an to Muhammad. Others considered his role in spreading Islam through the Hadith and the sunnah of the Prophet.

Some candidates continue to find it difficult to develop simple ideas, sometimes offering four unrelated reasons, rather than two developed reasons.

This response is included to illustrate the work of a candidate with a clear understanding of the importance of Prophet Muhammad in Islam.

It is awarded 4 marks because there are two developed reasons.

(b) Explain **two** reasons why Prophet Muhammad is important to every Muslim.

(4)

One reason the Prophet Muhammad is important is that he was the final messenger with a message from Allah. This is important because Muslims believe that he is a role-model to look up to and shows how to live a good life.

As well as this, Prophet Muhammad was originally illiterate, meaning that his words were actually from Allah and not made up.



Marks are given for:

- Muhammad was the final messenger (1) with a message from Allah (1)
- His words were actually from Allah (1) as he was illiterate he could not make it up (1)

Total: 4 marks



Decide the reasons then develop them.

Development is key.

This response achieves full marks, as did many candidates on this question. There are two clearly developed reasons.

(b) Explain **two** reasons why Prophet Muhammad is important to every Muslim.

Muhammad (4)

One reason why Prophet^v is important to every Muslim is that Allah revealed to him ~~the~~ his final message. Muhammad delivered the Qur'an to Muslims and is the final prophet in Islam.

Another reason why Muhammad is important is that he acts as a role model to Muslims. If the Qur'an is unclear, Muslims will look to Muhammad's teachings in the hadith and sunnah for guidance.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

The candidate receives marks as follows:

- Muhammad is important because Allah revealed the final message to him (1) Muhammad then delivered the Qur'an to Muslims (1)
- Muhammad is important as a role model for Muslims (1) If the Qur'an is unclear Muslims may look to the Hadith and sunnah for guidance (1)

Total: 4 marks



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Examiner Tip

Do not give more detail than needed.

Question 1 (c)

The question concerns the purposes of the Six Beliefs for Sunni Muslims. The Six Beliefs are found in the Hadith and show the key beliefs of Islam.

Although beliefs and actions are very different things, some candidates continue to confuse the Six Beliefs with the Five Pillars of Sunni Islam. Some candidates chose to consider the purposes of the Six Beliefs in their entirety as the foundation beliefs of Islam. Others chose to focus on individual beliefs from the Six Beliefs. Both approaches were acceptable.

(c) questions are marked using a points mark scheme. Candidates are required to give two developed purposes as they would in a (b) question. The additional fifth mark is awarded for the use of a recognisable quote or paraphrase from a source of authority. In Islam, the sources of authority are the Qur'an and Hadith. The quotation must be embedded in a developed reason. It can occur at the beginning of the reason, in the middle or at the end. There is no preferred location but it must contribute to the developed reason in question.

This response is included to illustrate the work of a candidate who uses a 'blended' approach.

The first purpose offered referred to the Six Beliefs as a whole. The second focussed on one of the individual beliefs and provided a valid source of authority.

In this case, the candidate states correctly that the quotation is from the Qur'an. If the candidate had claimed it was from an incorrect source document this would not be credited.

(c) Explain two purposes of the Six Beliefs for Sunni Muslims. 61

In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.

(5)

The six beliefs form the 6 fundamental principles that a Sunni must hold in order to please Allah. As Sunni Muslims are able to educate themselves on each of these in order to provide a solid foundation for their faith, allowing them to strengthen their relationship with Allah and ^{demonstrate their} _{commitment}. The six beliefs are also important to Sunni Muslims as each has their own merit, and therefore the six beliefs acknowledges ~~the~~ individuals and draws attention to the individual importance of each of these. For example, Tawhid is a fundamental principle that every Muslim must have, as in the Quran it says, "Worship God and shun false Gods". The 6 Sunni beliefs ~~brings~~ highlights the importance of it, which allows Muslims to ensure that they do not go against this and perform shirk - an ~~unforgivable~~ ^{grave and unforgivable} crime in Islam.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

This response is awarded full marks because there are two developed purposes with a source of authority.

- The candidate suggests that Muslims must hold these beliefs to please Allah (1) They provide a solid foundation for their faith (1)
- Tawhid is the fundamental principal of Islam (1) 'Worship God and shun false Gods', (a recognisable paraphrase of Surah 16:36) (1) This allows Muslims to ensure they do not commit shirk (1)

Total: 5 marks



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Examiner Tip

Build the purpose around the source of authority.

The response is included to illustrate the perils of confusing beliefs with actions.

(c) Explain **two** purposes of the Six Beliefs for Sunni Muslims.

In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.

