

# INTERNATIONAL GCSE

## Islamic Studies (9-1)

EXEMPLARS WITH EXAMINER COMMENTARIES  
PAPER 1

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Pearson Edexcel International GCSE in Islamic Studies (4IS1)

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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 Islamic Studies specification. The Paper 1 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, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 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.

Centres should use this content to support their internal assessment of students and incorporate examination skills into the delivery of the specification.

## 1.3 Further support

A range of materials are 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:

Assessment objectives		% in International GCSE
AO1	Recall, select and communicate knowledge and understanding of relevant facts from the faith and history of Islam	33*
AO2	Demonstrate understanding of key concepts and themes in relation to the faith, history and teachings of Islam	40
AO3	Analyse and interpret key questions and issues and their significance in the teachings of Islam and the lives of Muslims	27

## Question 1(b)

### Option 1, Section A

#### The life, teachings and achievements of the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)

(b) Describe how the conversion of Umar helped the early Islamic community.

#### Mark scheme

Award 1 mark for initial point and a further 2 marks for development that shows understanding, up to a maximum of 3 marks.

- Umar was among the first people to proclaim Islam (1). Umar's courage boosted the morale of the small Muslim community (1) and this was a great support to the Prophet (1).
- At the time of Umar's conversion, the Muslim community practiced their faith in secret (1). Umar asked the Prophet if they could practice openly (1) and led the community to worship at the Ka'ba for the first time (1).
- Shia's believe that Lady Fatima and Imam Ali were the first individuals to openly worship the Kaaba.

**Accept any other appropriate response.**

## Exemplar response A

Umar (r.a) was a man who was feared in Makkah and when he did something, no one dared to defy him. When he converted to Islam, he announced it to the people of Makkah and dared them to touch him. This gave morale to believers and ~~the~~ they were not in the hiding anymore.

### Examiner's comments:

**This response was given 3 marks.**

The first two marks are achieved because the answer describes the effect of Umar's conversion, that his standing in Makkah meant that his conversion was not opposed. The extra marks are gained by further development, such as explaining that this gave morale to the believers, and that it allowed them not to have to hide their faith.

## Exemplar response B

- Umar (R.A) was very brave man
- He had a powerful heart which enables the nonmuslims to fear him.
- the Shaitan never follows where Umar (R.A+U) passes.
- Muslims were excited when he converted to Islam

### Examiner's comments:

**This response was given 2 marks.**

This is a less effective response. It speaks generally about Umar, but some of the response does not answer the question about the effect of Umar's conversion, such as the reference to his bravery, or to Shaitan.

It does say that his conversion excited Muslims, and the examiner also credited the development, that this was in some measure due to the fear that he caused for the non-Muslim Makkans.

It is important that the full answer responds to the specific question. A credit-worthy development could have been, for example, that this excitement the Muslims felt also gave them courage to witness their belief in Allah. That would have gained the extra mark.

## Question 1(c)

### Option 1, Section A

#### The life, teachings and achievements of the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)

(c) Explain the significance of the 'Night of Power' for the beginning of Islam.

#### Mark scheme

- It was the night of the greatest revelation that Allah has given to humankind (AO1). The Qur'an was revealed to Muhammad (pbuh) and this meant the true will of Allah was now accessible to all humanity, as witnessed through the foundation of the Islamic faith (AO2).
- It is considered a night that is "better than a thousand months" (AO1). The night reminds Muslims of the nature and power of Allah and, on this night, Muslims can gain a special closeness to Allah through prayers (AO2).
- It is the angel Jibrail who reveals the Qur'an to Muhammad (pbuh) on the 'Night of Power' (AO1). This reminds Muslims of the important role angels have in their spiritual lives as God's messengers and on this night, they can receive special blessings from the angels (AO2).

Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material.
<b>Level 1</b>	1–2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Limited use of facts, some of which may be inaccurate or irrelevant. (AO1)</li><li>• Understanding addresses a narrow range of concepts/themes which lack detail and are not developed. (AO2)</li></ul>
<b>Level 2</b>	3–4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Good use of facts, which are mostly accurate and relevant. (AO1)</li><li>• Understanding addresses a range of concepts/themes, some of which are not fully detailed and/or developed. (AO2)</li></ul>
<b>Level 3</b>	5–6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Excellent use of facts, which are accurate and relevant. (AO1)</li><li>• Understanding addresses a broad range of concepts/themes, which are detailed and fully developed. (AO2)</li></ul>



## Exemplar response A

Night of power marks the last ten days of Ramadan, the Quran was said the night of power is better than thousand months, and is the night that Quran was revealed. The community of muslim ummah celebrate the night of power by doing Iktaf, praying tahajud. Special dua recommend by the prophet (S.A.W) angels come down to the earth, and the whole night it is full of peace. until the sun rise. Allah give forgiveness those who ~~did~~ are doing ibadah.

is night the prophet (S.A.W) engle jibril come to the prophet and ask how to read, and the prophet was given the ability to recite Quran, an engle jibril explamed Nby hammed's missions which was the messenger of Allah. and this is how Quran was revealed, and it is important for the

beginning of Islam

**Examiner's comments:**

**This response was given 4 marks.**

This, and all c) questions, tests both AO1 and AO2 – knowledge and understanding. In this case it was important to demonstrate knowledge of what is meant by the Night of Power, and also an understanding of its significance.

This response shows very good knowledge of what is meant by the Night of Power, with a quite detailed and relevant description of the event, and it gained good AO1 marks. Its weakness is that it is much less thorough in explaining the significance for Muslims. It certainly does that at the end, with reference to the way in which it explained Muhammad's (pbuh) mission, and also revealed the Qur'an, and both these points were credited under AO2.

To achieve Level 3 marks the answer needed to develop these two (or other) explanations. It could have said, for example, that Muhammad (pbuh) understood that his mission was to preach Islam and win converts, and that this moment could therefore be seen as the beginning of Islam. It could also have said that the revelation of the Qur'an is of great significance for Muslims because it is the direct and uncorrupted word of Allah, and therefore the most important source of guidance for all Muslims. This amount of further development is needed for the answer to reach Level 3, which calls for explanations to be 'detailed and fully developed'.

## Exemplar response B

The Night of Power or 'Al-Qadr' is a significant night. It was the night when the Holy first verses of the Quran, were sent down to the Holy Prophet (PBUH), and marked the first revelation. The night of Qadr was the night when the Prophet ~~was~~<sup>came</sup> to know of Allah, through Jibreel (AS), and helped set the Islam through the gift of the Quran. If these verses were not revealed, then there would not have been the Quran in the final form that it is today. The night of power is equal to a thousand months, and even in the Holy Quran, Allah stresses importance on this Holy day. The Night of Power signifies the beginning of Islam as the first revelation to a Prophet in Makkah, the starting of which was to grow over time, and thus form a great religion. Thus, it can be said that this revelation helped to sort out the religions we know today, showing benefits to modern era Muslims as well. This is why all decisions taken on this day is for the good of the world, blessings are worth a thousand times as normal and also Muslims are encouraged to pray through this night.

