

# INTERNATIONAL GCSE

## Religious Studies (9-1)

EXEMPLARS WITH EXAMINER COMMENTARIES

PAPER 2

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Pearson Edexcel International GCSE in Religious Studies (4RS1)

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# Introduction

## 1.1 About this booklet

This booklet has been produced to support teachers delivering the Pearson Edexcel International GCSE in Religious Studies specification. The Paper 2 exemplar materials will enable teachers to guide their students in the application of knowledge and skills required to successfully complete this course. The booklet looks at questions 1(a), 2(b), 2(c), 3(b), 3(c) (Option B: Christianity) and 1(a), 1(b), 1(c), 2(c) and 3(b) (Option D: Islam) all from the June 2019 examination series, showing real candidate responses to questions and how examiners have applied the mark schemes to demonstrate how student responses should be marked.

## 1.2 How to use this booklet

Each example covered in this booklet contains:

- Question
- Mark scheme
- Exemplar responses for the selected question
- Example of the marker grading decision based on the mark scheme, accompanied by examiner commentary including the rationale for the decision and where relevant, guidance on how the answer can be improved to earn more marks.

The examples highlight the achievement of the assessment objectives at lower to higher levels of candidate responses.

Where questions are marked using a levels-based mark scheme this is included here, alongside indicative content. The criteria in each Level guide the examiner to the correct mark on a best-fit basis. It is not always necessary for candidates to meet all the requirements in the Level to gain the marks if their answers meet some of the requirements very effectively.

Centres should use this content to support their internal assessment of students and incorporate examination skills into the delivery of the specification. Although the exemplars focus on the two most answered religions, Christianity and Islam, teachers of all the religions will be able to use the principles explained in the commentaries to guide their students in answering questions effectively.

## 1.3 Further support

A range of materials is available from the Pearson qualifications website to support you in planning and delivering this specification.

Centres may find it beneficial to review this document in conjunction with the Examiner's Report and other assessment and support materials available on the [Pearson Qualifications website](#).

## 1.4 Assessment objectives

This document references the assessment objectives, which are as follows:

		<b>% in International GCSE</b>
<b>AO1</b>	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of religion, beliefs and values.	50%
<b>AO2</b>	Analyse and evaluate aspects of religion, beliefs and values, including their significance and influence.	50%

## Question 1(a)

### Option B: Christianity, Section 1: Origins and their impact on the community

1 (a) Outline **two** ways the Bible is used in Christian worship.

(4)

#### Mark scheme

- The Bible is read aloud during Christian worship (1) so that believers can become more familiar with their sacred texts. (1)
- Often a Christian will read the Bible at home (1) which allows Christians to gain a deeper understanding of its meaning. (1)
- The Bible is often placed on a special stand during worship (1) which is a mark of respect for what is believed to be the Word of God. (1)

#### Exemplar response A

- 1 The Bible is used in public worship such as church services where readings are being taken from the Bible as a lesson.
- 2 The Bible is used in private worship where individuals use it as a form of self-study. ~~and meditation~~

#### Examiner's comments:

**This response was given 4 marks.**

To gain all 4 marks, the candidate was required to provide two ways in which the Bible is used in Christian worship, and to develop both of them.

In this example, in each case the candidate first identifies a form of Christian worship, either public worship or private worship. Also, there is development of both ways. In the first example, it says that the readings are used to teach a lesson. In the second example, the Bible is used as a form of self-study.

## Exemplar response B

1 Readings from the Bible are read in church services

2 Prayers from the Bible are collectively spoken in church services

### Examiner's comments:

**This response was given 2 marks.**

In this example, the candidate identified two ways the Bible is used – in the first case, by being read in church services and in the second, Bible prayers are collectively spoken in church services. But neither example is then developed, which means the maximum mark is 2.

## Question 2(b)

### Option B: Christianity, Section 2: Celebrations and pilgrimage

(b) Explain why Easter is important for Christians.

(6)

#### Mark scheme

- Easter celebrates the resurrection of Jesus, which Christians believe was proof that Jesus had the power to conquer death and guarantee the reality of eternal life.
- Easter celebrations allow Christians to recall and give thanks for the salvation they believe Jesus achieved by his death and resurrection.
- The events of the first Easter are believed by many Christians to mark the birth of the Christian faith, when the disciples came to understand that Jesus was truly God, proven by his resurrection and subsequent appearances.

Mark	Descriptor
0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No rewardable material.</li></ul>
1–3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Limited use of religious terms.</li><li>• Description of relevant religion, beliefs and values is mostly satisfactory.</li><li>• Gives a partial explanation of the significance and influence of beliefs and values.</li></ul>
4–6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Use of religious terms is appropriate and shows understanding.</li><li>• Explanation of relevant religion, beliefs and values is comprehensive.</li><li>• Explanation of significance and influence of beliefs and values is assured and comprehensive.</li></ul>

## Exemplar response A

Easter is important for Christians because it ~~allows them to~~ <sup>allows them to</sup> remember and commemorate the struggle of Jesus and his death + resurrection. Easter <sup>week</sup> gave rise to Maundy Thursday, which is <sup>(the bread and wine becomes in the act of transubstantiation)</sup> the basis for modern day communion/mass/eucharist. This is of extreme importance because it allows Christians to have a part of God's blood and body in them (making them sacred + holy). Easter is also important because it is a direct sign of God's power. On Easter Sunday, God rose Jesus from the dead. It is also a celebration - we celebrate the fact that Jesus gained victory over death to save our sins. In essence, Easter is the reason that Christians are able to gain salvation, truly repent and enter the kingdom of Heaven with the promise of eternal life.

### Examiner's comments:

#### This response was given 6 marks.

It should be noted that in the specification, 'Easter' is understood to include the events from Maundy Thursday to Easter Sunday.

This is a very good Level 2 response. It focuses very clearly on the Christian understanding of the importance of Easter, and it shows developed understanding of some of these beliefs. A good example of this is at the end of the answer that Jesus gained victory over death, and this brought salvation from sin. It is the reason why Christians believe they are able to achieve salvation and gain eternal life. This is not the only developed reason. The reference to Maundy Thursday talks about the Catholic belief in transubstantiation, and the consequent belief that they can receive the body and blood of Jesus.

In deciding a mark for a Levels-based response, the examiner should first read through the entire response. A Level 1 response will contain a limited range of relevant ideas with little development of the ideas when applied to the question. In general, the candidate needs to provide both breadth in terms of the ideas presented and depth in terms of the development of those ideas.

