

**Pearson Edexcel
International GCSE in
Islamic Studies (9-1)**

**Exemplar student answers
with examiner comments**

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About this booklet

This booklet has been produced to support Islamic studies teachers delivering the new International GCSE in Islamic Studies

This booklet looks at questions from the Sample Assessment Materials. It shows real student responses to these questions and how the examining team follow the mark scheme to demonstrate how the students would be awarded marks on these questions.

How to use this booklet

Our examining team have selected student responses to all 6 questions. Following each question, you will find the mark scheme for that questions and then a range of responses with accompanying examiner comments on how the mark scheme has been applied and the marks awarded.

Section A – Questions 1 and 2

Exemplar Question 1a

1 (a) Give **two** teachings of the Prophet about respect for mothers.

(2)

Mark Scheme

Question number	Answer	Mark
1 (a)	AO1 2 marks Award 1 mark for each teaching identified, up to a maximum of 2 marks. • Paradise lies at the feet of your mother (1) • Mothers are most worthy of good companionship (1) • Kindness to one's mother is more important than kindness to one's father (1) Accept any other appropriate response	(2)

Student Response A

1 (a) Give two teachings of the Prophet about respect for mothers.

(2)

The prophet had given many teachings and respect for mothers is one of them. The Prophet has said that don't talk to your mother in loud voice and help them in anyway you can.

0/2

Examiner comments:

The candidate has provided generalisations rather than specific teachings. Specific teachings are needed although paraphrasing will do. It is not necessary to quote the Hadith precisely.

Student Response B

1 (a) Give two teachings of the Prophet about respect for mothers.

(2)

The Prophet (P.B.U.H) said that paradise lies beneath one mother's feet. It is important that we respect her and love her to achieve greatness in the here-after.

1/2

Examiner comments:

Only one specific teaching (paradise lies beneath one mother's feet) is identified. No marks are available for a) questions for explaining the meaning of the teaching.

Student Response C

1 (a) Give two teachings of the Prophet about respect for mothers.

1. Stay with her, Paradise is under her feet.
2. Once a man asked the Prophet (P.b.v.h) that who was the most worthy of his company, the Prophet (P.b.v.h) said your mother. He asked it thrice and the answer was same. When he asked fourth time, the Prophet (P.b.v.h) said, "Your father".

2/2

Examiner comments:

Two specific teachings – 'paradise is under her feet' and the Prophet stating that your mother is 'the most worthy of his company' – are given for 2 marks.

Exemplar Question 1b

(b) Describe the conversation between the angel Jibrail and the Prophet in the cave at Hira.

(3)

Mark scheme:

Question number	Answer	Mark
1 (b)	A01 3 marks Award 1 mark for initial point and a further 2 marks for development that shows understanding, up to a maximum of 3 marks. • The angel Jibrail asked the Prophet to read (1), the Prophet was given the ability to recite the Qur'an (1), even though He was illiterate (1). • The angel Jibrail explained Muhammad's mission (1), which was to be the Messenger of Allah (1), Muhammad left the cave still fearful and confused (1). Accept any other appropriate response.	(3)

Student Response A

(b) Describe the conversation between the angel Jibrail and the Prophet in the cave at Hira.

(3)

The prophet was in the cave of Hira. The angel ~~asked~~^{Jibrail} appeared to him and asked him to read. The prophet replied that I am illiterate. And jangle hugged him, and the prophet started to from chapter 93.

1/3

Examiner comments:

A brief simple description. Development is needed for full marks. For example, the candidate could have mentioned the purpose of the conversation, with Muhammad (pbuh) being made aware of being chosen as a prophet.

Student Response B

(b) Describe the conversation between the angel Jibrail and the Prophet in the cave at Hira.

(3)
Hazrat Jibrail ~~said~~ said to (P.b.u.h) : Read but our prophet said iam unschooled then hazrat jibrail repeated it thrice and so did the prophet after that Hazrat Jibrail recited him the first verses of quran.

Examiner comments:

This is just a brief description with just the brief development that the Prophet was 'unschooled'. For full marks, a little further development was needed, such as the fact that this was the moment of the first revelation of the Qur'an.

2/3

Student Response C

(b) Describe the conversation between the angel Jibrail and the Prophet in the cave at Hira.

(3)
The angel Jibrail asked the Prophet (P.B.U.H) to read but the Prophet replied that he could not read for he was uneducated and never learned how to read. He hugged him hard to his chest and said read. The Prophet again replied that he did not know how to read and the angel Jibrail hugged him again. It ~~was~~ was after that the first revelation was ~~see~~ revealed.

3/3

Examiner comments:

An aspect of the conversation is given and this is developed by explaining briefly that the Prophet was illiterate and that this was the moment of the first revelation of the Qur'an.

Exemplar Question 1c

(c) Explain how Khadijah helped to support the work of the Prophet.

(6)

Mark scheme:

Question number	Indicative content
1 (c)	AO1 (3 marks)/AO2 (3 marks) • Khadijah believed in the revelation of the Qur'an and was the first person to convert to Islam (AO1). Khadijah's conversion encouraged others to believe in the Prophet and this will have encouraged more converts and helped to spread Islam (AO2). • She accompanied the Prophet through many trials, including for example, during the year of grief (AO1). Her steadfastness gave the Prophet courage and this helped him to overcome opposition and remain faithful to his duty (AO2). • Because of her wealth, she was about to provide the Prophet with financial support (AO1). Her financial support gave him time and freedom, and this allowed him to preach the message, and so advance the progress of Islam (AO2).

Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material.
Level 1	1-2	• Limited use of facts, some of which may inaccurate or irrelevant. (AO1) • Understanding addresses a narrow range of concepts/themes which lack detail and are not developed. (AO2)
Level 2	3-4	• Good use of facts, which are mostly accurate and relevant. (AO1) • Understanding addresses a range of concepts/themes, some of which are not fully detailed and/or developed. (AO2)
Level 3	5-6	• Excellent use of facts, which are accurate and relevant. (AO1) • Understanding addresses a broad range of

		concepts/themes, which are detailed and fully developed. (AO2)
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Student Response A

(c) Explain how Khadijah helped to support the work of the Prophet.

(6)

Hazrat Khadijah (R.A.) who was the loving and devoted ^{wife} ~~title~~ of the Prophet Muhammad (p.b.u.h). The financial worries of the Prophet Muhammad (p.b.u.h) had ended after marrying Hazrat Khadijah (R.A.). Hazrat Khadijah (R.A.) was the first woman to accept Islam. When the Prophet (p.b.u.h) was facing struggles and trials she was the one who supported him the most. When the Prophet (p.b.u.h) came back from the cave of Hira she made him calm down and took him to her cousin who was a Christian Priest. The cousin told her that it was a call of Prophethood. After hearing this Hazrat Khadijah (R.A.) became so happy and she said to him, 'You deserve this all'.

3/6

Examiner comments:

This is a Level 2 answer as it does explain how Khadijah supported the Prophet, but it does not go on to develop an understanding of how this support helped the Prophet in his work. For example, how her money helped him to focus on spreading Islam rather than providing for the family.

Student Response B

(c) Explain how Khadijah helped to support the work of the Prophet.

(6)

(c) Explain how Khadijah helped to support the work of the Prophet.

(6)

Khadija (R.A) was the first wife of the Prophet (P.b.u.h). She was pious and supportive. But not only she (R.A) supported the Prophet (P.b.u.h) within the households, she also supported him in his work. She (R.A) was a very rich lady and so she gave away all her money in the way of Allah to the prophet (P.b.u.h). The Prophet (P.b.u.h) used this money in the spread of Islam. Khadija (R.A) had freed the Prophet (P.b.u.h) from the financial worries so the Prophet (P.b.u.h) selflessly did his job of Preaching. She did not hinder the Prophet's work by asking for needs. She would let the Prophet (P.b.u.h) go out for long to spread Islam. She also contributed to the Prophet's work by educating/teaching the women about Islam by the consultation of the Prophet (P.b.u.h).

5/6

Examiner comments:

The support given and its impact are well explained. For full marks, a little more explanation could have been offered about the value of support other than financial.

Student Response C

(c) Explain how Khadijah helped to support the work of the Prophet.

(6)

Khadijah (R.A.) was Prophet's most beloved wife, who had lend her entire ~~life~~ life in the way of Islam and for the success of Prophet (S.A.W). Khadijah (R.A) had lend her entire wealth to Prophet (S.A.W) because of the love she had for him (S.A.W). This freed Prophet (S.A.W) from financial worries and so Prophet (S.A.W) was able to devote more time towards prayers and preaching Islam. To further improve the work of Prophet, Khadijah had helped save Islam when it was in its hardships and trials. She promoted people of her own tribe to follow the religion, Islam. And she was surely successful in it, half of the people of her tribe had converted to Islam. And the people who had converted to Islam and were willing to be own Prophet's best companions, they became ansars. And these people went through many trials with Prophet to save Islam, which was Prophet's work. And so in this way Khadijah (R.A) supported Prophet alot and helped to support the work of Prophet.