(5)

A first purpose is to outline the basis for the Sunni Muslim faith. Tawhid shows how Allah is ^{the} one and only God, which is the basis for all of Islam, meaning this belief forms the core belief of ~~Sunni~~ Muslims.

A second purpose is to show how to live your life. In the Quran it says "fasting is prescribed for you", which shows how ~~Sunn~~ is important for ^{all} Muslims to follow. Therefore fasting is a key component of ^{Sunni} Muslim life, during Ramadan.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

This response is awarded 2 marks because there is one developed purpose without a source of authority.

- The Six Beliefs illustrate the basis of the faith (1). Tawhid shows how Allah is the one and only God (1).

The second purpose suggested is to show how to live your life, illustrated by the importance of fasting. Neither fasting nor observing Ramadan is one of the Six Beliefs, so this is not credited.

Total: 2 marks



Know the difference between the Six Beliefs and the Five Pillars of Sunni Islam.

Question 1 (d)

This response was marked according to the new (d) mark scheme descriptors and the updated guidance on SPaG marking. It considers Muslim teaching about life after death.

Unlike the other questions on the paper (d) items are levels-marked. They are NOT point marked.

For levels marking it is important to read the whole response. The level should be decided using the best-fit to level from the mark scheme. Once a level is determined it is then decided where the response lies within the level.

Use the SPaG descriptors to decide the SPaG mark. The full range of marks were used as appropriate.

This response is awarded Level 2, 6 marks. SPaG is awarded 2 marks.

This response is included as an illustration of the quality of work required to reach the top of Level 2.

*(d) "The joy of paradise is the most important teaching in Islam."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you must:

- refer to Muslim teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

(15)

Some Muslims as might agree that the joy of paradise is the most important teaching of Islam. Many Muslims follow the teachings from God in order to gain a paradise. This is very important to many Muslims, as they believe that their life on Earth is like a drop in the ocean compared to their life after death. They want to ensure happiness and peace in this eternity, so they try to become better people. However, some Muslims would argue that it's actually the belief in Jahannam (Hell) which is the most important. The Quran mentions "In hell there will be a burning fire, into which will be thrown the people who rejected God." Such scary description deters people from ~~be~~ ~~do~~ the wrongdoing, as they are too afraid of hell. Overall, I think that the second argument is stronger, as ~~I~~ ~~that~~ being afraid was always the strongest feeling within a human being.

Some Muslims might again agree with the statement, as the Qur'an often mentions how for all the good deeds a Muslim has done they will earn paradise. For example, the Qur'an mentions "Those who do good, and forbid wrong will gain paradise." The God himself ~~still~~ appears to think that ~~it~~ going to heaven was the best reward a person could get. However, some other Muslims might again argue that the joy of paradise is not the most important teaching. Several times in the holy books there is a mention about that being a good person is the most important, and that I'll note a person gain Allah's love and compassion. The most important is to gain God's approval, and not the joy ~~of~~ after death. Overall, I think that the second argument is stronger, as the love of God is the most important.

In conclusion, I ~~think~~ ^{disagree} that the joy of paradise is ~~not~~ the most important teaching in Islam, as there are many more teachings which are much more important. For example about the horrors of hell, or the ones about God's love.



The candidate uses some simple, but logical, chains of reasoning to establish a point of view. These show sound understanding of religion and belief throughout. The argument hinges around the concept that fear of the horrors of hell is more motivating than anticipation of the joys of paradise.

SPaG is awarded 2 marks because the standard of spelling, punctuation and grammar, whilst not perfect, did not hinder understanding of key concepts.

The response is limited to Level 3, 8 marks due to the weak conclusion, which has no sense of evaluation of the arguments.

Question: 8 marks

SPaG: 2 marks

Total: 10 marks



Use the judgements to justify the conclusion.

This response is included to illustrate one of the rare occasions when SPaG is awarded 0 marks: there is simply too little content for SPaG to be awarded.

***(d) "The joy of paradise is the most important teaching in Islam."**

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you must:

- refer to Muslim teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

(15)

I agree with this statement because Muslim teaches that paradise is a places were a person became younge agen



The response is awarded a single mark for the idea that a person will be renewed in paradise.

This is an example of a single isolated element of religion and belief that is appropriate, in response to the question.

Level 1

Question: 1 mark

SPaG: 0 marks

Total: 1 mark



Give both sides of the argument.

Question 2 (a)

This question concerns Muslim attitudes towards punishment.

Few candidates had difficulty suggesting why Muslims regard punishment as important.

The most common reasons included to:

- protect society
- provide justice
- make the criminal pay

Some candidates also considered whether or not punishment and repentance on earth would avoid punishment in the afterlife.

This response gives three simple reasons.

2 (a) Outline **three** reasons why Muslims regard punishment as important.