## Exemplar response B

Easter is important for Christians as it symbolises the Temptation of Jesus, and also his death. Shrove Tuesday begins Lent, a time of fasting lasting forty days, which symbolises the 40 days and nights Jesus spent in the desert where he was tempted by the devil three times.

Easter itself is important for Christians as Good Friday commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus, and this is important as they have to wait for Easter Sunday to commemorate the resurrection of Jesus. The resurrection is important because of the fact Jesus has died for mankind's sins, and tells his disciples to 'go out and convert' in his final hours before ascending into heaven.

### Examiner's comments:

#### This response was given 3 marks.

It is always very important to answer the question set. In this response, too much time is given to aspects of Christian belief and practice that lie beyond the scope of Easter.

The first paragraph refers exclusively to Lent and does not directly link it to the events of Easter. None of this answers the question.

The second paragraph is more correctly focused, but it only really recalls events (Jesus' death and resurrection) with a brief explanation of the Christian belief that Jesus died for mankind's sins. It then speaks about Jesus' ascension, which is again beyond the scope of the question. There is an insight into the importance of Easter for Christians in this paragraph but it is insufficiently developed. Development could have included a fuller explanation of the importance of the idea of Jesus dying in atonement for sin, and it could have explained that Christians understand the resurrection as a victory over the power of death. Without this kind of development, the answer could not gain marks in Level 2.

## Question 2(c)

### Option B: Christianity, Section 2: Celebrations and pilgrimage

(c) "Christmas is the most important Christian festival."

Discuss this statement considering the arguments for and against.

In your answer you should include:

- reference to teachings
- other (divergent) points of view – either within the religion or from other religions
- your opinion/point of view using reasoned arguments
- a balanced conclusion.

(10)

### Mark scheme

The student will develop responses using ideas/reasoning/arguments such as:

- Christmas is important because it marks the birth of Jesus, when Christians believe God took on human flesh.
- Christmas is the most widely celebrated Christian celebration, which focuses on the faith of children and the Christian family.
- Christmas is an opportunity to show kindness to others by giving gifts in memory of the gifts of the wise men to Jesus.
- Some Christians will argue that Holy Week is the most important festival because it celebrates salvation from sin, which was the purpose of Jesus' coming.
- Many people believe that Christmas has become too commercialised and celebrated by many people who have no interest in its true meaning.
- Some Christians argue that no single Christian celebration is more important than any other, but that they are all part of the mission of Jesus as teacher and saviour.

Mark	Descriptor
0	No rewardable material.
1–3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Demonstrates isolated elements of understanding of religion and belief.</li><li>• Identifies information/issues and makes superficial connections between a limited range of elements within the question.</li><li>• Judgements are supported by generic arguments to produce a conclusion that is not fully justified.</li></ul>
4–6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Demonstrates limited understanding of religion and belief.</li><li>• Deconstructs religious information/issues, and makes superficial connections between many but not all of the elements in the question.</li><li>• Judgements of a limited range of elements in the question are made. Judgements are supported by an attempt to appraise evidence, much of which may be superficial leading to a conclusion that is not fully justified.</li></ul>
7–8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Demonstrates accurate understanding of religion and belief.</li><li>• Deconstructs religious information/issues, leading to coherent and logical chains of reasoning that consider different viewpoints and that make connections between many but not all of the elements in the question.</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Constructs coherent and reasoned judgements of many but not all of the elements in the question. Judgements are supported by the appraisal of evidence, some of which may be superficial leading to a partially justified conclusion.</li> </ul>
9-10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrates sustained, accurate and thorough understanding of religion and belief.</li> <li>• Critically deconstructs religious information/issues, leading to coherent and logical chains of reasoning that consider different viewpoints and that make connections between the full range of elements in the question.</li> <li>• Constructs coherent and reasoned judgements of the full range of elements in the question. Judgements are fully supported by the comprehensive appraisal of evidence, leading to a fully justified conclusion.</li> </ul>

## Exemplar response A

Christmas is one of the <sup>most</sup> important Christian festivals.

Christmas is the birth of the Son of God, the second person in the blessed Trinity; it is the birth of Jesus Christ. During this time Christians celebrate his birth by attending the holy mass - some Christians go for midnight mass (about the time Jesus was born).

Christmas as believed by many Christians is the beginning of the prophecy stated by many prophets in the Old Testament, the prophecy that the Messiah will come. Eastern Orthodox celebrate their Christmas on 6th January on the feast of the Twelfth Night (Epiphany).

Roman Catholics believe that Christmas is as important as Easter as without Christmas, without the incarnation of God the Son, we would not have been redeemed from all our sins.

For many Christians Christmas is important as

it shows us how Mary and Joseph had unrequited love and faith in God, despite all the hardships they faced. Christmas shows us how the son of God becomes man in order to save us from sin.

However though some may argue that Christmas is less important ~~as~~ or is more important, many have come to an agreement that state that <sup>without</sup> Christmas there would have been <sup>as other celebrations</sup> no Holy Week nor Easter and so is equally important.

(Total for Question 2 = 20 marks)

### Examiner's comments:

#### This response was given 5 marks.

This answer is certainly more than a series of simple points, containing as it does a number of developed explanations, and it comes to a conclusion. This means that it is worth at least a Level 2 mark.

Its main weakness is that the alternative point of view, though present, is brief. The reason given is that Christmas and Easter complement each other, and so can be considered equally important. For clarity, it should be said that candidates do not need to provide an exact balance of arguments on both sides, but there will usually have to be evidence of a fair level of contrast of both points of view for an answer to achieve above Level 2.

Another weakness is that some of the development is more descriptive than explanatory. For example, it says that Christians believe that Christmas marks the birth of the second person of the Trinity, but develops this by saying that Christians celebrate this by going to Mass. This describes a relevant action but does not really further explain the significance. Some development of why it is important that Jesus is part of the Trinity could have helped gain higher marks.

## Exemplar response B

Some Christians argue that Christmas is the most important Christian festival, however, some disagree.

Some Christians argue that Christmas is the most important Christian festival as it celebrates the Jesus incarnation - as he was God made flesh. Some also believe that Jesus proved the 'Trinity', that he was 'God the son'. "At the beginning there was a word, the word was with God, the word was God," which suggests that Jesus is 'the word', and that he is God. Christians argue that Christmas is important as it marks the birth of their saviour, who redeemed their sins, and they also argue that Christmas is important because Jesus' birth was marked the beginning of the ~~period~~ 'one-bless' relationship with God where it could be restored after Adam and Eve's bad relationship with him - ~~this is correct~~

Religious views aside, Christians believe that Christmas is the most important Christian festival as it is a time for family to unite and reflect on the year passed. It is also a time for great celebration and to exchange presents as a sign of grace and forgiveness. They also argue that it is important for families to go to church together and celebrate Jesus' birth.