6/6

Examiner comments:

Good explanations both of the financial support given and its importance, and the solidarity shown during the period of hardship and trial and the effect of this on the spread of Islam.

Exemplar Question 1d

مَا كَانَ عَلَى النَّبِيِّ مِنْ حَرْجٍ فِيمَا فَرَضَ اللَّهُ لَهُ ۖ سُنَّةَ اللَّهِ فِي الَّذِينَ خَلَوْا مِنْ قَبْلُ ۚ وَكَانَ أَمْرُ
 اللَّهِ قَدَرًا مَقْدُورًا ﴿٣٨﴾ الَّذِينَ يُبَلِّغُونَ رِسَالَاتِ اللَّهِ وَيَخْشَوْنَهُ وَلَا يَخْشَوْنَ أَحَدًا إِلَّا اللَّهَ ۚ
 وَكَفَى بِاللَّهِ حَسِيبًا ﴿٣٩﴾ مَا كَانَ مُحَمَّدٌ أَبَا أَحَدٍ مِّن رِّجَالِكُمْ وَلَكِن رَّسُولَ اللَّهِ وَخَاتَمَ النَّبِيِّينَ
 ۚ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ عَلِيمًا ﴿٤٠﴾ (الأحزاب ٣٣-٣٨-٤٠)

There is not to be upon the Prophet any discomfort concerning that which Allah has imposed upon him. [This is] the established way of Allah with those [prophets] who have passed on before. And ever is the command of Allah a destiny decreed.

[Allah praises] those who convey the messages of Allah and fear Him and do not fear anyone but Allah. And sufficient is Allah as Accountant.

Muhammad is not the father of [any] one of your men, but [he is] the Messenger of Allah and last of the prophets. And ever is Allah, of all things, Knowing. [Qur'an 33:38–40]

- (d) Assess the importance to Muslims of the belief in Muhammad (pbuh) as the 'Seal of the Prophets'.

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

(12)

Mark scheme:

Question number	Indicative content
1 (d)	AO2 (6 marks)/AO3 (6 marks) - The title signifies that Muhammad is the last of the line of prophets and that no further prophets will come after him (AO2). Because Muhammad is the final prophet, Muslims should consider the Qur'an, supported by the Sunnah of the Prophet, to be the perfect and unchangeable revelation of Allah. As it says in Surah 33, Allah's knowledge is total and perfect, 'he has full knowledge of all things' (AO3). - Through the title, the prophecy of Muhammad is held to be supreme and supersedes the prophecies of those who went before him. Surah 33 makes it clear that Muhammad is the messenger sent by Allah Himself (AO2). Because of the status given to the Prophet by Allah, Muslims should look to the example of the Prophet's life to give them an example of how they should behave, confident that this will gain reward from Allah (AO3). - It is indicated in the Qur'an that his life and his interpretation of the Qur'an carries authority (AO2). The title is a contrast to the beliefs of other religions, such as that a Messiah is

	needed to save people from their sins. The title does not confer divine status and Muslims believe that it is only by their own behaviour that they can expect to achieve Jannah, not because someone else has saved them. This is supported by Surah 33, which shows that it was Allah Himself who conferred the title on Muhammad (AO3).
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Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material.
Level 1	1-4	- Limited understanding of concepts/themes, leading to an unbalanced argument. (AO2) - Limited use of the text provided to support argument. (AO2) - No application of own/others' views to consider questions/issues. (AO3) - Interpretation of information will be basic, with no analysis of issues. (AO3)
Level 2	5-8	- Good understanding of concepts/themes, leading to a partially-balanced argument. (AO2) - Good use of the text provided to support argument. (AO2) - Some application of own/others' views to consider questions/issues. (AO3) - Interpretation of information will be good, with mostly relevant analysis of issues. (AO3)
Level 3	9-12	- Excellent understanding of concepts/themes, leading to a balanced argument. (AO2) - Excellent use of the text provided to support argument. (AO2) - Thorough application of own/others' views to consider questions/issues. (AO3) - Interpretation of information will be excellent, with thorough analysis of issues. (AO3)

Student Response A

- (d) Assess the importance to Muslims of the belief in Muhammad (pbuh) as the 'Seal of the Prophets'.

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

(12)

According to the significance of Quran, this statement can not be denied, as its importance can cannot be denied. The seal of Prophet is a term which means final prophet. which teaches us that Muhammad (S.A.W) is our last prophet and there would be no prophet after him (S.A.W). The muslims due to this belief are able to get determined determined on the fact that Allah has bestowed the knowledge of Quran through him (S.A.W) and so his teachings and example sets are to be followed. The importance that we give to the seal of Prophet makes us believe on our religion more firmly, and on the Quran.

Level 1 – 3/12

Examiner comments:

An undeveloped answer that offers a single simple assessment of the value of the title. The candidate needed to develop further points to extend the discussion, and make explicit reference to the set text, and possibly other teachings from the Qur'an and the Prophet, too.

Student Response B

- (d) Assess the importance to Muslims of the belief in Muhammad (pbuh) as the 'Seal of the Prophets'.

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

We should not think nor believe that the Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) is the father of any man. We should believe in him as the Prophet and messenger of Allah. He is known as the 'Seal of the Prophets' and is known as so because he is the last messenger of Allah. He has completed our religion for us and it is important that we follow his teachings only and no one else because what he taught us was what Allah taught him and ordered him to teach others. We should consider him as the last messenger of Allah and should believe in the

fact that his teachings will last an eternity and that the Quran will last for an eternity. His teachings are forever and no other messenger will be sent down by Allah to show us the right way.

Level 2 – 5/12

Examiner comments:

This answer explains simply some Muslim beliefs about the title. It fails, however, to assess the significance of the title, how it might affect other aspects of Muslim belief and practice. It could have discussed, for example, the difference between the prophethood of Muhammad (pbuh) and that of those who came before him.

Student Response C

- (d) Assess the importance to Muslims of the belief in Muhammad (pbuh) as the 'Seal of the Prophets'.

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

(12)

There is no doubt that Hazrat Muhammad (S.A.W) is the seal of the Prophets which means that there will not be any Prophet coming after him and there is no superior ~~ath~~ man other than him in this world. The Prophethood of Prophet Muhammad (p.b.u.h) is distinguished in many ways:-

Allah fulfilled his promise by perfecting the religion of Islam and this was all due to the help of Prophet Muhammad (p.b.u.h), who helped Islam to prosper so much.

The Prophet Muhammad (p.b.u.h) was not like the other Prophets who were send for a particular country or people. But the Prophet Muhammad (p.b.u.h) was send for the whole world and the whole of mankind.

There will not one will never be a superior person than Prophet Muhammad (p.b.u.h).

The Prophet Muhammad (p.b.u.h) is not the father of any of the Prophets. But he is also a messenger of Allah who was sent to perfect the religion.

Level 2 – 6/12

Examiner comments:

This is a Level 2 answer because there is a good basic explanation of the meaning of the title 'Seal of the Prophets'. However, there is no use made of the text and there is no developed discussion of why the title is important to Muslims. It could have been a useful addition to consider the significance for Muslims of there being no further prophets after Muhammad.

Exemplar Question 2a

2 (a) Give **two** occasions when the Prophet and his followers faced persecution.

(2)

Mark scheme:

Question number	Answer	Mark
2 (a)	A01 2 marks Award 1 mark for each occasion identified, up to a maximum of 2 marks. • The year of boycott and starvation in the desert (1) • The stoning by the people of Ta'if (1) • The torture of some of the Prophet's followers (1). Accept any other appropriate response	(2)

Student Response A

2 (a) Give two occasions when the Prophet and his followers faced persecution.

(2)

(i) When after the Battle of Trench, when the non-believers attacked the Muslims from behind and were sent to the non-believers court. ~~They were sent to the non-believers court.~~

0/2

Examiner comments:

This is not an example of persecution, simply of opposition.

Student Response B

2 (a) Give two occasions when the Prophet and his followers faced persecution.

(2)

When the prophet started openly preaching Islam he faced great persecution from the Quresh. The Quresh boycotted the prophet and his tribe Banu Hashim, they even threatened the prophet, ridiculed him, called him a mad man and a magician. The prophet was even pelted with stones.

Examiner comments:

This is a single occasion. Rather than develop the detail, the candidate should have provided a second example.

1/2

Student Response C

2 (a) Give two occasions when the Prophet and his followers faced persecution.

(2)

ex 1) The Boycott of Banu Hashim made prophet (S) ~~to~~ and his followers to faced persecutron.

2) when the prophet (S) and his followers ~~had~~ ~~for~~ migrate to Madinah which was first Hijrah. That time they also faced persecutron.

Examiner comments:

Two occasions correctly identified.

2/2

Exemplar Question 2b

(b) Describe the dangers faced by the Prophet during the Hijrah from Mecca to Medina.