(3)

ONE REASON WHY
Punishment is important as it teaches the right behaviour.

A second reason why it is important is because it allows people to feel safer in society.

A final reason is because punishment can deter any further attempts of the same crime.



The candidate offers three short sentences in response.

These suggest that punishment is important because it:

- Teaches right behaviour (1)
- Allows people to feel safer in society (1)
- Can deter further attempts at the same crime (1)

Total: 3 marks



Avoid repeating the question stem three times.

This response is given 1 mark, to illustrate the dangers of reducing the response to a list.

2 (a) Outline **three** reasons why Muslims regard punishment as important.

(3)

Three reasons why muslims ~~regard~~ ^{regard} punishment as important ~~one~~ are retribution, reformation and lastly Deterrence.



The candidate gives a list of three reasons why punishment is important.

Retribution, reformation and deterrence are suggested.

Although each of these suggestions has merit, candidates are expected to provide three short sentences.

Only one mark can be awarded for a list with three correct suggestions.

Total: 1 mark



Expand the list to three brief sentences.

Question 2 (b)

This question concerns Muslim teachings about the treatment of criminals, specifically the use of restorative justice.

Few candidates had a clear idea of the use of the term 'restorative justice' with a number ignoring 'restorative' and answering solely based on justice.

Restorative justice is the concept of bringing the victim of a crime together with the perpetrator, with the criminal showing remorse and the victim demonstrating forgiveness.

This response is included in the report as an example of a candidate who took an unusual, but creditworthy, approach.

(b) Explain **two** Muslim responses to restorative justice.

One Muslim response to restorative justice⁽⁴⁾ is that it creates peace between the victim and the crime. This is important as Muslims believe that Allah wants them to be peaceful as Islam is a peaceful religion.

Another Muslim response to restorative justice is that it gives criminals another chance to learn from their mistakes. By reconciling with victims, criminals can identify the impacts of their behaviour and change the error in their ways.



This response is given 4 marks for two developed responses.

- Restorative justice establishes peace between the victim and the criminal (1) Allah wants them to be peaceful (1)
- Restorative justice gives criminals a chance to learn from their mistakes (1) The criminal can see the impact of the crime, and change (1)

Total: 4 marks



Give two clear developed responses.

This response is given 3 marks for one simple, and one developed, response.

(b) Explain **two** Muslim responses to restorative justice.

(4)

Muslims believe that restorative justice can help restore peace for the victim. Muslims also believe that everyone deserves forgiveness and therefore so does the criminal. Restorative justice can help make amends between the victim and the criminal.



- Restorative justice brings peace to the victim (1)
- It can make amends between the victim and the criminal (1), developed by the importance of forgiveness for the criminal (1)

The initial response has the potential for development. It remains a simple response.

Total: 3 marks



Further explanation aids development.

Question 2 (c)

This question concerns Muslim responses to the causes of crime.

The most commonly-suggested causes of crime were situations such as:

- poor upbringing
- poverty
- low self-esteem

Candidates went on to suggest a variety of actions to help combat these causes ranging from giving Zakah to parenting classes.

Some candidates answered as though the question was responses to crime, rather than to the causes of crime, and could not be credited.

This response has two developed responses with a relevant source of authority. It is awarded 5 marks.

(c) Explain **two** Muslim responses to the causes of crime.

In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.

(5)

~~At~~ One Muslim response to the cause of crime such as poverty would be that Muslims ~~are~~ ^{have} a duty as part of the Muslim Ummah to help ~~those~~ ^{others} and therefore poverty can be overcome through give zakah, which is one of the Five Pillars of Islam, Muslims believe through give zakah, equality is established as wealth is shared to support others. The Qur'an teaches ^{that} "Zakah expenditures are for the poor and the needy, a duty imposed on you". Another Muslim ~~s~~ response to the cause of crime such as low self-esteem would be that Muslims ~~are~~ are vicariously of Allah. They should not have problems with low self-esteem as they are representatives of Allah and ~~they~~ ^{therefore} regard themselves highly.



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Examiner Comments

The candidate suggests that:

- Muslims have a duty to help others (1) Poverty can be overcome by giving Zakah (1) 'Zakah expenditures are for the poor and needy...a duty imposed on you.' (Surah 9:60) (1)
- Low self esteem can lead to crime (1) Muslims as representatives of Allah should not suffer from low self-esteem (1)

Total: 5 marks



Think about quotes you can use.

(c) Explain **two** Muslim responses to the causes of crime.

In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.

(5)

Crime isn't allowed in ~~Allah's~~ Islamic faith it's seen as a bad deed and not acceptable but some causes of crime could be to defend yourself if needed to.

Another reason Muslims believe in causes of crime is because the Qur'an does mention crime so might think it is acceptable ~~that~~ because being spoken about in the Holy Book.