However, some Christians disagree that Christmas is the most important festival as they believe that Easter is the most important festival, to celebrate Jesus' resurrection and his sacrifice for our ~~salvation~~ salvation. They believe that Easter

is more important as it marks the beginning of ~~human~~ 'atonement', where the relationship between God and humans begins. Some also argue that Christmas is too commercialised nowadays, that the meaning has been lost and therefore it is not important.

In my opinion, I ~~do~~ believe that Easter is the most important ~~best~~ Christian festival as ~~it~~ it means is not too commercialised and it celebrates Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection, which suggests that he is God. ~~Therefore~~

In conclusion, some Christians argue that Christmas is the most important because Christians celebrate the incarnation of Jesus and but some argue that other festivals such as Easter and Pentecost is more important.

**Examiner's comments:**

**This response was given 7 marks.**

Although the writing here is quite small, perseverance in reading it is worthwhile. This is an example of a discussion of the value of Christmas that does focus on elements associated specifically with the festival, such as the Christian belief in the incarnation and the birth of the 'saviour', which is well developed in the discussion. It also refers to and develops the element of family celebration for which the festival is well known.

There is also a briefer but effective alternative point of view, which develops the idea of Easter as the feast that celebrates atonement, and that is focused on religion, on God, and that its importance has not been distorted by commercialism.

The two elements of focus on the specifics of the question and development take this answer to Level 3. The answer did not gain Level 4 marks because, for example, of the relative weakness of the conclusion. To reach Level 4, it will usually be necessary for the conclusion to be something more than a brief summary of the ideas already presented. There would need to be an effective appraisal, a consideration of why, from a Christian point of view, the arguments for one side are stronger and more convincing.

## Question 3(b)

### Option B: Christianity, Section 3: Worship and practice

(b) Explain why baptism is important for most Christians.

(6)

#### Mark scheme

- Baptism is the Christian rite of initiation, by which the person becomes a member of the Christian faith, which is believed to be the path to salvation.
- Baptism involves washing with water, which is for many Christians a sign that the person is cleansed from original sin, and of their commitment to trying to live a pure, sin-free life.
- Jesus was baptised by John at the start of his ministry, and Christians believe it is important to follow Jesus' example by being baptised and living according to his example and teaching.

Mark	Descriptor
0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No rewardable material.</li></ul>
1-3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Limited use of religious terms.</li><li>• Description of relevant religion, beliefs and values is mostly satisfactory.</li><li>• Gives a partial explanation of the significance and influence of beliefs and values.</li></ul>
4-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Use of religious terms is appropriate and shows understanding.</li><li>• Explanation of relevant religion, beliefs and values is comprehensive.</li><li>• Explanation of significance and influence of beliefs and values is assured and comprehensive.</li></ul>

## Exemplar response A

Most Christians believe ~~you~~ all humans are born with original sin, and baptism cleanses the original sin so you can go to heaven. As heaven is the ultimate goal for most Christians, the act of baptism is one of the requirements for most important events in a Christian's life.

Roman Catholics believe that babies should be baptised as soon as possible, in order so that if they die at a young age they can still go to heaven. Baptist Christians believe that they have to be baptised as a consenting adult, as they believe that the free will to get baptised means a lot more to your faith than being baptised as a non-verbal infant.

### Examiner's comments:

#### This response was given 3 marks.

This response demonstrates a good understanding of Christian practice regarding baptism, specifically that Christian denominations have different practices and why. This does provide some understanding of the meaning of baptism, but to a limited extent, and some aspects of this answer would have been more suited to an a) question. As a b) question it would have been more effective to focus on the Christian theology of baptism, rather than describing Christian practice.

The answer has a more effective focus in the first part of the answer, saying that Christians understand that baptism is a cleansing of original sin, without which many Christians believe a person cannot get into heaven. The development of this reason could have been stronger. It simply says that because getting to heaven is the ultimate goal of Christians, then baptism is important. That does not add much to the original reason given. To get into Level 2 further development was needed, such as explaining briefly the Christian understanding of the significance of human sinfulness, as deserving punishment, and how, for most Christians, accepting Baptism is to accept that Jesus is their saviour.

In b) questions, describing what happens is useful illustration, but it cannot replace an explanation of why something is important.

## Exemplar response B

Baptism is important for Christians because through this, people get salvation. Baptism gives a person identification with God, a new life and a new name as a believer.

Matthew 28:30 talks about importance of baptism.

Baptism also washes away our sins and makes us very Holy in the eyes of the Lord as through this we are purified and sanctified thus we may achieve or inherit the kingdom of God and eternal life.

Baptism is very important because just as Jesus was crucified after being baptised, this shows its importance of purity and sanctification. It also gives a stronger connection with God.

### Examiner's comments:

**This response was given 5 marks.**

Although this is a briefer response, there is evidence of the ability to offer a more comprehensive development, as seen in the first paragraph. It says that baptism brings salvation, and it then goes on to offer a detailed development of how that can be understood, including the washing away of sins and purification, and that salvation means inheriting the kingdom of God and eternal life. This kind of detailed development, that has explanation rather than description, is what is needed to gain the higher marks for this question.

The answer would have gained all six marks if the points in the second paragraph had been better developed as well.

## Question 3(c)

### Option B: Christianity, Section 3: Worship and practice

(c) "The design of a church is not important for Christian worship."

Discuss this statement considering the arguments for and against.

In your answer you should include:

- reference to teachings
- other (divergent) points of view – either within the religion or from other religions
- your opinion/point of view using reasoned arguments
- a balanced conclusion.

(10)

### Mark scheme

The student will develop responses using ideas/reasoning/arguments such as:

- Christians believe it is possible to worship God anywhere and at any time, and that this does not depend on any building or objects.
- Christians worship in a variety of different styles of church, which indicates that no one particular style is essential to Christian faith and practice.
- Different styles of church can be better for different forms of worship, such as a circular church stressing the unity of Christians in prayer.
- Some Christians believe it is important for churches to take the form of a cross, which means that it symbolises the death of Jesus.
- Some Christians believe that the church should be a place that encourages a spirit of devotion to God, and that some designs of church are more likely to promote this.
- Some Christians, such as Quakers, believe churches should be simple, with no features that distract from a spirit of inner prayer.