(3)

Mark scheme:

Question number	Answer	Mark
2 (b)	A01 3 marks Award 1 mark for initial point and a further 2 marks for development that shows understanding, up to a maximum of 3 marks. • The people of Makkah plotted to kill the Prophet (1) because he was critical of their behaviour (1), the Prophet realised his life/the future of Islam was at risk (1). • The Prophet realised he had to migrate to a safer place (1), so the flight had to take place secretly (1) and involved the need to hide in unsafe places (1). Accept any other appropriate response.	(3)

Student Response A

(b) Describe the dangers faced by the Prophet during the Hijrah from Mecca to Medina.

(3)

Through the journey, AS the Prophet(s) was migrating to medina, he(s) decided to make a stop. At the time a caravan was passing through a trade route in Syria and it belonged to Abu Sufiyan. The caravan was stopped by the Muslims and Abu Jahal came with an army of to protect Abu Sufiyan. This was one reason for the Battle of Badr.

Examiner comments:

This does not describe any danger faced by the Prophet during the Hijrah

0/3

Student Response B

(b) Describe the dangers faced by the Prophet during the Hijrah from Mecca to Medina.

when the prophet was about to leave, there were many people outside the prophet's house ^{that came} to kill him but warned the prophet and Allah commanded the prophet to leave and the prophet while reciting a surah escaped with Abu Bakr. They hid in cave thaur for 3 days where they were saved by a pigeons egg and threads of a spider as the Quresh had reached the cave but did not enter. The prophet and his people also left in small group in fear of the Quresh catching the muslims.

Examiner comments:

This is a detailed account. It is developed by reference the fact that the Prophet's life was at risk and also to Allah Himself indicating the danger to the Prophet.

3/3

Exemplar Question 2c

- (c) Explain why cooperation between the Prophet and his helpers (Ansar) was important to the establishment of Islam.

(6)

Mark scheme:

Question number	Indicative content
2 (c)	AO1 (3 marks)/AO2 (3 marks) - The Prophet was only a human being and needed help. (AO1) The sense of brotherhood that was generated is a model of how the Prophet wanted the Muslim community to grow, and so it was an example to Muslims of all times (AO2). - Relying on others helped to create unity and brotherhood among the members of the early community (AO1). By enlisting the support of others, the Prophet demonstrated that he was not a divine figure, one of the most important distinguishing features of Islam, not ascribing partners to Allah (AO2). - Like all human beings, the Prophet had periods of fear and needed encouragement from his followers (AO1). Through this cooperation, women also contributed to the development of Islam and by drawing on their help, Muhammad helped increase the status of women in sustaining the faith of others (AO2).

Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material.
Level 1	1-2	- Limited use of facts, some of which may inaccurate or irrelevant. (AO1) - Understanding addresses a narrow range of concepts/themes which lack detail and are not developed. (AO2)
Level 2	3-4	- Good use of facts, which are mostly accurate and relevant. (AO1) - Understanding addresses a range of concepts/themes, some of which are not fully detailed and/or developed. (AO2)
Level 3	5-6	- Excellent use of facts, which are accurate and relevant. (AO1) - Understanding addresses a broad range of concepts/themes, which are detailed and fully developed. (AO2)

Student response A:

(c) Explain why cooperation between the Prophet and his helpers (Ansar) was important to the establishment of Islam.

(6)

The main idea for the Prophet (S) to develop a relationship between the Ansar was brotherhood. Brotherhood is an important characteristic of Islam that brings unity and makes the Muslim Ummah (nation) strong. The Ansar, could understand and learn about Muslims better and ~~understand~~ ^{analyze} them. Moreover, the Prophet (S) had also declared that each Ansar may become a brother of a person from Madinah. The Prophet (S) also told the people of Madinah to share their personal belongings with the Ansar and to treat them nicely. It was the time when the Ansar became to realize about the reputation of the religion Islam including the teachings of the Prophet (S). In the Quran it says - "we created you from a single ~~pair~~ ^{set} of parents and dived you into groups so that you may recognize each other?" The Ansar also saw the Prophet (S) as an honest being. The cooperation between the Ansar and the Prophet (S) ~~was~~ is just one example of how Islam spread so quickly at the time of the Prophet (S).

4/6

Examiner comments:

Although there is some confusion in this answer, as to who were the helpers, the candidate does explain some key ideas about the importance of the cooperation, such as the ability to spread Islam, and the development of the ummah. The reference to the Qur'an is pertinent and adds understanding. The candidate could have gained extra marks if they had written a clearer, better constructed answer.

Student response B:

(c) Explain why cooperation between the Prophet and his helpers (Ansar) was important to the establishment of Islam.

(6)

When the prophet and his people migrated to medina, the muhajireen left all their possessions, their wealth, cloths in makkah ^{as} they left in a hurry. So when the ^{believers} ~~makkans~~ came to makkah they were in need of assistance as they didn't have anything. It was then when the prophet assigned one muhajireen to live with an ansar. The terms were that the Ansars would provide them with food, water, shelter and all the basic necessities. ^{as} ~~the~~ ^{the} muslims were in difficult times. This prophet's partner was Ali (RA). By doing this the brotherhood between the muslims became better, it helped in the establishment of Islam as it united the muslims of makkah with the muslims in medina. If the Ansars didn't cooperate then the muslims who had migrated would be in terrible conditions and hence there would be no unity or brotherhood among the muslims ~~as~~ which could result in Islam not spreading or being established.

5/6

Examiner comments:

This explains the relationship between the Prophet and his followers and the Ansar effectively. It points out that the support was in terms of food and shelter, that it strengthened the ummah and helped the spread of Islam.

Exemplar Question 2d

وَمَا كَانَ لِمُؤْمِنٍ وَلَا مُؤْمِنَةٍ إِذَا قَضَى اللَّهُ وَرَسُولُهُ أَمْرًا أَنْ يَكُونَ لَهُمُ الْخِيَرَةُ مِنْ أَمْرِهِمْ وَمَنْ يَعْصِ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ فَقَدْ ضَلَّ ضَلَالًا مُبِينًا ﴿الْأَحْزَاب: ٣٣-٣٦﴾

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 importance to Muslims of following the example set by the Prophet to live a good life.

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

(12)

Mark scheme:

Question number	Indicative content
2 (d)	AO2 (6 marks)/AO3 (6 marks) - The Qur'an is the word of Allah, and it is by Allah's command that the Prophet is a model for all Muslims (AO2). The guidance of the Sunnah of the Prophet will help Muslims remain faithful to Allah in all aspects of their life and so be able to achieve Jannah. In Surah 33, Allah indicates that following the Prophet is necessary and not a matter of choice, because it is the way in which Muslims can be free from error, which should be the goal of Muslim life (AO3). - The Qur'an does not provide answers to all questions and the example and teaching of the Prophet are essential to knowing how to behave (Surah 33) (AO2). Because the Prophet was a pioneer in such fields as better treatment for women, for example, this gives a teaching that Muslims of all times should follow about how to advance the society in which they live. Allah calls the Prophet 'a bearer of glad tidings', which seems to herald a better society (AO3). - Muslims are encouraged to respect their elders and to look to them for an example of how to be a good Muslim. The Prophet himself said that obedience to parents opens two doors to paradise (AO2). Furthermore, because the Prophet lived many years ago, his life is not always relevant to the modern world, for example in respect of polygamy, and therefore some Muslims will say some of the norms of the present time must also help to inform Muslims about how to behave (AO3). .

Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material.
Level 1	1-4	- Limited understanding of concepts/themes, leading to an unbalanced argument. (AO2) - Limited use of the text provided to support argument. (AO2) - No application of own/others' views to consider questions/issues. (AO3) - Interpretation of information will be basic, with no analysis of issues. (AO3)
Level 2	5-8	- Good understanding of concepts/themes, leading to a partially-balanced argument. (AO2) - Good use of the text provided to support argument. (AO2) - Some application of own/others' views to consider questions/issues. (AO3) - Interpretation of information will be good, with mostly relevant analysis of issues. (AO3)
Level 3	9-12	- Excellent understanding of concepts/themes, leading to a balanced argument. (AO2) - Excellent use of the text provided to support argument. (AO2) - Thorough application of own/others' views to consider questions/issues. (AO3) - Interpretation of information will be excellent, with thorough analysis of issues. (AO3)

Student response A:

(d) Assess the importance to Muslims of following the example set by the Prophet to live a good life.

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

(12)

The prophet was born on 12th Rabiulawal Monday, ~~8th Rabiulawal~~. The prophet was a very pious man, he ~~set~~ has set many examples to live a good and humble life. Throughout his life the prophet preached the teachings of Islam and taught the muslim community ~~to~~ in how to ^{live} ~~set~~ in peace.

In 2nd Al-Hijra 632 C.E the battle of badr took place in which the muslims won. 70 Quresh were killed and 70 ~~pris~~ were captured and taken as prisoners of war. The prophet set a good example in how to treat prisoners of war, he ~~never~~ believed in equality and if the capturer was riding a camel then the prisoner would not be walking. The prophet set an example to his people, that torturing a prisoner is not the way. The prophet also set an example to the muslims ~~as he was~~ by remaining honest

• and truthfull in his dealings. While dealing with the Jewish tribes the prophet ~~showed~~ ~~to~~ ~~the~~ forgave and helped the Jews. This was to teach the muslim community to be truthful and honest. In the conquest of Makkah the

prophet ^{also} set an example for his people by him forgiving
 the ones who went against him and by avoiding blood-
 shed. He taught his people to be just and to never betray
 or mistreat anyone. He showed his tolerance through the
 charter of medina so that the muslim (Total for Question 2 = 23 marks)
 community would know that in order to live a peaceful life they would
 have to follow the rules.