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Examiner Comments

This response achieves 0 marks.

The candidate answers as though the question is responses to crime, rather than to causes of crime.

Total: 0 marks



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Examiner Tip

Read the question carefully.

Question 2 (d)

This question considers Muslim attitudes towards justice, specifically whether justice is only important for victims. It also required consideration of non-religious views, to gain more than 6 marks.

Many candidates argued that the victim suffers most in response to crime and they have more to gain through seeing justice done.

The alternative view often argued that it was also important for society as a whole, so people understand the acceptable boundaries of behaviour.

Other candidates focussed on the importance of receiving justice for the criminal because it gives them time to reflect on their actions and change for the better.

A number of candidates seem to believe that a philosophical perspective using situation ethics or utilitarianism is equivalent to the non-religious view required in the question.

This is not the case because Muslims can look at a situation from either of these perspectives: they are not unique to the non-religious. A non-religious view should be stated clearly.

(d) "Justice is only important for victims."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you must:

- refer to Muslim teachings
- refer to non-religious points of view
- reach a justified conclusion.

(12)

Justice is defined as people getting what they deserve ~~at the~~ due to their crime.

~~Justice~~ ^{Some} Muslims may argue that justice is ~~very~~ ^{not} ~~about~~ important for victims as they are who the crime is committed against and are not responsible for that. ~~Res~~ Muslims believe strongly in restorative justice which is the reconciliation between the victim or victims family and the criminal to avoid later revenge and maintain ~~be~~ peace. This allows the victim to be safe and protected while ~~at the~~ simultaneously allowing them to move on with their lives and focus on becoming a better Muslim or person. This is a strong argument ~~as~~ ^{because} the criminal is responsible for their own actions and should be punished according to the crime. Situation ethics however, states that it depends on the situation of the crime whether the criminal is in need of peace or if the victim ~~say~~ ^{is} in safe need of ~~it~~ justice.

Other muslims may disagree that justice should only be for the victims as muslims believe that everyone deserves a chance for redemption. Organ Muslim organisations such as mosaic help criminals or convicted people to have the opportunity for reformation and to become a better person. Allah commands to 'give food in spite of love for it to the captive' this shows evidences that Allah is 'Al Adl' as he command fairness and that criminals should have equal opportunity to justice as victims. This is a stronger point as Islam teaches importance of justice for all of mankind and prophet muhammad also forgave his enemies.

In conclusion, ~~over~~ justice is important to everyone as ~~to~~ and a action committed may have been due to upbringing of ~~social issues that~~ lack of teaching someone may have had compared to others.



This response could not achieve Level 3 because there is no clear non-religious view.

The candidate provides a simple chain of reasoning for each side of the argument and makes some attempt to judge the arguments. The conclusion is consistent with the judgements offered.

Level 2

Total: 6 marks



Read the question carefully.

(d) "Justice is only important for victims."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you must:

- refer to Muslim teachings
- refer to non-religious points of view
- reach a justified conclusion.

(12)

I agree because ~~the~~ the victims might be scared to do the things they used to do as the person that had done that to them so when they get justice it could make them feel calmer to do ~~stuff~~ ~~stuff~~ stuff like they use to



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The candidate suggests a simple argument that justice will make the victim feel safer.

Level 1

Total: 1 mark



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Examiner Tip

Always give an alternative view.

Question 3 (a)

This question concerns the significance of Jihad in Islam, in this question, specifically Lesser Jihad.

Most candidates had a clear idea of the difference between Lesser and Greater Jihad. The most common beliefs offered were that it should be fought for Allah, that it should not exceed the limits imposed by just war and that it is less important than Greater Jihad.

This response is given 3 marks for three distinct beliefs.

3 (a) Outline **three** Muslim beliefs about Lesser Jihad.

(3)

one Muslim belief about Lesser Jihad is that it should only be turned to as a last resort - they should try to resolve stuff in a non-violent peaceful way first. Another Muslim belief about Lesser Jihad is that it is a Muslim's physical struggle way of striving for peace and to rid evil. Another Muslim belief about Lesser Jihad is that it is less important and less significant than ones greater Jihad.



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Examiner Comments

The candidate suggests that:

- Lesser Jihad should only be fought as a last resort (1)
- It is physically striving to get rid of evil (1)
- Lesser Jihad is less important than Greater Jihad (1)

By writing the root of the question three times the candidate uses almost all of the available space.

Total: 3 marks



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Examiner Tip

Write only what you need.

This response is given 1 mark for one correct belief.

3 (a) Outline **three** Muslim beliefs about Lesser Jihad.