### Examiner's comments:

**This response was given 6 marks.**

This is a good example of a more fully developed response, and one which focuses on the demand of the question, not just the importance of the night. This takes the mark to the top of Level 2.

A good example of extended development can be seen in both parts of the answer. In the first half the focus is on the fact that the night saw the revelation of the Qur'an, giving insight into the nature of Allah, and which has survived as a source of wisdom until this day. The second half of the answer also focuses on the specific demand of the question, that the Night of Power marks the beginning of Islam. The candidate mentions the growth of Islam over time after the revelation, such that it went on to be a great religion. The clarity it brought to the religion means that even today it is a source of good in the world.

## Question 1(d)

### Option 1, Section A

#### The life, teachings and achievements of the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)

سَمِ اللّٰهُ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِيْمِ

﴿١﴾ وَمَا أَدْرَاكَ مَا لَيْلَةُ الْقَدْرِ ﴿٢﴾ لَيْلَةُ الْقَدْرِ خَيْرٌ مِنْ أَلْفِ شَهْرٍ ﴿٣﴾  
نَزَّلَ الْمَلَكُ وَالرُّوحُ فِيهَا بِإِذْنِ رَبِّهِمْ مِنْ كُلِّ أَمْرٍ ﴿٤﴾ سَلَامٌ هِيَ حَتَّىٰ مَطْلَعِ الْفَجْرِ ﴿٥﴾

*Indeed, We sent the Qur'an down during the Night of Decree.*

*And what can make you know what is the Night of Decree?*

*The Night of Decree is better than a thousand months.*

*The angels and the Spirit descend therein by permission of their Lord for every matter.*

*Peace it is until the emergence of dawn. [Qur'an 97: 1–5]*

- (d) 'The Qur'an contains all the teachings Muslims need to live good lives.'  
Assess this statement.

You should refer to the significance of this passage from the Qur'an provided,  
using your own or others' views to support your answer.

### Mark scheme

- The Qur'an is the word of Allah, and it is by Allah's command that the Qur'an was revealed to the Prophet on the "Night of Power" (A02). The Qur'an is heavenly, authentic and considered to be a miracle. Allah willed the Qur'an and Muhammad (pbuh) responded. Muhammed (pbuh) had been specially chosen for this revelation by Allah and now must fulfil the will of Allah in spreading the word of Islam. Surah 97 states "Indeed, we sent the Qur'an down during the Night of Decree" (A03).
- On the "Night of Power" Muslims were given the greatest gift of the Qur'an, through studying this text, Muslims gain knowledge of the importance of Allah and this gives them strength throughout their lives (A02). It is a source of wisdom and guidance that shows Muslims how they must live good lives and inspires them to struggle for Allah. It is seen as the final revelation of Allah to humankind. Surah 97 tells the importance of the revelation of the Qur'an on this night is "better than a thousand months" (A03).
- The Qur'an does not provide answers to all questions and the Sunnah and Hadith of the Prophet are essential for informing believers how to be good Muslims (A02). This is why the Sunnah must be followed for Muslims to understand how to act and behave in ways that please Allah. The Prophet is the role model. It is the wisdom of the Prophet, in the authority of the Sunnah, that helps Muslims apply the teaching of the Qur'an to their daily lives (A03).

Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material.
<b>Level 1</b>	1–4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited understanding of concepts/themes, leading to an unbalanced argument. (AO2)</li> <li>• Limited use of the text provided to support argument. (AO2)</li> <li>• No application of own/others' views to consider questions/issues. (AO3)</li> <li>• Interpretation of information will be basic, with no analysis of issues. (AO3)</li> </ul>
<b>Level 2</b>	5–8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good understanding of concepts/themes, leading to a partially-balanced argument. (AO2)</li> <li>• Good use of the text provided to support argument. (AO2)</li> <li>• Some application of own/others' views to consider questions/issues. (AO3)</li> <li>• Interpretation of information will be good, with mostly relevant analysis of issues. (AO3)</li> </ul>
<b>Level 3</b>	9–12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Excellent understanding of concepts/themes, leading to a balanced argument. (AO2)</li> <li>• Excellent use of the text provided to support argument. (AO2)</li> <li>• Thorough application of own/others' views to consider questions/issues. (AO3)</li> <li>• Interpretation of information will be excellent, with thorough analysis of issues. (AO3)</li> </ul>

## Exemplar response A

The Qur'an contains all the teachings Muslims need to live good lives.

- The Qur'an contains guidelines and advice on how to live a good life. It contains the prohibitions, (which are bad for our health) and what is needed to do to be forgiven. It contains <sup>teaching on</sup> ~~not~~ rewards, on good deeds.

- The Qur'an contains various principles needed to live a good life, for they help you live a good and happy life. It contains occasions important for Muslims e.g. Ramadan, Eid etc.

- The Qur'an was sent on this night, (Night of Power) and good deeds done on this night gets you rewards worth more than thousand months.

- Muslims look forward to this night in the last 10 days of Ramadan, as it gives the for the ~~lul~~-lucky person who encounters this night and does good deeds, gets the rewards promised.

The Qur'an is the Holy Book for Islam that ~~helps~~ contains teachings needed for a Muslim to live a good life and be ready for the After Hereafter.

**Examiner's comments:**

**This response was given 4 marks.**

This, like all d) questions, tests both AO2 and AO3, understanding of the topic raised and the ability to assess the strengths and weaknesses of various points of view. It is also a requirement to make use of the text that is provided to illustrate answers.

This answer is quite effective in showing understanding of the importance of the Qur'an, explaining that it provides guidance for many different aspects of a Muslim's life, and highlights the rewards that are available for good deeds. It gained AO2 marks for this.

The answer is not so strong in assessing the strength of the point of view being expressed. This is partly because it does not offer any other ideas to weigh against what is being said. For example, it could be argued that Muslims also rely on the Sunnah of the Prophet, not because it adds to the Qur'an, but because it helps to explain it in more detail. It could also have been argued that Muslim scholars are sometimes required to interpret the Qur'an for modern times, on issues that have only developed since its revelation (such as nuclear weapons, or IVF). In this sense it could be said that Muslims sometimes need more than the Qur'an as guidance about how to live good lives.

Also, there is only limited use of the text to support the answer.

The answer offers a basic interpretation of information, saying that the Qur'an is the Holy Book of Islam, and that it provides the guidance needed. This idea could also have been developed by explaining the belief that the Qur'an is the direct word of Allah and that it is uncorrupted, and therefore more reliable than other holy books.



## Exemplar response B

The following passage tells about the Night of Power. It narrates the story of a pious who used to spend his days and nights in the worship of Allah. They had very long life. A companion asked Holy Prophet (PBUH) that how can we compete with them in worship as they had such long life. This Surah was revealed to reward the Muslim Ummah in the Night of Power. It tells the superiority of Quran and enjoins the Muslim to worship in the Night of Power.