TOTAL FOR SECTION A = 23 MARKS

Level 2 - 6/12

Examiner comments:

This focuses on describing and explaining a number of occasions when the Prophet's example was worthy of imitation. Less time is spent on assessing the value of this example, and how it may have affected the conduct and development of the early Muslim community. Also no reference is made to the set text. Both of these are necessary to take the answer to the next level of marks.

Student response B:

(d) Assess the importance to Muslims of following the example set by the Prophet to live a good life.

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

(12)

To begin with, the text describes ~~the fact~~ that when something has been declared by Allah or the Prophet(s), then it is not supposed to be thought about by Muslims. When something has been declared in the Quran, then it is the blind faith of the Muslims to believe and obey that command that is prescribed to them. It is doubt that is formed in the minds of those believers that leads them astray from the path of Allah.

The Quran, as a whole was and is meant to provide both religious and scientific knowledge. However, the Quran is a book of signs but not a book of science. For example the signs of the Day of Reckoning may be the AntiChrist (Dajjal). Muslims are supposed to ~~and~~ have to obey the laws that have been prescribed in the Quran.

Furthermore, in the text - "believing man, believing woman... error" that is above mentioned is directly telling the Muslims that they must not doubt the teachings of Allah and

His messenger Muhammed (s) ^{or} they will misunderstand the teaching and will fall astray to the wrong path. The Prophet(s) Muhammed also gave many good examples ~~about~~ ^{in the} Muslim Community; for example to be patient and to control yourself as a part of Jihād bin Nafs and to fight for your

rights - "Jihaad bin Lisan". A Believer has to realize the fact that Islam is the true religion of Guidance. The religion depends entirely on Muslim belief and its strength.

(Total for Question 2 = 23 marks)

Level 2 - 7/12

Examiner comments:

There is a clear attempt here to use the text to illustrate the answer, and a number of good points are made in respect of the idea of accepting the will of Allah, especially as interpreted by the Prophet. The answer could have been improved by focusing more on the example of the Prophet's life and words, and less on the virtue of obedience.

Section B – Questions 3 and 4

Exemplar question 3a:

- 3 (a) Identify **two** events associated with the lives of any prophet other than Muhammad (pbuh).

(2)

Mark scheme:

Question number	Answer	Mark
3 (a)	A01 2 marks Award 1 mark for each occasion identified, up to a maximum of 2 marks. • Ibrahim was prepared to sacrifice his son Ishmael (1). • Musa received the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai (1) • Isa was born in the virgin Mariam (1). Accept any other appropriate response	(2)

Student response A:

- 3 (a) Identify two events associated with the lives of any prophet other than Muhammad (pbuh).

The two events associated with the lives of any Prophet was when Hazrat Musa (A.S.) talked to Allah and when Hazrat Younus (A.S.) was eaten by a whale inside a whale.

Level 1/2

Examiner comments:

The reference to Musa is too general. The candidate needs to refer to a specific event.

Student response B:

- 3 (a) Identify two events associated with the lives of any prophet other than Muhammad (pbuh).

Prophet Ibrahim had built the Holy Kaabah with his son, Ismael.

Prophet Ibrahim went forward to sacrifice his son, Ismael, by the command of Almighty Allah, but his son was given back to him.

Level 2/2

Examiner comments:

Two specific occasions identified.

Exemplar question 3b:

(b) Describe what the Qur'an teaches about life after death (Akhirah).

(3)

Mark scheme:

Question number	Answer	Mark
3 (b)	A01 3 marks Award 1 mark for initial point and a further 2 marks for development that shows understanding, up to a maximum of 3 marks. • Muslims believe in the afterlife (1), Allah will judge whether Muslims go to Jahannam or Jannah (1), which will depend on a person's intentions (1). • Muslims will go to Jahannam if the balance of their actions is evil (1), in Jahannam there will be suffering (1), which will be both physical and spiritual (1). Accept any other appropriate response.	(3)

Student response A:

(b) Describe what the Qur'an teaches about life after death (Akhirah).

The Quran teaches about Akhirah, that it is the life after death, when ~~muslims~~ people will be given back their souls by Allah. And they will be accountable for their deeds in the court of Allah. Those with a lighter weight of good deeds will be living a dreadful life in Hell, while those with a heavier weight of good deed, will be living a peaceful life in Heavens.

2/3

Examiner comments:

This contains both a description of the belief and an understanding of its significance (for example that the belief helps Muslims avoid sin).

Student response B:

(b) Describe what the Qur'an teaches about life after death (Akhirah).

As Muslims we believe in life after death. Quran teaches us to perform good deeds in life and lead our life according to the way of Islam. On the Day of Judgement all mankind ~~would~~ ^{will} be judged on these deeds. Whose scales of good deeds is higher will go to paradise, and whose scales of evil deeds will be higher will go to hell. Quran teaches us that be good and worship Allah in this life and we will be rewarded by Allah in the hereafter.

3/3

Examiner comments:

This answer gives both a description of what happens after death, but also shows an understanding of the significance of the teaching (such as the scales that weigh good and bad deeds)

Exemplar question 3c:

(c) Explain why angels (Malaikah) are an important part of Islamic belief.

(6)

Mark Scheme:

Question number	Indicative content
3 (c)	AO1 (3 marks)/AO2 (3 marks) - The Qur'an speaks of the important role played by angels as messengers of Allah (AO1). Because angels are messengers of Allah, Muslims believe that the messages they bring give them an understanding of the will of Allah, especially through the words of the prophets, allowing them to live in accordance with His will (AO2). - Angels act as recorders of people's good and bad deeds (AO1). Muslims are aware that all their deeds are seen and recorded, and this encourages them to live good lives, so that on the Day of Judgment the angels will give a good account of them to Allah and they can go to Jannah (AO2). - Angels are in the presence of Allah they celebrate His praises unceasingly (AO1). The example of the angels in offering ceaseless praise to Allah reminds Muslims that they too must profess their faith in Allah and constantly thank Him for His goodness and mercy (AO2).

Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material.
Level 1	1-2	- Limited use of facts, some of which may inaccurate or irrelevant. (AO1) - Understanding addresses a narrow range of concepts/themes which lack detail and are not developed. (AO2)
Level 2	3-4	- Good use of facts, which are mostly accurate and relevant. (AO1) - Understanding addresses a range of concepts/themes, some of which are not fully detailed and/or developed. (AO2)
Level 3	5-6	- Excellent use of facts, which are accurate and relevant. (AO1) - Understanding addresses a broad range of concepts/themes, which are detailed and fully developed. (AO2)

Student response A:

(c) Explain why angels (Malaikah) are an important part of Islamic belief.

(6)

Muslims believe angels. Angels are created by Allah with Nur (light) and these creatures are an important part of Islamic believes. Firstly, they must be believed as they are part of the religion and Islamic believes. And all what is mentioned in the Quran is important, so angels are important too, as they have been mentioned in the Quran. The angels are mostly important part of Islamic belief as the belief in angels is what makes the muslims get more determined on the fact, that every incident in lives of Prophet or without, they must be understood and believed. And it makes the muslims to realize the fact, that Allah can do anything, if he can make a soul ^{body} with light than he can do anything, and makes us believe that Allah has really created us. If he has created angels out of light than why not mankind out of congealed blood. Belief in angels like angel Gabriel makes us believe more clearly on the events in which it has taken part in. Belief in angel Israfil makes us believe more firmly on the day of judgment and the belief in angel Mikail makes us believe that everything has to taste death. The above evidences on prominent angels (some of them) gives proof to the fact that angels are an important part of Islamic belief.

Level 2 - 3/6

Examiner comments:

Much of this answer repeats the idea that the belief is important because it is taught. It needs less repetition and more development. There is a brief explanation of what the creation of angels adds to an understanding of the power of Allah, but this needed to be developed further. The same comment applies to how belief in angels might affect a belief in the idea of judgement.

Student response B:

(c) Explain why angels (Malaikah) are an important part of Islamic belief.

(6)

As we Muslims believe in Allah, miracles and Prophets, so we must also believe in angels who helped reach the message of Allah to Prophets. The angels have a great role in Islam as they are the one who all the time praise Allah for his greatness. We have two angels on our shoulders. On the right shoulder the angel writes the good deeds and on the left side the angel writes the bad deeds. On the day of Judgement angel Israfil will blow the trumpet which would finish life on earth. And the second time when he will blow the trumpet all the humans will come back to life.

Level 2 - 4/6

Examiner comments:

This shows a good understanding of the role of angels and there is evidence of development. More marks could have been gained with an explanation of the effects of this belief on the lives of Muslims, such as their awareness that all their actions are seen as weighed.

Student response C:

(c) Explain why angels (Malaikah) are an important part of Islamic belief.