(3)

x one muslim belief about lesser Jihad is that
it's unnecessary

x another muslim belief about lesser Jihad is that
it's against the word of God

x A final belief is about lesser Jihad is that
it's a last resort



One correct belief:

- It is a last resort (1)

The first two points could not be credited. Jihad is one of the Six Beliefs. Jihad may be necessary. It is seen as important in the Qur'an, the Hadith and the sunnah.

The idea that it can be used as a last resort is creditworthy.

Total: 1 mark



Remember: it is Muslim beliefs, not personal beliefs.

Question 3 (b)

This question concerns the significance of Id-ul-Adah in Muslim life.

Id-ul-Adha is the festival of sacrifice. It remembers the willingness of Ibrahim to sacrifice his son at Allah's command. It also reminds Muslims of Allah's mercy in providing an animal for sacrifice in place of Ibrahim's son.

Many candidates focussed their response on the commemoration of Ibrahim, although some suggested it was also significant because it strengthens the ummah when food is shared with the poor.

This response is included to illustrate the work of those candidates who focussed on Ibrahim and his son, suggesting the significance lies in what a Muslim may learn from their example.

(b) Explain **two** reasons why Id-ul-Adha is significant in Muslim life.

(4)

One reason is because it shows the importance of being willing to sacrifice for Allah. Id-ul-Adha remembers when God asked Ibrahim to sacrifice his son, and this is significant in Muslim life because it shows you should be willing to do anything Allah commands. Another reason it's significant is because it shows the importance of trusting Allah. Ibrahim trusted him when he sacrificed his son, and in the end he was rewarded as he didn't have to give up his son, but ~~it~~ Id-ul-Adha is significant as it shows the importance of trusting God.



This response receives full marks because there are two developed reasons.

- It shows the importance of being willing to sacrifice for Allah (1) A Muslim should be willing to do anything God commands (1)
- It demonstrates how important it is to trust Allah (1) Ibrahim's trust was rewarded and he did not have to give up his son (1)

Total: 4 marks



Use what you know wisely.

This response contains no relevant information.

(b) Explain **two** reasons why Id-ul-Adha is significant in Muslim life.

(4)

• One reason why Id-ul-Adha is significant in Muslim life is because it's considered as just as important as the celebration of 'Eid'



Given that Id is simply the chosen spelling for Eid in the specification, this response says nothing about the significance of Id-ul-Adha.

Total: 0 marks



There is nothing to be gained from inventing reasons.

Question 3 (c)

This question concerns the purpose of Zakah.

Few candidates failed to gain marks, with many suggesting Zakah as a way of reducing inequality and supporting the poor.

Using Zakah payments as a way of purifying wealth was also suggested frequently .

This response is awarded full marks because there are two developed purposes and a source of authority.

(c) Explain **two** purposes of Zakah.

In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.

(5)

One purpose of zakat is to give to ~~the poor~~ ^{give charity (food/clothes)} to the poor. This is because the prophet Muhammad was compassionate and sympathetic with the poor so we should be so. Another purpose is to prevent crime and follow Allah's command. In the Quran it says "Feed captives, needy, orphans". This will prevent crime as they have no need to steal.



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Examiner Comments

The candidate suggests:

- One purpose of Zakah is to give to the poor (1) Prophet Muhammad was compassionate to the poor (1)
- Zakah will prevent crime (1) In the Qur'an it says 'Feed captives, needy, orphans' (paraphrase of Surah 76:8) (1) They have no need to steal (1)

Total: 5 marks



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Examiner Tip

Know the Pillars thoroughly.

This response is also awarded 5 marks because there are two developed purposes and a source of authority.

(c) Explain **two** purposes of Zakah.

In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.

(5)

one purpose of zakah is that it is an act of generosity and mercy towards people who are in need of support (such as homeless people). This is important as it mirrors Allah's omnibenevolent and merciful characteristic, so Muslims should try to do the same as Allah, by being merciful and being generous to others, which will help them to get to Jannah, as "Allah made mankind in his own image", so as we, Muslims, should try to be generous as well. Another purpose of zakah is that ensures everyone is equal (just) and it brings the Ummah together as "zakah... brings hearts together"; meaning that by fulfilling zakah Muslims are doing as a community and being equal as we will all be judged fairly and equally in the Day of Judgement.



The candidate shows clear understanding of both the question and Islam.

This response adopts a 'belt and braces' approach with two valid quotes, each found with a developed reason.

- The first purpose suggests that Zakah mirrors Allah's omnibenevolent and merciful characteristics (1) 'Allah made man in his own image' (Hadith) (1) so humanity should be generous as well (1)
- The second purpose suggests that Zakah ensures everyone is equal (1) It brings the ummah together as 'Zakah brings hearts together.' (Surah 9:60) (1)

Total: 5 marks



Demonstrate your knowledge.