Mark	Descriptor
0	No rewardable material.
1–3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Demonstrates isolated elements of understanding of religion and belief.</li><li>• Identifies information/issues and makes superficial connections between a limited range of elements within the question.</li><li>• Judgements are supported by generic arguments to produce a conclusion that is not fully justified.</li></ul>
4–6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Demonstrates limited understanding of religion and belief.</li><li>• Deconstructs religious information/issues, and makes superficial connections between many but not all of the elements in the question.</li><li>• Judgements of a limited range of elements in the question are made. Judgements are supported by an attempt to appraise evidence, much of which may be superficial leading to a conclusion that is not fully justified.</li></ul>

7-8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrates accurate understanding of religion and belief.</li> <li>• Deconstructs religious information/issues, leading to coherent and logical chains of reasoning that consider different viewpoints and that make connections between many but not all of the elements in the question.</li> <li>• Constructs coherent and reasoned judgements of many but not all of the elements in the question. Judgements are supported by the appraisal of evidence, some of which may be superficial leading to a partially justified conclusion.</li> </ul>
9-10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrates sustained accurate and thorough understanding of religion and belief.</li> <li>• Critically deconstructs religious information/issues, leading to coherent and logical chains of reasoning that consider different viewpoints and that make connections between the full range of elements in the question.</li> <li>• Constructs coherent and reasoned judgements of the full range of elements in the question. Judgements are fully supported by the comprehensive appraisal of evidence, leading to a fully justified conclusion.</li> </ul>

## Exemplar response A

I disagree that the design of a church is not important for Christian worship. ~~Christia~~ The church is ~~the~~ a place that celebrates the majesty of God, we celebrate masses, and do sacraments in the church. ~~The~~ <sup>The</sup> design of church is important as this is the place for us to worship God, whose our creator. Also, the design and settings of the Church can help a person to learn more deeply about God, Christians remembers that the altar is place of sacrifice, the crucifix ~~reminds~~ reminds Christians of the crucifixion and suffer and sacrifice of Jesus.

However, some Christians think that ~~the~~ the design is not important, as the church is a place for Christians to worship God and it does not need to be ~~ornate~~ <sup>ornate</sup> ~~the~~ Christians might think that rather than spending money on the design of the church, we could use the money ~~to~~ on the poor or charity, which is more meaningful and God will be happy to see us doing good.

But I still think that the design of the church is important ~~to~~ for Christian worship, as the church is the place that we worship God, the church is also the Body of Christ, the design is important for Christian worship as it indicates the value of God to us and how we care ~~and~~ about God and his importance to us.

**Examiner's comments:****This response was given 6 marks.**

This response presents two points of view, which show some evidence of development, and also offers a conclusion. This takes the mark into at least Level 2. It is also evident from this response that the candidate has a fair overall understanding of the relationship between Christian worship and church design. They make a number of significant observations, such as the relationship between design and the Christian view of the majesty of God, and the altar as signifying Christian belief in Jesus' sacrifice.

The main weakness with the answer, and the reason it does not achieve Level 3, is the relative simplicity of the developments. More could have been said, for example, about the design of the altar, and about how stone altars can seem more representative of the idea of the Eucharist as sacrifice, whereas a wooden altar can seem more like a table, perhaps stressing the idea of the Last Supper as a meal.

## Exemplar response B

Some ~~some~~ Christians would argue against this statement and say that the design is important for ~~the~~ worship because there are symbols to which are significant. For example ~~in the~~ Church of England churches have a lectern that is in the shape of an eagle which symbolises how God's word (the Bible placed on it) spreads across the world. ~~For~~ This may not be significant to 'worship' but it allows for a ~~broader~~ broader view of Christianity or to appreciate God's omnipresence which can help in 'worship' as you feel more connected to God. ~~For~~ Furthermore the stained glass windows and pictures depicting Bible stories help to illustrate which can ~~be~~ help children better understand their religion and aid ~~the~~ their 'worship'.

However, some Christians may argue that the design of the Church does not directly impact ~~on~~ worship in any way and hence it ~~is~~ should not be important. They would argue that the Bible ~~does not~~ nor Jesus did not mention the need for an extravagant ~~of~~ design therefore it is not necessary or 'important' for Christian worship. They

would argue that the design of the church is simply for aesthetic and therefore it does not have any direct importance to the worship of God. The only things needed in the worship of God are the Bible. For example the design of the Altar literally just needs a wooden table where the bread and wine can be placed, there need not be the change of cloth to match the seasons. even

I think I think that although it does not have any direct significance to worship that the design of the church still has some importance. This is because

~~it adds it makes the church~~ more visually appealing and this can impact the mood and which worship takes place. If the church is simply dull and boring enrichment, worship is not as focused hence it is compromised. The design of the church can subconsciously impact Christian worship and even though it is subtle, it can greatly strengthen the relationships with God hence I disagree with the statement.

TOTAL FOR RELIGION B = 60 MARKS

### Examiner's comments:

**This response was given 8 marks.**

This answer reaches the top of Level 3 because it effectively links the points that are being made about design to the issue of worship, as demanded by the question. A good example is where it refers to the eagle lectern and argues that it can help the concept of the omnipresence of God, which aids worship because you feel closer to him. It also says that if a church is more visibly appealing, that can affect one's mood, and that this can affect the quality of worship – in a dull church worship is less focused. These, and other points made in the answer, are interesting ideas, and they do directly respond to the question, which was not the case with all the responses to this question.

The answer did not get to Level 4 because of a lack of depth in some of the explanations. As in the first example, the idea that the altar could simply be a wooden table is relevant to the question, but it does not demonstrate a more detailed understanding of the issue of altar design, such as the distinction between a table representing a meal, and a stone altar more focused on the idea of sacrifice. Also, more could have been said to develop the question of how design may help or hinder the worship of children. Mention is made of visual imagery, such as stained glass, and this thought could have been considered more fully.

## Question 1(a)

### Option D: Islam, Section 1: Origins and their impact on the community

(a) Outline **two** events that occurred when the Qur'an was revealed to the Prophet Muhammad.

(4)

#### Mark scheme

- The angel Jibril appeared to Muhammad, (1) and ordered him to recite. (1)
- Muhammad said he was illiterate (1) but he was given the power to read. (1)
- Muhammad was fearful and uncertain (1) but Jibril reassured him that he was to be the prophet of Allah. (1)

#### Exemplar response A

1. During Laylat al Qadar the Angel Jibril<sup>(4)</sup> came to Muhammad
2. During Laylat al Qadar the Angel Jibril revealed parts of the Qur'an and Muhammad was illiterate but knew these words

#### Examiner's comments:

**This response was given 3 marks.**

It is important to remember that each part of the answer to (a) questions must be developed.