(6)

Angels or Malaikah means "to assist or help". They are an important part of Islamic belief because of their significance to Allah. Angels are important to be believed as they are mentioned in Quran. It is said to believe them just as we believe in the Divine books. It is important for us to believe in the presence of them as Allah has mentioned them in Quran a lot. Some Angels such as (Jibrael), (Israfeel), and (Munkir and Nakir) are mentioned in Quran to show that they play a major role in the matters of living. The Angels are assigned duties such as the two angels on our shoulders, they are two write our deeds, this shows such that we should believe this and so this might help us do better deeds. Angels are used to show the means of obedience. Angels do what they are told merely because they have no other choice. Allah tells us that we should use their example and then choose the wiser acts.

Level 3 - 5/6

Examiner comments:

A Level 3 explanation that explains the role of angels and also their importance both as messengers of Allah and as 'guardian angels'.

Exemplar question 3d:

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
قُلْ هُوَ اللَّهُ أَحَدٌ ﴿١﴾ اللَّهُ الصَّمَدُ ﴿٢﴾ لَمْ يَلِدْ وَلَمْ يُولَدْ ﴿٣﴾ وَلَمْ يَكُنْ لَهُ كُفُوًا أَحَدٌ ﴿٤﴾
(الإخلاص: ١-٤)

Say, "He is Allah, [who is] One,

Allah, the Eternal Refuge.

He neither begets nor is born,

Nor is there to Him any equivalent." [Qur'an 112:1-4]

- (d) 'Belief in the oneness of Allah (Tawhid) is what makes a person a Muslim.'
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.

(12)

Question number	Indicative content
3 (d)	AO2 (6 marks)/AO3 (6 marks) - The stress on Tawhid is what Muslims believe help to distinguish Islam from other religions, such as Christianity for example (AO2). As perfection is part of the nature of Allah, to deny it would lead to a denial of belief in God at all, and this would lead to non-belief. Surah 112 says specifically that there is none like Him, indication that none other can share in His perfection. This makes it clear that, for Muslims, Tawhid is an essential belief (AO3). - If Allah is not one, then neither can He be all powerful, which is also a fundamental belief in the nature of Allah (AO2). As rejection of Tawhid is unforgivable, then anyone who denies it risks eternal punishment. Surah 112, starts with the imperative that Muslims should confess this belief (with the instruction 'Say...'), which underlines that, for Muslims, it is a requirement for true belief (AO3). - Rejection of the oneness of God is said to be an unforgivable sin, even when the Qur'an speaks of the mercy of Allah (AO2). However, Islam is often said to be built on five pillars, and all are given prominence in the Qur'an and the Sunnah of Prophet. It is, therefore, possible to argue that Muslims need to accept all the teachings and observe all the obligations laid down for them to be true to their faith (AO3).

Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material.
Level 1	1-4	- Limited understanding of concepts/themes, leading to an unbalanced argument. (AO2) - Limited use of the text provided to support argument. (AO2) - No application of own/others' views to consider questions/issues. (AO3) - Interpretation of information will be basic, with no analysis of issues. (AO3)
Level 2	5-8	- Good understanding of concepts/themes, leading to a partially-balanced argument. (AO2) - Good use of the text provided to support argument. (AO2) - Some application of own/others' views to consider questions/issues. (AO3) - Interpretation of information will be good, with mostly relevant analysis of issues. (AO3)
Level 3	9-12	- Excellent understanding of concepts/themes, leading to a balanced argument. (AO2) - Excellent use of the text provided to support argument. (AO2) - Thorough application of own/others' views to consider questions/issues. (AO3) - Interpretation of information will be excellent, with thorough analysis of issues. (AO3)

Student response A:

(d) 'Belief in the oneness of Allah (Tawhid) is what makes a person a Muslim.'
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.

There is no doubt that Allah is one. He doesn't have a father, mother or son. He himself is the greatest, the beneficent and the merciful. If we Muslim do not believe in the oneness of Allah then we are not considered as Muslims.

Allah is the creator of all mankind, life on earth and the whole universe. If we Muslims have a belief in all of the things then we are considered Muslims. The Quran itself tells us about the oneness of Allah and we must not object or refuse to agree anything that is written in the Quran or else

Allah Almighty gets angry with us.

We as Muslims must also believe that Allah is the greatest of all and there is no one equal to him.

Whenever we are stressed he starts to give us blessings upon us and that helps us get out of the worries and it makes us more happier. So we

Muslims must believe that Allah is one and due to this belief it makes our hearts strong with a firm belief that there is no god but Allah and this belief helps in the Day of Judgement (Akhirah).

Level 2 - 5/12

Examiner comments:

This explains the belief in the oneness of Allah. However for higher marks it needs to refer to the text, and also to look at other Muslim beliefs and try to explain why Tawhid can be considered the most important. Reference to, and contrast could be made, for example, with the beliefs of other faiths.

Student response B:

(d) 'Belief in the oneness of Allah (Tawhid) is what makes a person a Muslim.' 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.

This statement can not doubt, be denied. As Tawhid is really what makes a man muslim. And this fact is most common amongst every muslim that Tawhid is the basic and first Islamic belief of Islam. And if not to be believed, a person can never call himself a muslim. Tawhid teaches us that Allah is one and the only and there is no God but Allah. And if half belief is kept on this, than a person can even face to another religion, by believing that another God can be worshiped and if not Allah is to be worshiped than Allah's partner can be worshiped. This makes

the person deny the strength and supremacy of Allah Almighty, which surely does not make him a muslim. And if he does not believe in Tawhid which is even described in Quran, his love for Allah shatters and he does not completely believe the book of Allah. And any person who denies the Quran

and Allah's existence, that person can no longer be called a muslim. Belief in Tawhid teaches us the basics of all Islamic belief, and if basics and most important is not understood then there is no doubt, a person cannot be called a muslim.

Belief in Tawhid is what teaches man, humanity, kindness, generosity, upright, hopeful and courageous. And ^{it} from the qualities are seen in a muslim due to denied belief in Tawhid, neither the person can bond to the Islamic society nor be a muslim so belief in Tawhid is what makes a man, muslim, surely.

(Total for Question 3 = 23 marks)

Level 2 - 6/12

Examiner comments:

There is an attempt here to assess the value of belief in Tawhid, for example that it is the foundation of all the other beliefs. But the essay needed to make use of the set text, and perhaps also other teachings that might clarify the importance of Tawhid. It would also have benefitted from an explanation of why Tawhid can be said to underpin the importance of all the other teachings.

Student response C:

(d) 'Belief in the oneness of Allah (Tawhid) is what makes a person a Muslim.'
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.

Belief in the oneness of Allah is also an important part of Islamic belief. As narrated in Surah the Quran 66 "There is no one equivalent to him". He is the only one worthy of worship. And comparing him with someone else (shirk) is a major sin. If a person does not believe that Allah is not the only one who needs to be worshipped is not a true Muslim. In Hinduism, people believe in many god types of gods and they have their specific functions. This concept is too complex to understand and if there would be more than one God, each one of them would want to run the world, the way he thinks it's right. This would create a misunderstanding, and the world would not remain stable. Beside ^{the} oneness of Allah, increases our faith in Islam, motivates us to perform good deeds, so we can please Allah the creator of mankind. Every Muslim has to recite Shahadah, which is accepting that Allah is the only one worthy of all praises, worship and Prophet Muhammad (p.b.u.h) is the last Prophet of Allah and he is the last Prophet. So if a Muslim does not believe in the oneness of Allah, he is not a Muslim. Comparing Allah with someone else is shirk. Shirk is a major sin and cannot be forgiven.

(Total for Question 3 = 23 marks)

Examiner comments:

There is a good attempt here to assess the importance of belief in the oneness of Allah, and the comparison with the risks of polytheism is helpful, as is reference to the unforgivable nature of shirk. More textual analysis is required, and also the essay would have benefitted by comparing the value of Tawhid with other Islamic beliefs.

Student response D:

(d) 'Belief in the oneness of Allah (Tawhid) is what makes a person a Muslim.'
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.

(14)
Tawhid, the oneness of Allah is the major belief of a Muslim. This is, Oneness of Allah, that makes a muslim, a muslim. It is important for the Muslims to accept only Allah as their God because it is the first belief of Islam. ~~The~~ Oneness of Allah makes Islam ~~supp~~ superior and different from the other religions.

If one does not believe in the oneness of Allah, then that simply means that he is doing shirk. Shirk is ~~the~~ a unforgivable sin and so that person will be held accountable.

Oneness of Allah brings a momin closer to Allah as he believes that it is only Allah that can help him and so he does not seek help from ^{any worldly} ~~someone~~ ^{means.} ~~else~~. He only asks and worships Allah, and so in return, Allah grants him.

Oneness of Allah means that the person declares Allah as his master and so he will do things to please Allah so that Allah pleases him in return. Oneness of Allah strengthens the belief in him and the belief in the Day of Judgement. (Total for Question 3 = 23 marks)

As you believe that you might be forgiven for your minor sin for your honest belief in oneness of Allah. Oneness of Allah makes it easier for muslims to worship only one true God, Allah.