Question 3 (d)

This question concerns the importance of fasting during Ramadan.

In general, candidates demonstrated good knowledge and understanding of the significance of fasting and were aware of those issues that may limit a Muslim's ability to fast.

Many candidates concluded that every able-bodied Muslim should fast, apart from those exempted in the Qur'an.

Many also suggested that there is the possibility to fast at a later time, or to provide food for others as recompense.

It should be noted that spelling, punctuation and grammar do not need to be faultless to achieve high performance marks.

This response is included to show that it is possible to conclude that both arguments are equally strong and reach a compromise conclusion, as this candidate does.

*(d) "All Muslims should fast during Ramadan."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you must:

- refer to Muslim teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

agree	disagree
<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ closer to Allah◦ understand struggles of poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ pregnant, sick, elderly, child.

(15)

Some Muslims would ~~not~~ agree with this statement that "All Muslims should fast during Ramadan". This is because ~~fasting is both~~ Sawm meaning fasting is both ~~an~~ one of the Ten Obligatory Acts and the Five Pillars. This means that fasting is important for all Muslims as it helps them keep strong in their faith. Fasting also helps Muslims to draw closer to Allah and strengthen ~~his~~ ^{their} relationship with ~~him~~ ^{him}, as well ^{as} understand the struggles of the ~~poor~~ ^{poor} poor. This argument is convincing as it allows Muslims to be thankful ~~for~~ ^{to} Allah for what they have and pray to those that have ~~less~~ ^{less}. This overall strengthens Muslims' faith ~~and~~ in Allah and his benevolence.

However, some Muslims would disagree that "all Muslims should fast during Ramadan". This is because fasting can ~~have~~ damage a person's health, especially when sick, elderly, pregnant or ~~young~~ ^{young} youth. This would mean that fasting would not be beneficial to the person for their health. This ~~argument~~ ^{is} argument ~~is~~ convincing since it ~~shows~~ shows Allah's omnibenevolence to allow these exceptions to fasting. In addition, ~~fasting is~~ those that cannot fast.

can still reflect on Allan and themselves and draw close to him.

In conclusion, I think both arguments are ~~very~~ convincing. This is because ~~dis~~ agreeing to all Muslims should fast is because it would improve your personal relationship ^{with} Allah and ~~be~~ disagreeing to the statement is because it's of physical health, not faith. This means that all Muslims should fast for the benefits of their faith, however, there are some exceptions for ~~health~~ health reasons.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

The candidate offers a short chain of reasoning for both sides of the argument, supplemented by simple judgements. This enables the candidate to reach the top of Level 2.

The conclusion is consistent with the judgements made.

SPaG is high performance.

Level 2

Question: 6 marks

SPaG: 3 marks

Total: 9 marks



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

Include as much detail as you can.

This response reaches Level 2, 4 marks.

* (d) "All Muslims should fast during Ramadan."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you must:

- refer to Muslim teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

(15)

Some would agree with this statement because fasting the month of Ramadan is obligatory and that not fasting is a sin this is significant because fasting is one of the five pillars this is important because Islam is part of the foundation of the religion and that fasting gives them the opportunity to go to Jannah and will show their submission to Allah. So Muslims would agree with this as it is obligatory upon every Muslim.

Some might disagree with statement B. Some people aren't able to pray such ~~the~~ ^{the} elderly. Some believe that the elderly shouldn't have to fast all the time as they might not be able to make it all day as they are most vulnerable to illnesses. That's why some might disagree with this statement as not everyone is healthy enough to fast.



The candidate gives a basic analysis of the statement, with some limited evidence of developed arguments.

Many of the arguments are simple rather than developed.

The response is further weakened by the absence of any form of judgement: there is not even a comment in conclusion.

SPaG is intermediate performance.

Level 2

Question: 4 marks

SPaG: 2 marks

Total: 6 marks



Always come to a conclusion.

Question 4 (a)

This question concerns Muslim beliefs about Holy War.

Many candidates had clear ideas about what was required in a Holy War and used these effectively.

The most commonly-suggested beliefs about Holy War included that it must:

- be in response to religious persecution
- be led by a religious leader
- offer a spiritual reward for those who take part

The response is included to illustrate how little a candidate is required to write to gain the marks.

Three brief sentences are acceptable. Three single words are not.

4 (a) Outline **three** Muslim beliefs about Holy War.

x Fight in gods cause

x Dont overstep limits

x Dont destroy holy buildings.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

The candidate points out that:

- Fighting must be in God's cause (1)
- It should not overstep the limits (1)
- It should not destroy holy buildings (1)

Total: 3 marks



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

Short and sweet.

This response has three valid beliefs.