The Quran is a primary source of law. It was revealed upon the Holy Prophet (PBUH). The Quran constitutes the foundation of Islamic law and is the most reliable and authentic source. Quran deals with every aspect of human life and encourage them to live their life according to Shariah. As Holy Quran will continue to guide the Muslim till the Day of Judgement and it will remain in its

original form and is protected in Looah-e-Mafooz. Holy Quran says :- This is a book. In it is guidance for sure without any doubt for those who fear God. Thus Muslims are required to follow what has written in Quran as it is a universal Book. Quran definitely helps the Muslim to live a good lives.



Beside Quran there are other sources too from which a muslim can take help. The Sunnah also contains the teachings and Sunnah is also a primary source of law. If the Quran is silent upon any matter it can be confirmed from Sunnah. As Holy Prophet taught the muslim what was revealed to him and it also help the muslim about Pillars of Islam, The method of Prayer, amount of Zakah. Prophet <sup>(PBUH)</sup> said :- "I left behind me two things, The Quran and my example, Sunnah. If you follow these you will never go astray."

**Examiner's comments:**

**This response was given 10 marks.**

This very good answer was marked as a Level 3 response because it fulfills all the principal requirements for this d) style question. It makes use of the text and it argues for the idea expressed in the quote. The main reason why this example has been chosen is to illustrate how it is possible to look at an alternative perspective, and this can be seen in the final paragraph. Specifically it refers to the Sunnah of the Prophet, and develops the idea that the Sunnah can provide detail on issues about which the Qur'an is silent, such as the methods of prayer, and the amount of Zakah. It also quotes the Prophet himself where he says that he leaves two things, the Qur'an and his example. To reach Level 3 it will normally be necessary to provide such an alternative viewpoint.

## Question 2(d)

### Option 1, Section A

#### The life, teachings and achievements of the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)

وَمَا كَانَ لِمُؤْمِنٍ وَلَا مُؤْمِنَةٍ إِذَا قَضَى اللَّهُ وَرَسُولُهُ أَمْرًا أَنْ يَكُونَ لَهُمُ الْخِيَرَةُ مِنْ أَمْرِهِمْ ۗ وَمَنْ يَعْصِ  
اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ فَقَدْ ضَلَّ ضَلَالًا مُبِينًا ﴿٣٦﴾ الأحزاب:

*It is not for a believing man or a believing woman, when Allah and His Messenger have decided a matter, that they should [thereafter] have any choice about their affair. And whoever disobeys Allah and His Messenger has certainly strayed into clear error. [Qur'an 33: 36]*

(d) Assess the view that Muslims must follow the Sunnah to gain the approval of Allah.

You should refer to the significance of this passage from the Qur'an provided, using your own or others' views to support your answer.

### Mark scheme

- The Sunnah is the second most important authority in Islam, along with the Qur'an. It contains the teachings all Muslims should know to live a good life (A02). Muhammed (pbuh) is the final prophet, which means Muslims should consider the Qur'an supported by the Sunnah, to be the perfect revelation of Allah. Therefore, not following the Sunnah is not doing what Allah wants. This is reinforced in Surah 33 as Allah tells Muslims they must follow the teachings of his Messenger (A03).
- Allah gave two kinds of revelation: Qur'an and the Sunnah. The Sunnah is everything that is said, done and approved/disapproved by the Prophet and is accepted by all Muslims as a source of authority (A02). This world is only a preparation for the next and ultimately this life is a test. If we want to be blessed with life in Jannah, then we must follow the clear instructions given to us by Allah in the Qur'an and his messenger Muhammad (pbuh) as stated in Surah 33 (A03).
- The Sunnah is the guidance given to all Muslims in how to live a pure life that is pleasing to Allah which will help Muslims gain access to Jannah (A02). In many modern societies it can become difficult to follow all the Sunnah exactly as intended by the Prophet, this is because many things have changed in the world. There are many people who live good Muslim lives but may not follow all the Sunnah (for example on marriage). Allah does not abandon those who love Him and live good lives (A03).

Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material.
<b>Level 1</b>	1–4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limited understanding of concepts/themes, leading to an unbalanced argument. (A02)</li> <li>Limited use of the text provided to support argument. (A02)</li> <li>No application of own/others' views to consider questions/issues. (A03)</li> <li>Interpretation of information will be basic, with no analysis of issues. (A03)</li> </ul>
<b>Level 2</b>	5–8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Good understanding of concepts/themes, leading to a partially-balanced argument. (A02)</li> <li>Good use of the text provided to support argument. (A02)</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some application of own/others' views to consider questions/issues. (AO3)</li> <li>• Interpretation of information will be good, with mostly relevant analysis of issues. (AO3)</li> </ul>
<b>Level 3</b>	9–12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Excellent understanding of concepts/themes, leading to a balanced argument. (AO2)</li> <li>• Excellent use of the text provided to support argument. (AO2)</li> <li>• Thorough application of own/others' views to consider questions/issues. (AO3)</li> <li>• Interpretation of information will be excellent, with thorough analysis of issues. (AO3)</li> </ul>

## Exemplar response A

Sunnah are the actions of the prophet and Allah is telling to follow the Quran we must follow the Sunnah of the prophet in order to please Allah. The Quran asserts that the prophet possessed the highest moral of ~~the~~ excellence and Allah made him to be the role model or a good example to be followed.

The prophet who seemed to be the one chosen by Allah among us as the medium to reach his (Allah's) message and inform about his prohibitions and commands to the mankind therefore the prophet communicated and demonstrated the teaching of Allah in the Quran which muslim should follow to live a good life that pleases Allah.

The prophet was guided through revelation and inspiration by Allah not only that, the prophet was a man of excellent moral and noble character however his actions (Sunnah) is a clear guidance and for every muslim male and female not to

male and female not to  
worship other than ALLAH. The muslim around  
the world strive to follow the sayings and  
the conducts of the

(Total for Question 2 = 23 marks)

prophet and the description

TOTAL FOR SECTION A = 23 MARKS

of his way of life as he exactly practised

the exact teaching of islam from the Quran

The muslims considered the prophet that

he brought a very complete and comp

prehensive law for humanity and following

his Sunnah will lead one to gain the  
approval of ALLAH

#### Examiner's comments:

**This response was given 8 marks.**

This response addresses some of the requirements of a d) question. It shows good understanding of the importance of the Sunnah for Muslims, for example, it points to the Prophet's moral excellence, and that Allah chose him as a role-model, and that Muhammad (pbuh) demonstrated how to live the teachings of the Qur'an. This point of view is then further developed. It is the quality of this developed understanding that allowed this answer to gain Level 2, as an example of best fit.

On the negative side, there is no explicit reference to the assigned text to support the argument, though there are a couple of general references to the teaching of the Qur'an. A direct reference to the text could have raised the mark into Level 3. The text from the Qur'an for example, says that once something is settled by Allah and his messenger, the believer is bound to obey. This could have been used in the answer to reinforce arguments in favour of the authority of the Sunnah.