In the first example, there is a simple event, and a simple event can achieve up to one mark only. For the second mark, the candidate could have said that Jibril found Muhammad in a cave, for example, or that Jibril asked Muhammad to read.

In the second part of the answer, the candidate does what is needed to gain both marks. It says that Jibril revealed parts of the Qur'an (first mark) and though Muhammad was illiterate, he knew these words (second mark).

## Exemplar response B

1 On the night that the Qur'an was revealed to Prophet Muhammad (Pbuh), he was meditating in Cave Hira when the Angel Jibreel (alai) ascended from the Heavens and asked the Prophet to 'read' three times, a verse from the Holy Qur'an.

2 The Prophet (Pbuh) was so shaken when he went home to be comforted by his wife Khadija (radhi), who then took him to her pious cousin, Waraqa. He then informed the Prophet (Pbuh) that Allah the All-mighty had chosen him to be His Messenger and Prophet.

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### Examiner's comments:

**This response was given 4 marks.**

This answer shows very effectively how to give two developed responses.

In the first case, the event is that Muhammad was meditating in the cave, developed by the idea that the angel 'Jibreel' appeared and spoke to him.

The second response is also acceptable. Although it refers to Muhammad's actions immediately after the revelation, the events described are close enough in time to be part of the story. The event outlined is that Muhammad was shaken by what he had heard, developed by the fact that he went home to be comforted.

## Question 1(b)

### Option D: Islam, Section 1: Origins and their impact on the community

(b) Explain why the imam is important in Sunni communities.

(6)

#### Mark scheme

- The imam leads the prayers in the Mosque; standing facing the Qiblah, he helps to draw together the community, and to ensure that their prayers are both unified and dignified.
- The imam is considered a teacher, and he will often preach a sermon at Friday prayers, which helps the congregation achieve a fuller understanding of the Qur'an and the Sunnah of the Prophet.
- Many Sunni Muslims will visit the imam for spiritual and moral advice and support, because he has an expertise in the understanding of the principles of Islam

Mark	Descriptor
0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No rewardable material.</li></ul>
1-3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Limited use of religious terms.</li><li>• Description of relevant religion, beliefs and values is mostly satisfactory.</li><li>• Gives a partial explanation of the significance and influence of beliefs and values.</li></ul>
4-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Use of religious terms is appropriate and shows understanding.</li><li>• Explanation of relevant religion, beliefs and values is comprehensive.</li><li>• Explanation of significance and influence of beliefs and values is assured and comprehensive.</li></ul>

## Exemplar response A

The Imam is important in the Sunni community for a number of reasons. He is literally seen as someone who leads the five daily prayers in Islam.

Due to his role as leading prayers - which is an essential practice in Islam, being the second pillar of ~~the~~ its beliefs - he is regarded as an important part of the community. He also leads <sup>prayers</sup> Jumah prayers, wedding and funeral

He is a teacher at the 'Madrassah' of the mosques where he teaches children the Quran and other Islamic beliefs and as such is seen as spreading the Islam to the younger generation. He guards the message of Islam, keeping it from being corrupted which is very important. He is also important as a religious guide and example of following the true faith in secular societies.

### Examiner's comments:

#### This response was given 5 marks.

In order to reach Level 2, answers must be developed. In this question, it was important to do more than describe what the imam does; the answer needed to explain why those actions are important for the Sunni community. To reach the top of Level 2, candidates needed to demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the importance of the imam's role.

There is evidence of development in this answer and so it reached Level 2. For example, it points out that the imam teaches young Muslims in the madrassah, and it adds that the imam is thereby spreading Islam to the younger generation. To gain extra credit, it could also have been added that, in some countries, many young Muslims attend secular schools, and therefore the teaching of the imam in the madrassah could be the only formal Islamic education they receive.

There are also a series of undeveloped reasons, e.g. that the Imam is an example of how to follow the faith in secular societies. That is a good point, but it would have been improved with development. The candidate could have added, for example, that in some countries young people engage in activities that are contrary to Islamic teaching, such as drinking alcohol, and so it is essential for young Muslims to have role-models to guide them and strengthen their commitment to Islam.

## Exemplar response B

Imam is important in Sunni communities because he has to be a leader of the community. He is a leader of the prayers and the mosques. He is the teacher of the children. He has to teach Muslim children about their religion, how to pray the five daily prayers. He is the leader of the salah who stands in front of the people and should follow him his action during the prayers.

### Examiner's comments:

**This response was given 3 marks.**

Because this is marked according to a Levels-based mark scheme, it is not possible to gain a series of single marks for simple descriptions or explanations. Six roles of the imam would not gain six marks, for example.

For the most part, this candidate provides a series of simple descriptions of what the imam does. He leads the community, he teaches the children, and he leads salah. These are all correct responses, but there is no development and there is no further explanation of why the roles are important. This is why the mark given is in Level 1.

## Question 1(c)

### Option D: Islam, Section 1: Origins and their impact on the community

(c) "The Prophet Muhammad is the only teacher a Muslim needs."

Discuss this statement considering the arguments for and against.

In your answer you should include:

- reference to teachings
- other (divergent) points of view – either within the religion or from other religions
- your opinion/point of view using reasoned arguments
- a balanced conclusion.

(10)

## Mark scheme

The student will develop responses using ideas/reasoning/arguments such as:

- Muslims believe the Prophet Muhammad was specially chosen by Allah to pass on the revelation of the Qur'an, and that Allah says that Muhammad's example gives an indication of its demands.
- The teachings and example of the Prophet were collected in the Sunnah, and these are available to Muslims for guidance and advice.
- Islam teaches that Muhammad is the 'Seal of the Prophets', meaning that his prophecy completes and explains the teaching of all previous prophets.
- For Muslims, only Allah is good, and it is by obeying the teaching of the Qur'an that Muslims can look forward to the reward of paradise.
- Muslims accept that there are other figures of authority for them to follow, such as their parents and the local imam.
- Shi'a Muslims believe in the Imamate, divinely appointed successors to Muhammad, who act as important guides to the interpretation of the will of Allah.