4 (a) Outline **three** Muslim beliefs about Holy War.

(3)

One belief about Holy War is that in order to be considered a Holy War it has to be led by a Muslim leader. Another belief about Holy War is that the response always has to be proportionate to the initial attack. One final Muslim belief about the Holy War is that it must be the last resort.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

The candidate persists in writing out the question stem with the following creditworthy beliefs. This adds nothing to the response.

Holy war must:

- be led by a Muslim leader (1)
- always be in proportion (1)
- be the last resort (1)

Total: 3 marks



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

Use your time wisely.

Question 4 (b)

This question concerns Muslim responses to the problems conflict causes in society.

It should be noted that the question concerns responses to the issues caused by conflict and their impact on society, rather than responses to conflict.

Many candidates suggested practical responses such as donating to charities to help the victims in the aftermath.

Others offered more spiritual responses, such as praying for Allah to help and comfort the victims.

This response is included to illustrate the work of candidates who take a practical approach to the problem.

(b) Explain **two** ways Muslims respond to the problems conflict causes in society.

(4)

One way is with Zakah. This is when Muslims donate money to help those in need. This is a good response because it means someone can be saved or looked after properly.

A second way is with a passive response. For example, some Muslims may peacefully protest. This is a good response because it gets the point across and can bring about change without causing more destruction.



The response has two developed ways.

The candidate suggests:

- They could donate money to help those in need (1) This would enable someone to be saved or looked after properly (1)
- Muslims may peacefully protest (1) This may bring about change without further destruction (1)

Total: 4 marks



Focus on ways to help.

This response is included as an example of a more generic response.

The candidate would have benefitted from a focus on the ways a Muslim may respond.

It is given 2 marks.

(b) Explain **two** ways Muslims respond to the problems conflict causes in society.

① (4)
Muslims believe that the reasons for conflict are simply part of the challenges and tests that Allah gives us throughout our lives - it is believed that he will never give us challenges that he knows we can't handle and overcome - and that he knows past, present, and future events. Because of this Muslims respond to these problems of conflict in society head on - and will try to solve them everytime - as they believe Allah wills it - and have hope and courage as Allah pushes them through these problems.



This response has one developed reason.

The candidate eventually suggests a way, towards the end of the response, by saying that:

- Muslims will try to solve the problems (1) Solving the problem is following Allah's wishes (1)

Total: 2 marks



Look for key words in the question.

Question 4 (c)

This question concerned Muslim responses to pacifism. It required candidates to explain ways that Muslims may show pacifism in their lives.

Candidates who understood the concept of pacifism often referred to Muslims trying to resolve conflict rather than take part. Others suggested aspects of peaceful protest and the importance of forgiveness.

Some offered a less practical, more spiritual response such as praying for peace.

Those who found this question more challenging often focussed on Muslim attitudes to peace rather than the need to demonstrate pacifism.

This response is given 5 marks. It has 2 clear developed ways and a source of authority.

(c) Explain two ways Muslims may show peace in their lives.

In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.

(5)

One way is by having rallies and marches to promote peace because they believe fighting should be a last resort and all peaceful solutions should be tried first so by doing this it helps to promote their beliefs.

Another way is by not participating in wars or conflict as they believe Muslims should try to create peace as Allah created the world and intended for it to be peaceful so Muslims should try and do that and in the Quran it states "Repel evil with what is better" showing peace should be achieved instead of fighting.



- Muslims may hold rallies and marches to promote peace (1) All peaceful solutions should be tried first (1)
- Peace should be achieved instead of fighting (1) Allah created the world and intended it to be peaceful (1) 'Repel evil with what is better', (Surah 41:34) (1)

Total: 5 marks



A way often involves an action.

There is no relevant content in this response.

(c) Explain **two** ways Muslims may show pacifism in their lives.

In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.

(5)

One reason muslims show pacifism in their lives is because of the Qur'an. They know the teachings of Islam you need to follow.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

The candidate suggests a simple reason why a Muslim may want to show pacifism in their life, rather than how they might do that.

Total: 0 marks



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

'Way' and 'why' mean very different things.

Question 4 (d)

The question considers Muslim responses to the problems and benefits of weapons of mass destruction.

Many candidates demonstrated clear understanding of religion and belief on this topic. Many candidates disagreed with the statement and argued that rather than maintaining peace, weapons of mass destruction create fear.

There were some who became very involved in the discussion to the extent that they did not offer a non-religious view. This limited them to a maximum of 6 marks, regardless of the quality of the rest of the response.

There remain some candidates who chose to read this as simply 'Weapons are the best way to keep the peace.'

The difference in the degree of understanding led to a dramatic variation in the marks awarded.