To gain higher marks, the candidate should also have tried to look at another perspective. One example might be that the times in which the Prophet lived are not like modern times, and some aspects of the Sunnah present a challenge, especially to Muslims living in a secular society, such as many of those in the West. This could imply that some aspects of the Prophet's life and teaching may have to be interpreted, by Muslim scholars, to respond

to challenges in the modern world. An example might be the legal requirements of a valid marriage, or the roles of women in the family and the workplace.

In d) questions, the different point of view does not have to be one that contradicts the idea expressed in the question. Often this will not be appropriate. It will often be a point of view that gives a broader understanding to the topic. In this example it is that, although the authority of the Sunnah for Muslims is beyond question, some thought could have been given to how the Prophet would have expected Muslims to respond to modern problems.

## Exemplar response B

Allah's acceptance ~~and~~ always came hand in hand with the mention of the Prophet and his teachings. Allah's approval seemed strongly connected with the Sunnah of the Prophet and what he does. Surely because the Sunnah and practices reflect Allah's commands and orders and he has sent the Prophet PBUH has a role model to follow and guide us in the practical life and practising the right code of worship and obedience, therefore Muslims must follow the Sunnah of the Prophet and give it its equal importance as its a secondary source of "Shariah" - law after Quran. It further explain it in detailed ways for it to be more obvious to Muslims.

In the above Ayah, Quran says " And who ever disobeys Allah and His Messenger" this straightforward relationship of how Sunnah and Allah's commands and Approvals are interconnected and in order to gain the approval of Allah and not " certainly strayed into clear error" Muslims should follow and work by the Sunnah of the Prophet to lead a righteous life and gain success in the hereafter. Furthermore the decisions of Allah are followed and acted upon the prophet and there is no disagreement in both as they both follow the same code of life and principle. The Quran says " When Allah and his Messenger have decided"; The company the "Messenger" with the mentioning of Allah's decision give his acts a teachings a high standard and rank of importance that should be followed and respected.



In my point of view Sunnah is clearly a secondary source of Shariah and should be followed to gain Allah's approval and his mercy. Sunnah and a of the prophet only display Allah's commands in a practical way making Muslims depend on it to gain rewards. In addition Allah makes it clear that his path and his messenger's is "One" and one which does not follow it ~~follows~~ in error.  
falls

#### Examiner's comments:

**This response was given 10 marks.**

This d) response has three key features that brought the answer up to Level 3.

In respect of the text, the candidate explains how it clearly links the will of Allah with the example of the Prophet. It quotes 'Whoever disobeys Allah and his Messenger...' to support this.

Secondly there is development of ideas. A good example of this is the explanation that the will of Allah is followed and acted upon by Muhammad (pbuh) so there is confidence that following the Sunnah is a route to living a righteous life. This is again developed with textual support. This could have been further developed by discussing the idea that, in some details, the Qur'an is said to be silent, and that the example of the Prophet is sometimes needed to make the teaching more concrete.

Finally, there is an alternative perspective, albeit in this case not as fully explained as it might have been. It points out that the Sunnah is a 'secondary' source and that the Sunnah is not a new revelation, but just a living out of the commands of Allah. Had this idea been developed further, the mark would have been higher in Level 3.

This is a good answer, and it could have been even better if the candidate had gone on to add to the ideas a little more explanation.



## Question 3(b)

### Option 1

#### The key beliefs, practices and features of the early Muslim community founded by the Prophet

(b) Describe what the Qur'an teaches about al-Qadr (predestination).

### Mark scheme

Award 1 mark for providing a reason. Award a further two marks for development that shows further understanding, up to a maximum of 3 marks.

- The Qur'an teaches Muslims that Allah has a master plan for all creation (1). This reminds believers that Allah is in control of all things (1), and they must live their lives to please Allah (1)
- The Qur'an teaches Muslims that they have an active part to play in their judgement through their free will (1). Although Allah's plan will happen, Muslims have to make their own choices (1) and have influence over their own destiny through these choices. (1)

### Exemplar response A

al-qadr is the last source of Faith belief in qadr  
good or bad means Person muslim should believe ~~for~~  
what Allah order will happen good or bad in your  
Life.

#### Examiner's comments:

**This response was given 2 marks.**

In this b) question the first mark is gained for a description of what the Quran teaches about al-Qadr. This is achieved in this response when it says it means that a Muslim should believe that what Allah orders will happen. Two more marks are available for development of that teaching, but in this answer only one of these is gained, by explaining that this refers to both and bad things that may occur in a person's life. To gain the third mark it needed another sentence in development. For example, if the candidate had added that this is an example of the Muslim belief in submission to the will of Allah that would have gained the extra mark.

## Exemplar response B

it teaches that Allah was the One who set all the events of your life before your birth. It also teaches that if ~~that~~ Allah made your Qadr ~~a~~ difficult then you should be patient and pray to him. Lastly it ~~assures~~ informs muslims that everything is in the hands of Allah and if he says be it will be.

### Examiner's comments:

**This response was given 3 marks.**

In this response both the extra development marks are gained. The teaching is that Allah sets the events of a person's life. This is developed by the explanation that if this involves difficulties then a Muslim should be patient. Finally, the third mark is gained by saying that everything is in the hands of Allah, what Allah says will be, it will be.

## Question 4(c)

### Option 2, Section B

#### The key beliefs, practices and features of the early Muslim Community founded by the Prophet

(c) Explain why prophets are central to Islamic belief.

#### Mark scheme

- Adam (pbuh) was the first prophet of Allah and the message of Allah was first revealed to him (AO1). Allah taught Islam to Adam and then taught the same religion to all the prophets through to the final prophet, Muhammad (pbuh). This reminds Muslims that Islam is the original religion with the true message of Allah (AO2).
- Prophets were just human beings who were chosen by Allah to be his messengers. They were not angels, they were not God like (AO1). Even Isa (pbuh) was only human even though he had a virgin birth. This teaches Muslims that they should have nothing to do with religions that claim any sort of independent divine status for their leaders (AO2).
- All the prophets lived lives whose example could be followed, but Muhammad's (pbuh) must be the most important one (AO1). He was the final prophet, there will be no more prophets of Allah and so his life provides the perfect example for Muslims to follow (AO2)

Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material.
Level 1	1–2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Limited use of facts, some of which may be inaccurate or irrelevant. (AO1)</li><li>• Understanding addresses a narrow range of concepts/themes which lack detail and are not developed. (AO2)</li></ul>
Level 2	3–4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Good use of facts, which are mostly accurate and relevant. (AO1)</li><li>• Understanding addresses a range of concepts/themes, some of which are not fully detailed and/or developed. (AO2)</li></ul>
Level 3	5–6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Excellent use of facts, which are accurate and relevant. (AO1)</li><li>• Understanding addresses a broad range of concepts/themes, which are detailed and fully developed. (AO2)</li></ul>

## Exemplar response A

They are The Link Between  
allah and The people. They are  
Brought to send The non-believers  
on The right path. They remind  
us of Allah and ~~may~~ teach us  
right from wrong. With out Them  
our Knowledge of islam would  
be ~~was~~ wrong and There would  
be ~~know no one~~ to correct us.  
They are a role ~~a model~~ ~~a~~ model  
for every muslim.