Level 3 - 9/12

Examiner comments:

There is a clear attempt here to assess the value of this belief and the discussion is quite wide-ranging. Reference to the text is not explicit and the answer would have been improved with, for example, a comparison with other faiths.

Exemplar question 4a:

4 (a) Identify **two** of the five categories of Muslim acts (Ahkam).

(2)

Mark scheme:

Question number	Answer	Mark
4 (a)	A01 2 marks Award 1 mark for each occasion identified, up to a maximum of 2 marks. • Fard – an action that is compulsory (1). • Makruh – an action that is disliked (1) • Haram – an action that is forbidden (1). Accept any other appropriate response	(2)

Student response A:

4 (a) Identify two of the five categories of Muslim acts (Ahkam).

(2)

There are five pillars of islam. Two of those are fasting and Hajj. Fasting is practised in the Holy month Ramadan and Hajj is performed in the month of Zil-hajj.

0/2

Examiner comments:

These are not examples of Muslim acts as understood by the term Ahkam.

Student response B:

4 (a) Identify two of the five categories of Muslim acts (Ahkam).

(2)

Mustahib and Mubah.

2/2

Examiner comments:

Two categories identified.

Exemplar question 4b:

(b) Describe what the Qur'an teaches about Allah as creator.

(3)

Mark scheme:

Question number	Answer	Mark
4(b)	AO1 3 marks Award 1 mark for initial point and a further 2 marks for development that shows understanding, up to a maximum of 3 marks. - Allah is the creator of all things (1), they came into being simply by the word of Allah (1), which demonstrated his power (1). - Men and women were the highpoint of creation (1), Allah also created animals and plants (1), which were to serve man's needs (1). Accept any other appropriate response.	(3)

Student response A:

(b) Describe what the Qur'an teaches about Allah as creator.

(3)

Quran says 'There is no God but Allah' and 'Allah is one'. This means Allah has no son and father nor he is son or father of anyone. Allah is the creator of this world and human beings. Quran According to Quran we should follow the teachings of Quran and should fear Allah. We should not believe anyone as ~~he~~ had other than Allah.

1/3**Examiner comments:**

This only makes a brief reference to Allah as creator of the world and human beings. It is important that the candidate focuses on the question, and not one about the oneness of Allah

Student response B:

(b) Describe what the Qur'an teaches about Allah as creator.

(3)

The Quran teaches Muslims that Allah has created us from the earth and clots, and that everything in the universe is Allah's creation. The Angels, the Jinns and the humans have also been created by him.

2/3

Examiner comments:

A simple description of the belief about Allah's actions as creator, developed by saying Allah is believed to be the creator of all. Further development, such as pointing out that this witnesses to the power of Allah, would have gained the extra mark.

Student response C:

(b) Describe what the Qur'an teaches about Allah as creator.

(3)

The Quran teaches us that Allah is omnipotent and everything in this universe was made by him. All of His creations are perfect. He has existed since forever and will keep on existing after the end of this universe.

3/3

Examiner comments:

A very good answer This describes the teaching, but also develops the answer by showing an understanding that it points to Allah's omnipotence and the perfection of His creation.

Exemplar question 4c:

(c) Explain the importance for Muslims of the belief that Allah is merciful.

(6)

Mark Scheme:

Question number	Indicative content
4 (c)	AO1 (3 marks)/AO2 (3 marks) - Allah understands the weakness of human beings and that they will make mistakes and sin from time to time (AO1). Allah's understanding of human weakness means He will have mercy on those who stray, and that gives human beings the strength to continue to try to be good and faithful (AO2). - The Qur'an clearly teaches that Allah is willing to forgive even very serious offences, provided a sinner is clearly sorry and asks forgiveness (AO1). The Prophet's many examples of forgiveness in his life are understood by Muslims as a reflection of the forgiveness shown by Allah, so they can have confidence in Allah's forgiveness and live their faith in joy (AO2). - Muslims believe in the reality of heaven (Jannah) as a place of reward for those who repent (AO1). The existence of Jannah indicates that Allah has anticipated that people repent, and has already prepared a special place so that they can enjoy the reward of repentance, which gives Muslims hope for the future (AO2).

Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material.
Level 1	1-2	- Limited use of facts, some of which may inaccurate or irrelevant. (AO1) - Understanding addresses a narrow range of concepts/themes which lack detail and are not developed. (AO2)
Level 2	3-4	- Good use of facts, which are mostly accurate and relevant. (AO1) - Understanding addresses a range of concepts/themes, some of which are not fully detailed and/or developed. (AO2)
Level 3	5-6	- Excellent use of facts, which are accurate and relevant. (AO1) - Understanding addresses a broad range of concepts/themes, which are detailed and fully developed. (AO2)

Student response A:

(c) Explain the importance for Muslims of the belief that Allah is merciful.

(6)

'Allah is the most merciful and gracious', (Al Quran). Muslims belief in Allah is very strong. Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W) preached the teachings of Islam in a very positive and simple way which people accepted. 'Allah loves his ~~people~~ people seventy times greater than a mother do'. Allah knows ~~the~~ every thing. All the winds are in the hands of Allah, ~~Seasons~~ Seasons are slave of Allah, Day ~~to~~ and night changes on the command of Allah. Allah is closer to his people than jugular vein. Allah is so merciful and gracious that if a muslim says 'Astagfir' (asking for forgiveness) one time, He vanishes all the past sins of the person.

Level 1 -2/6

Examiner comments:

The mercy of Allah is only mentioned at the end of the answer.

Student response B:

(c) Explain the importance for Muslims of the belief that Allah is merciful.

(6)

It is important for a Muslim to believe that Allah is merciful because if he makes a mistake, he has to believe that Allah is All-Forgiving and will forgive the sin if the repentance is sincere. However, it is also important to know that Muslims should not commit a sin on purpose and expect forgiveness if the person wants to do it again. However, he will be forgiven if the repentance is from the heart, and he promises not to do it again.

Level 2 -3/6

Examiner comments:

A simple explanation, that the teaching means that Muslims believe their sins can be forgiven. More reasons or further development of this idea would have been needed to gain extra marks. The candidate could have explained how this forgiveness shows Allah's understanding of the weakness of human nature, and this idea could have been further developed.

Student response C:

(c) Explain the importance for Muslims of the belief that Allah is merciful.

(6)

Allah is the most merciful of all because no matter how many times Muslims sin, be it knowingly or un-knowingly Allah forgives them. Allah always gives chance after chance to those who worship Him and even if the people go astray, be it once, three, or five times, Allah still forgives them. The belief of Muslims that Allah is the most merciful is really important because that way they know that even if they have made a mistake they can always turn to Allah Almighty for forgiveness. The mercy of Allah also teaches Muslims that Allah loves them so much that he forgives them if they truly apologise.

Level 2 -4/6

Examiner comments:

There is an attempt here to explain the importance of the belief in the mercy of Allah, that Allah can be turned to in time of error, and also that it helps to build a loving relationship with Allah. With more development of these ideas, such as explaining how forgiveness can be an opportunity to change one's life. further marks could have been gained.

Exemplar question 4d:

وَأَنْزَلْنَا إِلَيْكَ الْكِتَابَ بِالْحَقِّ مُصَدِّقًا لِّمَا بَيْنَ يَدَيْهِ مِنَ الْكِتَابِ وَمُهَيْمِنًا عَلَيْهِ فَاحْكُم بَيْنَهُم بِمَا أَنْزَلَ اللَّهُ وَلَا تَتَّبِعْ أَهْوَاءَهُمْ عَمَّا جَاءَكَ مِنَ الْحَقِّ لِكُلِّ جَعَلْنَا مِنْكُمْ شِرْعَةً وَمَنْهَاجًا وَلَوْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ لَجَعَلَكُمْ أُمَّةً وَاحِدَةً وَلَكِنْ لِّيَبْلُوَكُمْ فِي مَا آتَاكُمْ فَاسْتَبِقُوا الْخَيْرَاتِ إِلَى اللَّهِ مَرْجِعُكُمْ جَمِيعًا فَيُنَبِّئُكُمْ بِمَا كُنْتُمْ فِيهِ تَخْتَلِفُونَ ﴿المائدة: ٥: ٤٨﴾

And We have revealed to you, [O Muhammad], the Book in truth, confirming that which preceded it of the Scripture and as a criterion over it. So judge between them by what Allah has revealed and do not follow their inclinations away from what has come to you of the truth. To each of you We prescribed a law and a method. Had Allah willed, He would have made you one nation [united in religion], but [He intended] to test you in what He has given you; so race to [all that is] good. To Allah is your return all together, and He will [then] inform you concerning that over which you used to differ. [Qur'an 5:48]

- (d) 'It is important for Muslims to obey all the laws in the Shariah.'
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.