(d) "Weapons of mass destruction are the best way to keep the peace."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you must:

- refer to Muslim teachings
- refer to non-religious points of view
- reach a justified conclusion.

For :

deterrent, will ensure no one is hurt.

Against :

↳ innocent people

(12)

One reason why Muslims would agree with this statement is because it is because they are a great use of a deterrent. If the enemy has knowledge of this weapon then it would prevent conflict from occurring because the weapon would destroy a lot of their people and civilisation. It also ensures that limited people will be ejected on the side that contains a weapon of mass destruction as it would stop any harm from coming out of the fear that it will be used. However this is a ~~containing~~ limited argument because in the Quran it says 'fight in the cause of Allah but do not transgress limits for Allah does not like transgressors'. This means that Muslims should defend Islam or self defence but should never initiate conflict. Having possession of weapons of mass destruction would do the opposite of peace because it would create tension and fear which could even lead to submission out of fear. This would be immoral and against Allah as everyone is equal. Non religious people would have different points of views because

the weapon of mass destruction would ensure that their people and family were safe as the opposing group would know the consequences of the weapon. However it is immoral for ~~peop~~ governments to use weapons of mass destruction. Humanists would agree with this because conflict is usually caused by politics or religion meaning the people who would suffer are the innocent. Innocent people do not deserve to suffer. Humanists would propose that if there was a civil war would not want for wide spread suffering.

One reason why Muslims would disagree with this statement is because in the Quran it says 'if you kill someone, it like you have killed all of mankind'. Murder is already wrong in Islam so the use of weapons of mass destruction should be forbidden. It would go against the just war theory and the need for lesser jihad as it would harm the innocent. This is a convincing argument because the Quran says 'do not hurt women, children, the elderly, or the sick' and these weapons would do that.

In conclusion, although weapons of mass destruction would keep peace, ~~because~~ it would be out of fear which is immoral. Most Muslims would agree that these would go against the teachings of such due to their severity. (Total for Question 4 = 24 marks)



The candidate provides a good analysis of the statement using logical chains of reasoning to discuss different points of view.

There is evidence of sound understanding of religion and belief.

There are some, quite limited, judgements of the quality of the arguments linked clearly to the analysis. This leads to a relatively weak conclusion with a brief attempt to justify it, based on the analysis.

Level 3

Total: 8 marks



Use your analysis for an effective conclusion.

Please note that writing 'Many people/Muslims' does not provide a non-religious view because 'many people' are religious, even if they are not Muslim.

(d) "Weapons of mass destruction are the best way to keep the peace."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you must:

- refer to Muslim teachings
- refer to non-religious points of view
- reach a justified conclusion.

↓
people do it because
we are very sure
there will be

(12)

Many Muslims would disagree with this statement as weapons of mass destruction is forbidden in Islam and going against Gods words. This is because they not only kill/injure the enemy the perpetrators, but also innocent victims who have nothing to do with the war. Killing innocent people is first of all, against the ideas of a just war and also going against Gods words.*

In addition to this, many people/muslims would heavily disagree with this statement as weapons of mass destruction only adds on to more conflict instead of peace, if a country attacks another country, it would be based of the country to fight back and release bombs against the country that started it.

This only causes more conflict and many more civilians to get killed for no reason. Allah already mentions in the Quran that rather than hurting people "saving one is like saving the entire of mankind".

* as well as innocent civilians getting killed, land, homes, trees and habitats are also destroyed. Destroying land is heavily against the conditions that war has to be fought in. This is going against Allah's command, which many Muslims should be avoiding.

However, some Muslims may agree with this statement as weapons or man destruction may be the solution to stop countries from conflicting with each other. This could be because countries want to avoid their land and people from being destroyed, if you threaten a Muslim country which is causing harm to yours with things like bombs and nukes, surely they will stop and try to fix the conflict.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

The candidate provides a basic analysis of the statement using some developed arguments to consider different points of view.

The response lacks the ongoing judgements required for Level 3 and also lacks a conclusion.

This may reflect a time-management issue.

Level 2

Total: 6 marks



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

Save time for (d) responses.

Paper Summary

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

- In (a) questions give short sentences or phrases
- There is no requirement to prefix answers with the question stem
- In (b) questions focus on clear points and clear development
- Read the question carefully. A belief is not the same as action
- For (c) questions learn quotations thoroughly
- Be careful when attributing quotations specifically to the Qur'an or Hadith. The wrong source of authority invalidates the mark
- In (d) questions focus on answering the question. Generic information is rarely useful unless it is clearly responding to the statement
- In (d) questions take note if additional material is requested, such as non-religious views or philosophical arguments
- In (d) questions analysis, judgements and an evaluative conclusion are key to the highest levels

Grade boundaries

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