### Examiner's comments:

**This response was given 3 marks.**

In this response there is a series of valid explanations of why prophets are central to Islamic belief. It is an answer that fits neatly into the descriptors for Level 2, for example that it shows 'Understanding (that) addresses a range of concepts/themes, some of which are not fully detailed and/or developed'. In other words, in order to reach Level 3 some of these explanations would have needed further development. For example, the answer says that without prophets our knowledge of Islam would be wrong. The candidate might then have developed that response, and mentioned Muhammad (pbuh) and the revelation of the Qur'an, and the Muslim belief that this is the final and definitive revelation, ensuring true knowledge of Islam.

## Exemplar response B

Prophets carried the same mission and had the same goal towards which the mankind was to invite the mankind to the oneness of Allah (tawhid).

Allah sent books upon different prophets but different time in order to maintain Allah's unity in the societies.

Prophet's example Issa (Jesus) said Allah guided them all through inspiration and revelation and all maintain and set example to their followers (role model)

One is impossible to be one of the nation of the prophet Muhammad (Muslims)

while rejecting the other prophets because

Prophet Issa when he sent to his nation as a messenger with the scripture of Injeel made clear that a new prophet whose name is Ahmad will come (the Islamic

prophet) and they all through Allah informed about his commands and prohibitions in the Quran and all the other divine books.

**Examiner's comments:**

**This response was given 5 marks.**

This is clearly a Level 3 response. The explanations are valid and are all developed. For example, the prophets were sent to bring mankind to an understanding of the oneness of Allah, and various prophets received revelations to be passed on to different people and times in order to maintain that belief. This is followed by two other developed explanations.

To gain the extra available mark the candidate could have gone on to further develop one of the reasons. One way this could have been done would have been to focus a little more time on the importance of a specific prophet, such as Musa (pbuh), and his role as a revealer of various laws.

## Question 5(c)

### Section C

#### Living the Muslim life today

(c) Explain why performing Hajj is important for many Muslims.

#### Mark scheme

- Hajj is the fifth pillar of Islam and all Muslims (if possible) are required to attend Hajj at least once in their lifetime (AO1). If Muslims do this, they can die happy as they have followed the example and actions of the Prophet in the very places the Prophet himself performed them (AO2).
- Hajj shows devotion to Allah by fulfilling this expensive, for many, pilgrimage (AO1). It is the holiest event in Islam and it is here that a pilgrim gets as close to Allah as possible in this life. Praying on Hajj is something that connects all pilgrims at the same time to Allah (AO2).
- On their return from Hajj, pilgrims can be called Hajji which is seen as a title of honour among Muslims (AO1). Muslims are then held in high regard in their local community for making the Hajj and now realise that because of the pilgrimage their sins are forgiven, so they must strive to live as a perfect Muslim (AO2).

Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material.
<b>Level 1</b>	1–2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Limited use of facts, some of which may be inaccurate or irrelevant. (AO1)</li><li>• Understanding addresses a narrow range of concepts/themes which lack detail and are not developed. (AO2)</li></ul>
<b>Level 2</b>	3–4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Good use of facts, which are mostly accurate and relevant. (AO1)</li><li>• Understanding addresses a range of concepts/themes, some of which are not fully detailed and/or developed. (AO2)</li></ul>
<b>Level 3</b>	5–6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Excellent use of facts, which are accurate and relevant. (AO1)</li><li>• Understanding addresses a broad range of concepts/themes, which are detailed and fully developed. (AO2)</li></ul>

## Exemplar response A

when a muslim goes to hajj  
They complete one of the  
Five pillars of islam. The only  
reason a muslim may not go  
to hajj is if they cant afford  
it or are sick, in hajj your  
~~dua~~ dua will be accepted  
and you will be forgiven  
of your sins.

### Examiner's comments:

**This response was given 3 marks.**

This is an undeveloped response and does not demonstrate a detailed understanding of the importance of Hajj. On the other hand, there are a number of simple reasons expressed, such that it completes one of the Five Pillars, that your du'a will be accepted and your sins will be forgiven. This makes it a Level 2 response, and without any development it gains the lower mark in that level.

In order to gain the higher mark in the level, some element of development was needed, such as that Hajj provides an opportunity for Muslims from all around the world to pray together, which would strengthen the ummah. To gain marks in Level 3 the candidate would have needed to develop more reasons, or provide more detailed and extended development.



## Exemplar response B

- When a muslims performs Hajj all his sins are forgiven than he hard ~~hard~~ done, the prophet said that after doing Hajj you become like a ~~new born~~ new born ~~bad~~ baby '
- Hajj is the fifth pillar of Islam and so muslims are fulfilling the pillars of Islam '
- Hajj increases your iman and persence because for all the hardship you go through when performing Hajj, makes you to thank Allah for what you have and so also shows you how the day of judgement is making you do more good eg ~~praying~~ praying more sunnah and ~~sta~~ fasting
- Hajj also helps you to thankfull to what Allah has given you, because some people have less than what you have ,

### Examiner's comments:

**This response was given 5 marks.**

This response reaches Level 3 because a number of the reasons provided are developed. Not only does it say that sins are forgiven, but that after Hajj one becomes like a new born baby. Hajj makes a Muslim thankful for what they have, which is given by Allah, and helps them to be more aware of those who have less.

This is not a six mark response however. Some of the reasons are simply expressed, such as Hajj being one of the Five Pillars, and at one point a reason is repeated. To gain full marks the candidate could have extended one of their explanations. For example, if Hajj makes a Muslim aware of others who have less, it could be argued that Hajj helps them renew their commitment, and they might return from Hajj more determined to work for the welfare of fellow Muslims, and perhaps more generous when giving Zakah.

## Question 5(d)

### Section C

#### Living the Muslim life today

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِذَا نُودِيَ لِلصَّلَاةِ مِنْ يَوْمِ الْجُمُعَةِ فَاسْعَوْا إِلَىٰ ذِكْرِ اللَّهِ وَذَرُوا الْبَيْعَ ۚ ذَٰلِكُمْ خَيْرٌ لَّكُمْ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ ﴿٩﴾ فَإِذَا قُضِيَتِ الصَّلَاةُ فَانْتَشِرُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ وَابْتَغُوا مِنْ فَضْلِ اللَّهِ وَاذْكُرُوا اللَّهَ كَثِيرًا لَّعَلَّكُمْ تُفْلِحُونَ ﴿١٠﴾ وَإِذَا رَأَوْا تِجَارَةً أَوْ لَهْوًا انفَضُّوا إِلَيْهَا وَتَرَكُوكَ قَائِمًا ۚ قُلْ مَا عِنْدَ اللَّهِ خَيْرٌ مِنَ اللَّهْوِ وَمِنَ التِّجَارَةِ ۚ وَاللَّهُ خَيْرُ الرَّازِقِينَ ﴿الجمعة: ١١﴾

*O you who have believed, when [the adhan] is called for the prayer on the day of Jumu'ah [Friday], then proceed to the remembrance of Allah and leave trade. That is better for you, if you only knew.*

*And when the prayer has been concluded, disperse within the land and seek from the bounty of Allah, and remember Allah often that you may succeed.*

*But when they saw a transaction or a diversion, [O Muhammad], they rushed to it and left you standing. Say, "What is with Allah is better than diversion and than a transaction, and Allah is the best of providers." [Qur'an 62: 9–11]*

- (d) 'All Muslims must attend the mosque for Friday (Jummah) prayer.'  
Assess this statement.