(12)

Question number	Indicative content
4 (d)	AO2 (6 marks)/AO3 (6 marks) - The existence of laws provides guidelines and boundaries to help an individual to fight against temptation and sin (AO2). Laws are the only way to sustain a moral society, societies might otherwise descend into decadence, and Muslims like many religious people should conclude that following the laws of God is what holds society together. This is supported in Surah 5, when Allah indicates that laws have helped unite Muslims into one nation, united in religion (AO3). - Observance of Allah's laws in a way of maintaining one's health, wealth and honour (AO2). The laws of Islam are intended to cover all aspects of moral, political and economic life, and therefore Muslims should accept that many rules are needed to cover the range of human experience, helping people come to the 'truth' about human behaviour as Allah teaches in the Surah (AO3). - Allah says in the Qur'an that a person's intentions are a better indication of moral goodness than their actions alone. Surah 14, in the story of Ibrahim, highlights the importance of turning one's heart to Allah (AO2). Too many restrictions can take away from the joyful aspect of religion and make it appear less attractive to others. Some Muslims may take the view that a religion based on too many rules could lead to fewer converts and a weakening of its contribution to society

	(AO3)
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Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material.
Level 1	1-4	- Limited understanding of concepts/themes, leading to an unbalanced argument. (AO2) - Limited use of the text provided to support argument. (AO2) - No application of own/others' views to consider questions/issues. (AO3) - Interpretation of information will be basic, with no analysis of issues. (AO3)
Level 2	5-8	- Good understanding of concepts/themes, leading to a partially-balanced argument. (AO2) - Good use of the text provided to support argument. (AO2) - Some application of own/others' views to consider questions/issues. (AO3) - Interpretation of information will be good, with mostly relevant analysis of issues. (AO3)
Level 3	9-12	- Excellent understanding of concepts/themes, leading to a balanced argument. (AO2) - Excellent use of the text provided to support argument. (AO2) - Thorough application of own/others' views to consider questions/issues. (AO3) - Interpretation of information will be excellent, with thorough analysis of issues. (AO3)

Student response A:

- (d) 'It is important for Muslims to obey all the laws in the Shariah.'
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.

(12)

Shariah is the islamic law and regulation. Shariah has great significance up on muslims. Muslims follow the Shariah to spend their life easier. According to shariah ones hands are cut off if ~~he~~ ~~the~~ is a thiere. It is important for muslims to obey all the laws in shariah. As Allah has said in Surah Al-Maidah 'To each of you we prescribed a law and the method'. Allah ~~reite~~ revealed the Holy Quran upon Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W), Holy Quran indicates the right and positive ~~it~~ path for muslims. According to Quran we should follow what Quran teaches. We should practise all the five pillars of islam if possible. Their are several law in islam for example dietary laws.

The meat of several animals is forbidden in islam for muslims to eat. Drinking Alcohol is against the shariah and the laws of islam. There are Halal (which are not forbidden) and Haram (which are forbidden) foods for example all the vegetables are halal. According to Shariah one who practises adultery

has to suffer from hundred lashes. Shariah has strict rules and equal for every muslim no matter rich or poor. According to islam everything is equal in islam. Muslims follow the Shariah for the day of judgement. Allah has create the muslims to prepare themselves for the final day. ~~not to~~

Level 1 -3/12

Examiner comments:

This is almost an entirely descriptive answer, and very little focus is on assessing the value of obedience to Shariah. It is important for the candidate to understand that the command word assess requires them to explain and analyse the point of view expressed in the question.

Student response B:

- (d) 'It is important for Muslims to obey all the laws in the Shariah.'
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.

(12)

Shariah are the Islamic Laws set by Allah Himself in the Holy Quran. According to ^{belief} traditions, The Holy Quran contains the solution to every problem a Muslim faces in his life and also provides laws which these Muslims have to follow. The passage from the Quran states that humanity has been divided into 10 different nations so each can lead its own & path ~~to either~~ des. and can be tested

based on¹ their judgement and intelligence. The Shariah is to be followed by all Muslims and the laws of Muslim nations should also be made on the basis of it. The Shariah and the

Qur'an are guides for all Muslims. ~~and~~ ~~can~~ Muslims should ~~not~~ get influenced by the actions and systems of others.

Level 2 -5/12

Examiner comments:

There is a clear attempt here to interpret the passage in the light of specific question. It mentions Shariah as the basis for identification of a Muslim, and the importance of avoiding influence from outside Islam. However this can only be a starting point to a developed assessment of the ways in which Muslims may consider obedience can bring personal benefits and benefits to Islam as a faith.

Student response C:

- (d) 'It is important for Muslims to obey all the laws in the Shariah.'
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.

(12)

'It is important for Muslims to obey all the laws in the Shariah'.
~~Because~~ In context to today's world ~~the~~ not every law can be used. For example, the Prophet S.A.W said ~~about a woman~~ that the punishment ~~for~~ theft would be the having the hands of the thief cut off. This law ~~does not~~ ^{though} correct cannot be used in today's time for it is too brutal of a crime and if ~~can~~ ^{acted} used, then would most probably result in Islamophobic people in all parts of the

world 'misinterpreting the ^{law} ~~act~~ as an act of extremism by a ~~rad~~ terrorist. By obeying certain laws of Shariah, the ~~is~~ image of Islam and Muslims will be further ruined as it will give out an impression of Muslims and Islam ~~rather~~ ^{being} in favour of violence when in reality, the followers and the religion support peace ^{and are} ~~and friends~~ against problems being resolved with violence. This is why, instead now in Muslim countries, if a person steals something, he must pay a fine instead. ~~Another example is of~~

Level 2 -6/12

Examiner comments:

The candidate is to be commended for focusing on more than one point of view, pointing out the risk to the reputation of Islam in respect of some of the harsher laws. To balance that, the answer needed to focus on the ways in which a Muslim might feel they would benefit spiritually for obedience to the laws. This should also have included reference to the set text.

Section C – questions 5 and 6

Exemplar question 5a:

5 (a) Identify **one** occasion when the Shahadah is recited.

(1)

Mark scheme:

Question number	Answer	Mark
5 (a)	AO1 1 mark Award 1 mark for each occasion identified. • The Shahadah is recited into the ear of a new-born baby (1). • It is recited in front of witnesses as conversion to Islam (1) Accept any other appropriate response	(1)

Student response A:

5 (a) Identify **one** occasion when the Shahadah is recited.

(1)

At the time of conversion to Islam

1/1

Examiner comments:

A correct occasion identified

Exemplar question 5b:

(b) Describe the actions that form part of Friday (Jummah) prayer.

(3)

Mark scheme:

Question number	Answer	Mark
5(b)	AO1 3 marks Award 1 mark for initial point and a further 2 marks for development that shows understanding, up to a maximum of 3 marks. • Worshippers meet together for Friday prayers (1), this is an expression of the Ummah (1) and this strengthens faith (1). • The Khatib or Imam delivers a sermon (1), which is based upon the Qur'an and Hadith (1), which instructs the community on how to live a good life (1). Accept any other appropriate response.	(3)

Student response A:

(b) Describe the actions that form part of Friday (Jummah) prayer.

(3)

All the people assemble in the mosque. A person performs the prayer. The prayer is followed by a sermon from the Imam.

1/3

Examiner comments:

A simple description with no development. For higher marks the candidate could have added more detail, and also demonstrated some understanding of the purpose of the actions, such as that the sermon helps the congregation apply the teachings of the Qur'an in their lives.

Student response B:

(b) Describe the actions that form part of Friday (Jummah) prayer.

The actions that form part of Friday (Jummah) prayer is the Khuthba which the Imam gives on the pulpit. After the Khuthba has ended the Imam recites two Duas. After these two actions are performed, two Rakat Fard are performed and in the one dua is recited.

2/3

Examiner comments:

This is a good description but does not show the significance of the events. For example, it could say that the Imam helps Muslims understand the teaching of the Qur'an

Exemplar question 5c:

(c) Explain the importance of fasting (sawm) for Muslims.

(6)

Mark Scheme:

Question number	Indicative content
5 (c)	AO1 (3 marks)/AO2 (3 marks) - Muslims are taught to fast at least from dawn to sunset during the month of Ramadan but fasting is also encouraged at other times (AO1). Sawm means literally 'to abstain' from all bodily pleasures, and fasting is understood more widely as an exercise in self-control of the body because it will bring spiritual gain (AO2). - Fasting rules strictly forbid the taking of food or liquid during the daylight hours of Ramadan, as the fast is to be demanding (AO1). Fasting reminds Muslims of those less fortunate than themselves, which helps to develop a strong moral character (AO2). - Abstaining during Ramadan also applies to other pleasures such as smoking (AO1). Because Muslims are also instructed to avoid behaviour that could negate the rewards of fasting, such as insulting and lying, it can be a complete exercise in self-discipline (AO2).

Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material.
Level 1	1-2	- Limited use of facts, some of which may inaccurate or irrelevant. (AO1) - Understanding addresses a narrow range of concepts/themes which lack detail and are not developed. (AO2)
Level 2	3-4	- Good use of facts, which are mostly accurate and relevant. (AO1) - Understanding addresses a range of concepts/themes, some of which are not fully detailed and/or developed. (AO2)
Level 3	5-6	- Excellent use of facts, which are accurate and relevant. (AO1) - Understanding addresses a broad range of concepts/themes, which are detailed and fully developed. (AO2)

Student response A:

(c) Explain the importance of fasting (sawm) for Muslims.