Mark	Descriptor
0	No rewardable material.
1–3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrates isolated elements of understanding of religion and belief.</li> <li>• Identifies information/issues and makes superficial connections between a limited range of elements within the question.</li> <li>• Judgements are supported by generic arguments to produce a conclusion that is not fully justified.</li> </ul>
4–6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrates limited understanding of religion and belief.</li> <li>• Deconstructs religious information/issues, and makes superficial connections between many but not all of the elements in the question.</li> <li>• Judgements of a limited range of elements in the question are made. Judgements are supported by an attempt to appraise evidence, much of which may be superficial leading to a conclusion that is not fully justified.</li> </ul>
7–8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrates accurate understanding of religion and belief.</li> <li>• Deconstructs religious information/issues, leading to coherent and logical chains of reasoning that consider different viewpoints and that make connections between many but not all of the elements in the question.</li> <li>• Constructs coherent and reasoned judgements of many but not all of the elements in the question. Judgements are supported by the appraisal of evidence, some of which may be superficial leading to a partially justified conclusion.</li> </ul>
9–10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrates sustained accurate and thorough understanding of religion and belief.</li> <li>• Critically deconstructs religious information/issues, leading to coherent and logical chains of reasoning that consider different viewpoints and that make connections between the full range of elements in the question.</li> <li>• Constructs coherent and reasoned judgements of the full range of elements in the question. Judgements are fully supported by the comprehensive appraisal of evidence, leading to a fully justified conclusion.</li> </ul>

## Exemplar response A

The prophet Muhammad ﷺ is seen as a great teacher of Islam because to him ~~that~~ Allah revealed the final message of Islam through the <sup>sending of the</sup> Qur'an and no other great prophet or religious figure such as him will come again until the Day of Judgement.

Muslims view him as their teacher because he was the first teacher who passed the teachings of Islam ~~from~~ directly from Allah to the people. His moral guide and religious example can still be used by Muslims today and as such, he ~~exists~~<sup>is</sup> their teacher.

However, it is arguable ~~to~~ that since he is no longer in existence his example cannot be seen and followed by the Muslims of today. True, the records of his life, way of life and deeds are in writing but for this to be taught to Muslims, young and old, a teacher experienced in the fields of knowledge and Islam is needed so ~~therefore~~ the prophet cannot be the 'only teacher a Muslim needs'.

Others ~~we~~ would ~~say~~ debate however that he was the ~~first~~<sup>only can be</sup> exemplar of Islam and its teachings therefore he ~~can~~<sup>only can be</sup> taken as a teacher, and that others teaching his teachings ~~can~~ could potentially corrupt the message. And since he ~~is~~ is a role model for everything: the true path to Islam, the way a Muslim leads his life etc, he really is the only teacher needed by a Muslim.

To conclude, the <sup>first</sup> Prophet Muhammad - a great spiritual leader and <sup>divine</sup> teacher of the religion of Islam - is regarded among the followers of the religion as the only teacher that is required due to the perfect example he set which are in record today. On the other hand there are Muslims who argue that other teachers <sup>and guides</sup> are needed to teach <sup>in his way of life</sup> this, the Quran and how to lead life in secular, non-religious societies which differ ~~to~~ enormously from the environment of the Prophet. My own views lie with the latter opinion, that Muhammad cannot still be ~~to~~ the only teacher despite the ~~great~~ <sup>wide</sup> vista of time <sup>which include the fact that circumstances have changed</sup> separating his existence from the Muslims of today; though, no doubt, he is the first, best and mightiest.

(Total for Question 1 = 20 marks)

### Examiner's comments:

#### This response was given 7 marks.

As a simple guide, responses can only reach Level 2 if explanations are developed, if the answers consider more than one point of view and if there is a balanced conclusion. To achieve marks in the higher levels, candidates need to go on to demonstrate an in-depth understanding of the issues raised by the question. Demonstrating this depth of understanding is more important than simply increasing the number of undeveloped ideas.

This answer is a good example of a Level 3 response. The candidate offers supported reasons for and against the statement. For example, it says that Muhammad brought the final message of Islam and that no other prophets will come after him. This is a message that has come directly from Allah. They also considered another point of view, that because Muhammad lived many years ago, an experienced teacher may be needed to help modern-day Muslims understand how the teaching applies to the modern world.

The candidate also demonstrated the extra depth of understanding that is needed to achieve marks in the higher two levels. A good example of this is the idea that Muhammad is considered to be the purest of teachers and that his message is incorrupt. That cannot necessarily be said about those who would interpret his message, and this makes having a direct knowledge and understanding of the teaching of Muhammad essential, and makes Muhammad the most perfect role model.

A fuller explanation of the significance of the points raised would have taken the mark to Level 4. For example, the candidate could have explained that, for the reasons discussed, Muslims believe a correct knowledge of the Sunnah of the Prophet is important, as is the ability to read the Qur'an in Arabic rather than in a, possibly inaccurate, translation. This would further underline the supreme importance of Muhammad as a teacher.

## Exemplar response B

Some Muslims believe that Prophet Muhammad is the only teacher a Muslim needs as in the Quran, Allah calls the Prophet "Seal of the Prophets" as he is the final prophet and his message is a culmination of all of the other prophets' messages. The Prophet also has his Sunnah and Hadith which is the sayings and deeds of the Prophet that show Muslims how to live a Muslim life, how to be a faithful servant and how to stay on the straight path to Allah. For Muslims, the Prophet Muhammad is a role model as he lived his life according to the Quran.

Other communities in Islam such as the Shi'ah community believe that The Prophet Muhammad is not the only teacher a Muslim needs as they believe along with the teaching of the Prophet they believed in the teaching of his grandson Ali and that he was the caliph after Muhammad. The Shi'ah community have other traditions such as "Khums" which comes from Ali and is that they have to pay 20% of their money after expenses to the poor or a descendant of Ali. The Shi'ah community also have a different way of praying to the Prophet Muhammad.

To conclude, I believe that Prophet Muhammad is the only teacher a Muslim needs as in the Quran it says that Prophet Muhammad will show us how to live a Muslim life, be a faithful servant and follow a straight path.

**Examiner's comments:**

**This response was given 4 marks.**

This is a good example of a Level 2 response. It meets all the bullet-pointed demands of the question, including looking at more than one point of view, and offering a conclusion. The relative weakness in the answer, and what prevents it from reaching the higher levels of marks is that it relies too heavily on 'development by description' – that is, adding more information rather than providing a fuller explanation of the significance of the points being made. For example, the candidate points out that Shi'ah Muslims also look to the example of Ali for guidance. But then, rather than explaining the importance of that distinction, the candidate simply offers a description of where Shi'ah teaching is different than that of Sunnis. It would have been more effective, for example, to explain the importance of the Imamah in Shi'ah Islam, and the belief that they possess divine knowledge, and that their interpretation of the Qur'an carries authority because they are considered incorruptible. The key to gaining higher marks is to develop by way of adding explanation rather than adding more description.