You should refer to the significance of this passage from the Qur'an provided, using your own or others' views to support your answer.

### Mark scheme

- Salah is central to the lives of all Muslims and is something that must be regular in the lives of believers. Friday is the most important day of prayer as it is what was commanded by the Prophet and willed by Allah (A02). Communal gathering in the mosque is a meeting of members of the Muslim community and their prayers put Muslims in direct contact with Allah and each other. This should occur five times a day. It reminds Muslims every day that Allah will bless their prayers, as Allah teaches in Surah 62:9-11 (A03).
- Salah is one of the five pillars of Islam and performing it gives Muslims a discipline that forces them to take their religious life seriously. It is through this prayer focus that Muslims have their sins forgiven. (A02). Saying Friday prayer (Jummah) at the mosque unites Muslims with their fellow believers as they stand performing the same actions and saying the same words. This unity in worship on Friday is singled out for special prayer and Muslims must not be distracted from Friday prayer as Allah controls all things, as they are reminded in Surah 62 (A03).
- Friday is the sixth day in the Islamic week and its literal translation is 'congregation'. This, along with Surah 62 in the Qur'an shows the importance of Friday prayer and places a special focus on praying at this time (A02). However, many Muslims now live in countries in which they are expected to work all day on a Friday and so miss Jummah. This makes it impossible to attend Jummah as if they did they would lose their job. Also, family life demands responsibilities which may prevent some believers, (for example mothers) from attending Jummah (A03).

Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material.
<b>Level 1</b>	1–4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited understanding of concepts/themes, leading to an unbalanced argument. (AO2)</li> <li>• Limited use of the text provided to support argument. (AO2)</li> <li>• No application of own/others' views to consider questions/issues. (AO3)</li> <li>• Interpretation of information will be basic, with no analysis of issues. (AO3)</li> </ul>
<b>Level 2</b>	5–8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good understanding of concepts/themes, leading to a partially-balanced argument. (AO2)</li> <li>• Good use of the text provided to support argument. (AO2)</li> <li>• Some application of own/others' views to consider questions/issues. (AO3)</li> <li>• Interpretation of information will be good, with mostly relevant analysis of issues. (AO3)</li> </ul>
<b>Level 3</b>	9–12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Excellent understanding of concepts/themes, leading to a balanced argument. (AO2)</li> <li>• Excellent use of the text provided to support argument. (AO2)</li> <li>• Thorough application of own/others' views to consider questions/issues. (AO3)</li> <li>• Interpretation of information will be excellent, with thorough analysis of issues. (AO3)</li> </ul>

## Exemplar response A

Friday prayer the only way its offered  
is by praying together at the mosque.  
Jummah prayer replaces the place of  
(duhr) prayer. Muslim considered Friday  
as the witnessing day meaning is the  
day in which the day of judgement  
will take place therefore the muslim  
prepare this day to be the day  
where muslims leave their work and  
disperse within the land and seek ~~him~~  
~~from~~ from the bounty of ALLAH.  
in this verse (62:a) ALLAH indicates  
to the muslim that they better leave  
their trade in this case ~~that~~ ALLAH clarifies  
that they do ~~not~~ know what will  
come (the day of judgement) where the trade  
keeping them away from the remembrance  
of ALLAH will be useless on this  
promised day however ALLAH still there  
to guide the muslim to remember ALLAH  
often that they may succeed.  
Missing this ~~is~~ special prayer one cannot  
replace it by himself alone because ~~its~~  
its prayed as congregation where muslim  
leader the Imam offer lecture before  
and ~~a~~ after the prayer which the  
Imam ~~only~~ ~~takes~~ ~~takes~~ lectures the people

about the Allah and Islam about the  
remembrance of Allah and the day of  
judgement and the pain of the punishment  
of Allah. ~~Ans~~

(Total for Question 5 = 22 marks)

Muslims attending the mosque can also  
be a good ending even the day of  
judgements occur on this same day compared  
to the ending of muslims lives on trade  
where they (muslims) could be punished for not  
remembering Allah.

**Examiner's comments:**

**This response was given 8 marks.**

This is, in many ways, a good answer. It shows good insight into the value of Friday prayers, for example, and makes use of the assigned text to support the argument. One particularly good insight is the association of Friday prayer with the Day of Judgement. They also argue effectively why, in the text, Allah commands that trade be set aside that day, for example it is because it keeps Muslims from the remembrance of Allah.

A careful read will show that there is one element that is missing. No consideration is given to the difficulties some Muslims may face in attending Friday prayers, such as illness or the difficulties that might arise by being employed in a secular society that considers Friday a normal working day. To gain marks in Level 3 it would normally be necessary for the candidate to consider this alternative perspective, and to explain how a Muslim might respond to such problems.

## Exemplar response B

The Friday "Jummah" prayer is compulsory for all Muslims as it is made a duty on everyone by Allah. even if there is an important task to be done, it must <sup>be</sup> not be performed in any condition. The Friday "Jummah" prayer was done during the time of the prophet (S.A.W.S) as Muslims would join shoulder to shoulder and feet to feet with each other and would perform the prayer. It showed the unity of the Muslims and showed brotherhood amongst them. Even during the times of trade and business the believers were asked to offer <sup>important</sup> Jummah prayer, as it was obligatory for All Muslims. "O you who have believed, when [the Adhan] is called for the prayer on the day of Jummah [Friday], then proceed to the remembrance of Allah and leave trade

That is better for you, if you only knew". This verse states that whoever believes in the prophet (S.A.W.S) must ~~offer~~ go to the masjid or mosque in remembrance of Allah when the call for prayer (Adhan) is heard for Jummah prayer. Even if important trade or business is taking place. The rewards for this is not ~~more~~ than of our knowledge. "And when prayer has been concluded, disperse within the land and seek the bounty of Allah, and remember Allah often that you may succeed". This verse states when the prayer has been concluded ~~if~~ the believers shall return to their lands and continue their trade and business in the name and sake of Allah and by remembering Allah during this, it is often that the believer may succeed ~~at~~ and gain reward for his 'Jummah prayer'. "But when they saw a transaction or a



Jummah prayer". "But when they saw a transaction or a diversion, [O Muhammed], they rushed to it and left you standing". "What is with Allah is better than diversion and distraction, and Allah is the provider". This verse states that there were instances when there were distractions of trade while the muslims were praying <sup>with the prophet</sup> and they had to leave prayer. Jummah prayer due to this. The prophet left standing. If we leave And so if we leave prayer it is as if we are leaving the side of the prophet (Total for Question 5 = 22 marks) (S.A.W.S). It is also stated that Allah is better than all those diversion and transactions because it is he who provides them and gives success to the believers as they perform the obligatory prayers.

#### Examiner's comments:

**This response was given 10 marks.**

This example is included to illustrate an important issue relating to Levels-based mark schemes. They are always used to mark on the principle of 'best fit'. Ideally all the elements that are detailed in Level 3, for example, will be present, and that is certainly the best way to reach top marks.

However, if we read this example we will see that there is no clear alternative perspective. It does not discuss circumstances in which attending Jummah prayer may not always be possible, and how a Muslim should feel about this. In previous comments it has been said that where this is not present the candidate cannot usually access Level 3 marks. In this case however, the quality of the discussion, in terms of understanding and development, and the very effective way in which the text is employed to support the answer, means that Level 3 is the best fit because of the very good way in which it responds to most of the requirements in the Level.

With regard to the text, for example, the answer shows an excellent understanding of the balance that is present there – that it is best for Muslims to leave their trade to pray because of the spiritual rewards but, when the prayer is concluded, it is right to return to work confident of Allah's bounty. The examiner has rewarded this skill, and many examples of development, by taking the mark to Level 3. Nevertheless, it should be noted, that the absence of an alternative perspective has denied the candidate access to the top two marks.

## Question 6(c)

### Section C

#### Living the Muslim life today

(c) Explain why giving Zakah is important for Muslims.

#### Mark scheme

- Zakah is the third pillar of Islam and giving in this way is a religious obligation for able Muslims (A01). It is a sign of a Muslim's submission to Allah, worship of Allah and a way of reminding Muslims that extra wealth can distract them from their faith (A02).
- Paying Zakah is important as it ensures that the poor are properly cared for (A01). They also are central to ensuring that a fair and just Islamic society is created for all as it provides security for the poor, the homeless and orphans (A02).
- Paying Zakah not only benefits those who receive the material benefits that these donations provide, but also those who give them (A01). By helping those who are most in need Allah will bless their actions and their wealth will be increased and purified (A02).

Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material.
<b>Level 1</b>	1–2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Limited use of facts, some of which may be inaccurate or irrelevant. (A01)</li><li>• Understanding addresses a narrow range of concepts/themes which lack detail and are not developed. (A02)</li></ul>
<b>Level 2</b>	3–4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Good use of facts, which are mostly accurate and relevant. (A01)</li><li>• Understanding addresses a range of concepts/themes, some of which are not fully detailed and/or developed. (A02)</li></ul>
<b>Level 3</b>	5–6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Excellent use of facts, which are accurate and relevant. (A01)</li><li>• Understanding addresses a broad range of concepts/themes, which are detailed and fully developed. (A02)</li></ul>



## Exemplar response A

Its important in a muslim life because  
its a command from ALLAH and its one  
of the five pillars of islam however  
paying Zakah bring love or create  
a strong bond of love and caring  
in the muslims. Paying Zakah removes  
the evil feelings and the gap between  
a muslim and his muslim fellow brother.  
Zakah purifies ones wealth and ~~from~~  
~~from~~ minimize in cause of of ALLAH  
which leads one to gain mercy and  
blessings of ALLAH in his / her wealth

### Examiner's comments:

**This response was given 3 marks.**

This response provides a series of developed reasons why giving Zakah is important for Muslims. These include the idea that Zakah improves the bond between Muslims. It not only shows love and care, but it also removes any evil feelings, and the gap that can exist between Muslims because of differences in wealth.

The level of development seen in this answer is limited, but it is sufficient for it to reach Level 2. However, in some parts of the answer there is just a simple development. Where it refers to the Five Pillars, for example, the development is simply that that it is a command of Allah. With further developed explanation this answer would have risen to Level 3. The candidate could have added, for example, that obeying the Five Pillars is a way a Muslim can ensure that their everyday lives reflect their religious devotion.

## Exemplar response B

Zakat is important for Muslims as Zakat means to purify & to develop & cause ~~to~~ to grow. Zakat is the 3<sup>rd</sup> pillar of Islam. Zakat is obligatory on every free, adult who owns property equal to prescribed it. Allah has promised great reward for those who pay Zakat. Zakat purifies the heart of the believer from love of wealth, greed & miserliness & inculcates the love of Allah. The person who pays Zakat his wealth is multiplied as Allah says "But ~~who~~ that which you lay out of charity seeking the countenance of Allah, it is these who will get ~~re~~ recompense multiplied". Zakat is very important on every Muslim to give charity to the poor.

### Examiner's comments:

**This response was given 6 marks.**

To get all the available marks on these c) questions, the candidate needs to show a good level of understanding of the issue raised by the question, and also they need to develop their responses fully. This is a good example.

In terms of understanding, this answer goes beyond the more regular answers, which usually point out that Zakah helps the needy, and that it is one of the Five Pillars. The reference to the purification of the heart, and that the absence of greed and love of wealth makes a Muslim more open to the love of Allah, shows a higher level of understanding and was rewarded accordingly. Also there is quality of development – such as where the candidate is able to quote from the Qur'an in support of the point about Zakah and the promise that wealth will be multiplied.

## Question 6(d)

### Section C

#### Living the Muslim life today

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا كُتِبَ عَلَيْكُمُ الصِّيَامُ كَمَا كُتِبَ عَلَى الَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ ﴿١٨٣﴾  
أَيَّامًا مَّعْدُودَاتٍ ۚ فَمَن كَانَ مِنكُم مَّرِيضًا أَوْ عَلَى سَفَرٍ فَعِدَّةٌ مِّنْ أَيَّامٍ أُخَرَ ۗ وَعَلَى الَّذِينَ يُطِيقُونَهُ  
فِدْيَةٌ طَعَامُ مِسْكِينٍ ۚ فَمَن تَطَوَّعَ خَيْرًا فَهُوَ خَيْرٌ لَهُ ۚ وَأَن تَصُومُوا خَيْرٌ لَّكُمْ ۚ إِن كُنتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ ﴿١٨٤﴾  
شَهْرَ رَمَضَانَ الَّذِي أُنزِلَ فِيهِ الْقُرْآنُ هُدًى لِّلنَّاسِ وَبَيِّنَاتٍ مِّنَ الْهُدَى وَالْفُرْقَانِ ۚ فَمَن  
شَهِدَ مِنْكُمُ الشَّهْرَ فَلْيَصُمْهُ ۚ وَفَمَن كَانَ مَرِيضًا أَوْ عَلَى سَفَرٍ فَعِدَّةٌ مِّنْ أَيَّامٍ أُخَرَ ۗ يُرِيدُ اللَّهُ بِكُمُ  
الْيُسْرَ وَلَا يُرِيدُ بِكُمُ الْعُسْرَ وَلِتُكْمِلُوا الْعِدَّةَ وَلِتُكَبِّرُوا اللَّهَ عَلَىٰ مَا هَدَاكُم وَلَعَلَّكُمْ تَشْكُرُونَ ﴿البقرة: ١٨٥﴾