## Question 2(c)

### Option D: Islam, Section 2: Celebration and pilgrimage

(c) "Eid ul-Fitr is the most important Muslim festival."

Discuss this statement considering the arguments for and against.

In your answer you should include:

- reference to teachings
- other (divergent) points of view – either within the religion or from other religions
- your opinion/point of view using reasoned arguments
- a balanced conclusion.

(10)

### Mark scheme

The student will develop responses using ideas/reasoning/arguments such as:

- The Qur'an was first revealed during Ramadan, the celebration is an opportunity for Muslims to thank Allah for this gift.
- Eid ul-Fitr is a celebration established by the Prophet to end the fast of Ramadan, so it is a holy and joyful occasion.
- In Muslim countries, Eid ul-Fitr is a national holiday; it is a communal celebration which includes acts of generosity towards those in need so that all can take part and strengthen the ummah.
- Eid ul-Fitr is just one of two major Sunni festivals along with Eid ul-Adha, which recalls the obedience of Abraham, and some Muslims would say that both are of equal importance.
- Eid ul-Adha is a festival that marks the willingness of Muslims to surrender their will to that of Allah, which is the very meaning of the Muslim faith.
- Some Muslims also celebrate many days associated with events from the life of the Prophet, and these should also be considered important because the life of Muhammad is seen as the perfect example for Muslims to follow.

Mark	Descriptor
0	No rewardable material.
1–3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Demonstrates isolated elements of understanding of religion and belief.</li><li>• Identifies information/issues and makes superficial connections between a limited range of elements within the question.</li><li>• Judgements are supported by generic arguments to produce a conclusion that is not fully justified.</li></ul>
4–6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Demonstrates limited understanding of religion and belief.</li><li>• Deconstructs religious information/issues, and makes superficial connections between many but not all of the elements in the question.</li><li>• Judgements of a limited range of elements in the question are made. Judgements are supported by an attempt to appraise evidence, much of which may be superficial leading to a conclusion that is not fully justified.</li></ul>

7-8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrates accurate understanding of religion and belief.</li> <li>• Deconstructs religious information/issues, leading to coherent and logical chains of reasoning that consider different viewpoints and that make connections between many but not all of the elements in the question.</li> <li>• Constructs coherent and reasoned judgements of many but not all of the elements in the question. Judgements are supported by the appraisal of evidence, some of which may be superficial leading to a partially justified conclusion.</li> </ul>
9-10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrates sustained accurate and thorough understanding of religion and belief.</li> <li>• Critically deconstructs religious information/issues, leading to coherent and logical chains of reasoning that consider different viewpoints and that make connections between the full range of elements in the question.</li> <li>• Constructs coherent and reasoned judgements of the full range of elements in the question. Judgements are fully supported by the comprehensive appraisal of evidence, leading to a fully justified conclusion.</li> </ul>

## Exemplar response A

Eid ul Fitr is a festival in the religion of Islam that is commonly celebrated by Muslims of all countries with great gusto and holds much importance for them.

This festival celebrates the closure of the holy month of Ramadhan and thus the end of the <sup>continuous</sup> ~~continues~~ fasts which most Muslims would regard as very important.

~~The~~ Eid ul-Fitr is celebrated by <sup>the serving of</sup> lavish food, decorating houses and wearing of new clothes. It is also an essential festival for the strengthening and unity of the Muslim community since all the Muslims gather - usually at a mosque - and pray together. This ~~too would be seen as~~ feature would make this festival very important to Muslims since unity and a sense of community are ~~very~~ essential points in the religion.

However, other Muslims would argue that there are other festivals for example Eid ul-Adha which are equally or perhaps more important than this because it (Eid ul-Adha) is a most ~~important~~ vital part of the Muslim pilgrimage called Hajj. ~~in~~ And Muslims who have not gone ~~to the~~ <sup>on the</sup> pilgrimage can take part by celebrating it and sacrificing an animal. Thus, for this reason, Eid ul-Fitr would not be viewed as the most important Muslim festival.

Overall, some Muslims would agree to this statement due to the role this festival plays in celebrating the end of Ramadhan and for the community cohesion which they consider important. Others, meanwhile would hold that other festivals are of greater importance due to their <sup>larger</sup> ~~greater~~ significance in <sup>the</sup> great pilgrimage of Hajj and commemorating the acts of the ancient prophet Ibrahim (who was prepared to sacrifice his son). My personal viewpoint would be to ~~not~~ put the festivals of a religion on an equal standing, none more vital than another.

### Examiner's comments:

#### This response was given 6 marks.

This answer is an example of a good Level 2 response, gaining 6 marks out of a maximum of 10. It looks at more than one point of view and it includes a conclusion. It is a mix of simple and developed explanations, and it would have been improved with more focus on further explanation of the points that were being made.

For example, it says the festival of Eid ul-Fitr marks the end of the fast of Ramadan, which Muslims consider to be very important. This is certainly true and worthy of credit. However, it is just a simple observation. The candidate could have gone on to explain the value of fasting for Muslims: for example, that it helps them to strengthen their ability to resist evil temptations and so is part of the struggle to become better Muslims.

This development is done better in the second point that is made. Muslims share food, they all try to wear new clothes, and many go to the mosque. Part of the importance of this, the candidate explains, is that it strengthens the sense of community, which is an essential part of the religion. That is a good development that gains extra credit. But this could then have been further developed. Why is a sense of community so important for Muslims? Perhaps, for example, because Muhammad stressed the importance of the ummah, and of the equality of all Muslims before Allah, regardless of race or wealth.

Similarly, from the other point of view, Eid ul-Adha celebrates Hajj, and Ibrahim's willingness to sacrifice his son. Again, this is true but why is Hajj important, and what is the significance for Muslims of remembering Ibrahim? For example, the candidate could have explained how and why Ibrahim is an important role-model for Muslims, including the important example of his obedience to Allah in everyday Muslim life.

One way of explaining what is required for the highest marks is that candidates need to provide reasons, then explain them, and then try to add more to the explanation in such a way that shows a comprehensive understanding of the topic.

## Exemplar response B

On the one hand, some people might agree with this statement because Eid ul-Fitr is a time of thankfulness and forgiveness. Eid ul-Fitr marks the end of Ramadan, and it occurs during the ninth month of the Islamic calendar. They celebrate it by having large processions and they visit the mosque, and of course they have a celebratory meal. Some people believe it is the most important festival because it is a time when they thank Allah and pray to him because of the strength he has given them through this period of Sawm. Also, Eid ul-Fitr is a time when Muslims give Zakat. They give 2.5% of their total wealth to the mosque, where they use it to feed the poor and less fortunate, strengthening the Ummah and declaring their faith.