*O you who have believed, decreed upon you is fasting as it was decreed upon those before you that you may become righteous –*

*[Fasting for] a limited number of days. So whoever among you is ill or on a journey [during them] – then an equal number of days [are to be made up]. And upon those who are able [to fast, but with hardship] – a ransom [as substitute] of feeding a poor person [each day]. And whoever volunteers excess – it is better for him. But to fast is best for you, if you only knew.*

*The month of Ramadan [is that] in which was revealed the Qur'an, a guidance for the people and clear proofs of guidance and criterion. So whoever sights [the new moon of] the month, let him fast it; and whoever is ill or on a journey – then an equal number of other days. Allah intends for you ease and does not intend for you hardship and [wants] for you to complete the period and to glorify Allah for that [to] which He has guided you; and perhaps you will be grateful. [Qur'an 2: 183–185]*

- (d) 'To live a good life every Muslim should fast.'  
Assess this statement.

You should refer to the significance of this passage from the Qur'an provided, using your own or others' views to support your answer.

### Mark scheme

- Sawm is the Fourth Pillar of Islam and is something that is required of all adult Muslims during the month of Ramadan. The Qur'an commands Muslims and fasting is seen as an act of obedience (A02). Fasting requires Muslims to demonstrate self-control which is of the highest importance to Muslims. Surah 2 suggests that by avoiding temptation and fasting Muslims can journey deeper into their faith and be blessed by Allah for glorifying His name (A03).
- After the revelation of Surah 2 Muhammad (pbuh), for the first time, fasted during the month of Ramadan. There are many Sunnah on fasting and following the example of the Prophet is what Muslims must do (A02). Fasting during Ramadan is way of thanking Allah for the Qur'an. Muslims see fasting during of Ramadan as a way of spiritually recharging, but also that Allah understands the struggle of the fast and would not ask of a Muslim anything they could not achieve, as He reveals in Surah 2 (A03).
- Fasting is something that existed before the time of the Prophet, but through the Qur'an and his example he has given clear instruction on the importance of fasting for Muslims (A02). However, the Prophet also understood that fasting may be difficult for some and in its place feeding a poor person would be an acceptable substitute. Similarly, it can be difficult for Muslims to fast in countries in the northern hemisphere as the long hours may damage their health and affect their work performance (A03).

Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material.
<b>Level 1</b>	1–4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limited understanding of concepts/themes, leading to an unbalanced argument. (AO2)</li> <li>Limited use of the text provided to support argument. (AO2)</li> <li>No application of own/others' views to consider questions/issues. (AO3)</li> <li>Interpretation of information will be basic, with no analysis of issues. (AO3)</li> </ul>
<b>Level 2</b>	5–8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Good understanding of concepts/themes, leading to a partially-balanced argument. (AO2)</li> <li>Good use of the text provided to support argument. (AO2)</li> <li>Some application of own/others' views to consider questions/issues. (AO3)</li> <li>Interpretation of information will be good, with mostly relevant analysis of issues. (AO3)</li> </ul>
<b>Level 3</b>	9–12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Excellent understanding of concepts/themes, leading to a balanced argument. (AO2)</li> <li>Excellent use of the text provided to support argument. (AO2)</li> <li>Thorough application of own/others' views to consider questions/issues. (AO3)</li> <li>Interpretation of information will be excellent, with thorough analysis of issues. (AO3)</li> </ul>

## Exemplar response A

Allah (S.A.W) told to his people to fast during the holy month of Ramadan because when someone fasts the saum will stop us to do bad things which Allah forbidden us, Allah also tells to his people to fast as those who lived before us used to. If some do not fast during the month of Ramadan that person without an excuse that person will punished on the day of judgement because he/she used to disobey Allah. The fast also gives us health because Allah knows the reason. He ~~make~~ ~~him~~ revealed this month for those who make their fast the way Allah wanted they will be rewarded by Allah. During The Month of Ramadan the holy Quran revealed and this month every muslim should do recite the holy Quran alot.

### Examiner's comments:

**This response was given 5 marks.**

Although brief, this is not a poor answer. It provides a number of good explanations of the value of fasting for Muslims, such as that fasting helps Muslims to avoid doing bad things, that it is commanded by Allah, and this is developed later by the idea that the command is not arbitrary but that Allah prescribes fasting because it is good for a person's health.

The weaknesses in the answer include that, overall, there is a lack of detailed development of ideas, no reference to the prescribed text to support the argument, and no attempt to consider an alternative perspective. So, although there were enough good elements for this to be a Level 2 response, it could not gain the higher marks within that band.

## Exemplar response B

Fasting is one of the only pillars that is considered by Allah as one that cannot be done for the sake of show off. Fasting indicates that the abstinence from various activities, food and drink help to improve self-control and self-discipline.

Fasting could bring many other benefits as Allah tells in Surah 2 that it is better for Muslims to fast than to not fast for worldly reasons. Fasting therefore enables a person to know that they have an obligation to treat the poor and needy in the most rightful manner. This treatment indicates that Muslims will be rewarded for their actions and will be forgiven <sup>for their</sup> ~~their~~ sins.

Further, fasting is obligatory on all Muslims, especially in the Month of Ramadan as mentioned in Surah 2, and through these verses, Muslims can notify that Allah has set alternatives for every problem and therefore helped Muslims to fast in some way. This stresses the importance of fasting on Muslims by Allah as it helps to develop Muslim's inner selves' faith and purifies them spiritually and physically. This therefore helps Muslims to practise self-control and patience which helps them to live a good life without committing sins and placing trust and fear ~~at~~ upon Allah alone.

However, some others may also have an opinion that a good life is not only the result of fasting but also of other factors such as salah, zakah<sup>etc.</sup>. They may refer to Surah 2 to indicate that good life is also due to a person's action in terms of glorifying Allah and thanking Allah for all what Muslims have been blessed. These opinions are also ~~not~~ exclusive in determining if a person lives a good life or not.

Thus there are various opinions and considerations other than fasting that decide if a Muslim can lead a good life.



**Examiner's comments:**

**This response was given 9 marks.**

This response is included to provide an example of how an alternative point of view can be presented in a d) question, and so I will focus on this first of all. In the penultimate paragraph, the candidate explains that there are other elements to a good life than just fasting, including Salah and Zakah. This argument does not deny the importance of fasting, but it does put it in context, as part of a Muslim's full commitment to live a life commanded by Allah. This approach provides the extra element of assessment that is required by the question, in that it looks at an alternative point of view to the one that makes up most of the answer.

Because of the balance of developed explanations that support the point of view in the question, the good use of the assigned text to support the discussion, and the consideration of an alternative perspective, this is a Level 3 response. A slightly fuller conclusion perhaps, or something said about those who are unable to fast for whatever reason, would certainly have taken it to the higher marks within the Level.

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