However, on the other hand, some may disagree with this statement as they believe that there are other, more important festivals in the Muslim calendar. For example, Eid ul-Adha marks the

end of Hajj. A period where Muslim families and friends celebrate the end of their pilgrimage. They celebrate Eid ul-Adha by sacrificing a goat or sheep (those who can afford it) ~~to express~~ in a halal way to represent Ibrahim's willingness to Allah, and therefore their own willingness to Allah. It is also a time where those who could not afford to or were unable to go on Hajj come together as well in the Ummah because they had Niyyah (intention) but <sup>could</sup> not carry it out. It is an important festival because it represents the end of their (Total for Question 2 = 20 marks) enduring pilgrimage and signifies their faith and willingness to Allah.

In <sup>my opinion</sup> ~~conclusion~~, I agree with this statement because although ~~important~~ Eid ul-Adha is one of the most important festivals, Eid ul-Fitr is more widely celebrated across the globe and it is <sup>a</sup> more enduring event and test of their faith than Hajj. Also, it is when the Ummah (community) is strongest, which is at the very centre of Islam, therefore it is the most important.

In conclusion, many people have different views over which is the most important festival in the Islamic calendar, however the biggest debate is between Eid ul-Fitr and Eid ul-Adha.

## **Examiner's comments:**

### **This response was given 8 marks.**

This is a well-constructed and a well-developed response. It clearly outlines arguments in favour of Eid ul-Fitr, goes on to explain a different point of view, and adds an effective conclusion. Also, the discussion of both sides has detailed development. These qualities take the answer beyond Level 2.

There is some description in the development, which is fine for illustration provided there is also developed understanding. For example, when explaining that giving alms is part of the festival, they also go on to explain that this action strengthens the ummah and is a declaration of faith. Explaining Eid ul-Adha, it refers to the sacrifice of a goat, and then explains this imitates the sacrifice of Ibrahim and that it is symbolic of a willingness to make sacrifices in the name of Allah.

There is also an effective conclusion, coming down in favour of Eid ul-Fitr because it is more generally celebrated across the Muslim world and it celebrates the end of a more enduring test of faith (Ramadan) than does Hajj. Offering a reasoned development based on the discussion is important for candidates to access the higher levels of marks.

This answer would have reached Level 4 if it had given less descriptive development. Describing what happens is a way of saying why something is important, but it is much more creditworthy to explain the meaning and significance of these actions in more detail.

## Question 3(b)

### Option D: Islam, Section 3: Worship and practice

(b) Explain why the five daily prayers are important for Muslims.

(6)

#### Mark scheme

- The five daily prayers (salah) make up one of the Five Pillars of Islam, and are considered one of the foundations upon which a Muslim builds their faith.
- By praying at set times each day, a Muslim unites with fellow Muslims all over the world in a united act of worship, which strengthens the ummah.
- The combination of words and actions performed throughout the day indicate that a Muslim has submitted their mind, soul and body to Allah.

Mark	Descriptor
0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No rewardable material.</li></ul>
1–3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Limited use of religious terms.</li><li>• Description of relevant religion, beliefs and values is mostly satisfactory.</li><li>• Gives a partial explanation of the significance and influence of beliefs and values.</li></ul>
4–6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Use of religious terms is appropriate and shows understanding.</li><li>• Explanation of relevant religion, beliefs and values is comprehensive.</li><li>• Explanation of significance and influence of beliefs and values is assured and comprehensive.</li></ul>

## Exemplar response A

Five daily prayers are important for Muslims because ~~Allah has said~~ <sup>It is written</sup> in Quran and Muslims believe Quran is the exact words of Allah and it is also said by prophet Muhammad (S.A.W) whom Muslims believe the last prophet and follow his teachings. Five daily prayers are also important because it is the part of worshipping Allah and worshipping Allah is obligatory on Muslims. If Muslims pray five times daily they will be rewarded in this world and in next world after death but if they do not pray they will be asked by Allah on the day of judgement and they will be punished.

### Examiner's comments:

**This response was given 4 marks.**

This answer focuses effectively on the question and offers a series of simply developed reasons for the importance of the five daily prayers – such as that they were said by Muhammad, the last prophet and so Muslims try to follow his teachings. Another example is that prayer can bring reward in this life, and that whether one prays is a question that will be asked by Allah, after death. The answer may determine either eternal reward or punishment. These developments take the answer to Level 2. However, to gain the higher marks in the Level, fuller development would have been needed. For example, the answer could have explained further the importance of following the example of the Prophet, with mention of the significance of the Sunnah, and how Allah commanded Muslims to use Muhammad as their example, specifically on prayer.

## Exemplar response B

Each prayer performed is ~~the~~ for the benefit of our own selves. ~~Each prayer gives a certain~~ The prayers remind the muslims to keep Allah (swt) as a focal point in their lives. After each activity / time of day, a muslim rushes for prayer, ~~the~~ showing that the events or the activities of this world (dunya) are far less important than their creator. The five daily prayers are one of the five pillars of Islam. The five daily prayers were prescribed onto muslims as obligatory. The five daily prayers keep the connection between the human and their god, this helps in not having them go astray. Allah (swt) has stated in the Quran, "and remember me, and I will remember you" and in Surah Fatihah, "To you do we ask for help and to you do we worship." These are the words of Allah, that remind muslims to

### section 3: worship and practise

Q.3

~~Part (b)~~ Part (b) pray and ask Allah continuously and to [continuation] remember him, ~~remember him~~ simply by performing your daily prayers and by doing Dhikr. Surely, this is the best for us.

### **Examiner's comments:**

#### **This response was given 6 marks.**

This is an example of one fully developed response, which is a way in which all marks can be gained. It is not necessary to offer a series of reasons, if the candidate can provide one reason that is then fully explored.

The key point being made is that the five daily prayers keep Allah at the centre of a Muslim's life. Then this is comprehensively developed. Rushing from activity to prayer is a reminder that all events in the world are less important than the creator. The obligation to pray is precisely so that the connection between the person and Allah is not lost and they are less likely to go astray. Finally, this is supported by relevant effective references to the Qur'an.

It will be noted that this answer ends abruptly. But before that, it is already clear that the answer demonstrates a very good understanding of the importance of the five daily prayers and all the available marks were gained.

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