(6)

In The 3 month of Ramadan is important as the Prophet (s) received the first part of the Quran in the Cave of Hira on 27th of Ramadan. Muslims fast in this holy month to show respect. Their fast starts early in the morning and ends in the evening. They neither eat nor drink. By fasting a person can control himself or learn self restraint. Also when Muslims fast they under go through the exact same thing their the poor and needy go through. They rich understand how hungry the poor and needy feel and thus become more kind to them.

Level 2 -3/6

Examiner comments:

This offers some good explanations, such as the relationship between fasting and self-restraint, and an awareness of the plight of the needy. The answer needs to be developed for higher marks, such as explaining the value attached to self-restraint within Islam.

Student response B:

(c) Explain the importance of fasting (sawm) for Muslims.

It shows complete submission to Allah's order ⁽⁶⁾ by the Muslims. A person gives up food, drink, false talk and other such actions just for the pleasure of Allah. It separates a true Muslim from a false Muslim because we have to obey Allah's orders and refrain from any evil doing. It also gives a person time to focus on spiritual matters because we cut off from all other worldly activities. During the fast we refrain from all evil action; We also refrain from food which develops our self control. People spend more time praying, reciting the Quran and doing other acts of Ibadah and after Ifar offer Taraweeh prayers which further strengthen our relationship with Allah.

Level 2 -4/6

Examiner comments:

A good answer that not only describes some of the fasting rules, but also explains their importance, such as that fasting allows focus on spiritual matters. For higher marks the candidate could have developed the ways in which strengthening a relationship with Allah can affect the way in which a Muslim acts.

Student response C:

(c) Explain the importance of fasting (sawm) for Muslims.

(6)

In Islam fasting holds great importance. By fasting, one comes closer to Allah. He realizes the suffering of the poor and the needy. He abstains from all worldly evils for the pleasure of Allah and abstains from doing anything evil. A person's faith is strengthened and would do anything to please his Creator. During Ramazan, a person reads one chapter of Quran, each day. A person finishes the Holy Quran in one month while fasting. This is a huge blessing from Allah. Economic benefits, one realises the suffering of the poor and needy people and donates regularly to keep Allah happy. Fasting improves our personal hygiene and health and eradicates all the unwanted materials from our body. This is why fasting holds great importance in Islam.

Level 3 - 5/6

Examiner comments:

This is a good answer that focuses on the value of fasting, and not just on describing what it involves. In fact this is an answer that could have benefitted from having just a little more explanation of what the duties of fasting entail.

Exemplar question 5d:

إِنَّمَا الْمُؤْمِنُونَ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا بِاللَّهِ وَرَسُولِهِ ثُمَّ لَمْ يَرْتَابُوا وَجَاهَدُوا بِأَمْوَالِهِمْ وَأَنْفُسِهِمْ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ ۖ أُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الصَّادِقُونَ ﴿١٥﴾ (الحجرات: ١٥)

The believers are only the ones who have believed in Allah and His Messenger and then doubt not but strive with their properties and their lives in the cause of Allah. It is those who are the truthful.
[Qur'an: 49:15].

- (d) 'For Muslims today, the inner (greater) jihad is more important than the outer (lesser) jihad.'
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.

(12)

Question number	Indicative content
5 (d)	AO2 (6 marks)/AO3 (6 marks) - Throughout the Qur'an, it is possible to find teachings about the struggle to follow the straight path. This is often interpreted as the greater jihad. It says in Surah 61 that those who believe in Allah should in their lives strive to live lives in His cause, and that is what would make them better people (AO2). By striving to conquer evil inclinations, Muslims both improve their spiritual lives and believe they can give a good example to those around them, and this can encourage others to become converts (AO3). - The Qur'an appears to indicate that those who are being true to Allah are those who struggle with inner temptations such as wealth and wrong doing. Surah 61 also refers to wealth and suggests that a good Muslim will use their wealth in order to be faithful to Allah (AO2). The modern world is full of tension between peoples and as Islam is a religion of peace. Muslims should be helping to promote peace and not religious conflict. Surah 8 suggests that Allah prefers people to live in peace, so that they can focus on living lives based on trust in Him (AO3). - In many parts of the Muslim world today, Muslims are concerned that their religion is under attack and some believe they have an obligation to fight to protect their faith. This is a requirement for lesser jihad (AO2). Sometimes the fight against injustice can involve violence, such as the opposing of tyrants and jihad as holy war can be important to ensure that Muslims are allowed to express their faith. To support this, some Muslims would point to another part of Surah 8, which says that Muslim should 'ready their strength'

	and so be prepared to fight (AO3).
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Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material.
Level 1	1-4	- Limited understanding of concepts/themes, leading to an unbalanced argument. (AO2) - Limited use of the text provided to support argument. (AO2) - No application of own/others' views to consider questions/issues. (AO3) - Interpretation of information will be basic, with no analysis of issues. (AO3)
Level 2	5-8	- Good understanding of concepts/themes, leading to a partially-balanced argument. (AO2) - Good use of the text provided to support argument. (AO2) - Some application of own/others' views to consider questions/issues. (AO3) - Interpretation of information will be good, with mostly relevant analysis of issues. (AO3)
Level 3	9-12	- Excellent understanding of concepts/themes, leading to a balanced argument. (AO2) - Excellent use of the text provided to support argument. (AO2) - Thorough application of own/others' views to consider questions/issues. (AO3) - Interpretation of information will be excellent, with thorough analysis of issues. (AO3)

Student response A:

(d) 'For Muslims today, the inner (greater) jihad is more important than the outer (lesser) jihad.'

Assess this statement.

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

Inner jihad means struggle with your self, with your desires, while outer jihad means, military fights. Muslims of today think that inner jihad hold importance than outer jihad. And I agree with this statement.

Because nowadays people have changed their attitude and now become more of a animals. As ~~for~~ they cannot control on their desires and that is what animals do, they cannot control on their desires but Allah has made us his best creations gave us the knowledge that is not given to the animals so we should control on our desires. Otherwise we will be nothing but selfless animals. We should learn how to ^{have} self-control and ~~self-restrain~~ self-restrain.

And people need to focus on their self, and that's why people think that inner jihad is more important than outer jihad. Because military wars or fights are less seen by Muslims, but first our self comes first, we need to fix our attitude and we need focus on self-control and set how to struggle our desires.

(Total for Question 5 = 22 marks)

Examiner comments:

This makes a valuable point, that self-restraint and being human rather than 'animal' in behaviour is a challenge in the modern world. But that is then repeated and not developed, nor are other ideas explored in detail. Also use needs to be made of the set text. The discussion also needs to spend more time discussing the outer jihad and its relative merits.

Level 3 - 5/12

Student response B:

(d) 'For Muslims today, the inner (greater) jihad is more important than the outer (lesser) jihad.'

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.

I think this statement that for Muslims today the inner (greater) jihad is that we believe in Allah, the angels, the Prophets and the Islamic books. Before doing jihad with the non-Muslims we must do jihad with our selves. Before telling anyone to

accept Islam we must purify our minds as well as our hearts.

The Jihad we can do with ourselves in order to improve ourselves is by leaving all non-islamic values and adopting Islamic values.

Another Jihad we can do is by teaching children about the teachings of Quran and make them follow Islam.

We can also do Jihad with our mouth and we can perform this Jihad by ~~remembering~~ remembering Allah all the time. When we are able to complete all the Jihads that then we should do Jihad with the non-believers ~~non-muslims~~ non-muslims. There is no greater Jihad than fighting with the enemies of Islam.

Examiner comments:

This is quite a good explanation of the meaning and value of the greater jihad. However, it does not really engage the relationship between the greater and the lesser jihad and it does not make use of the text provided.

Level 2 -6/12

Student response C:

(d) 'For Muslims today, the inner (greater) jihad is more important than the outer (lesser) jihad.'

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.

Inner jihad is the struggle a person makes by himself to restraint from sins, as much as possible. It is to fight with ownself and struggle to divert minds toward the good, not wrong. While outer (lesser) jihad is not a struggle from ownself as it is more like a war, that prevents Islam from being harmed or demolished. Nowadays, muslims give more importance to inner jihad and so the above statment cannot be denied. As now that muslims are slowly being diverted towards more wrong than good, they are most commonly being diverted to greed. And this greed has become to the route^{to}, why muslims give more importance to inner Jihad than outer, though both should be given importance equally. As now that most of the muslims have become greedy they cannot loose their lives and properties in any cause, not even in the cause of Allah, for fighting was for Allah. And even

said in the Quran, "... and then doubt not but strive with their properties and their lives in the cause of Allah ..." And it is the lack of reading and understanding the Quran, amongst modern muslims, that they give more importance of to controlling their themselves from committing sins, as now muslims are being diverted away from the Quranic teachings, which makes them

bonded to the wrong understanding of their religion, Islam. And it is now that muslims have started being dishonest to themselves and other and even to Allah, which makes them to give more importance to inner jihad, as they think atleast some good can be done for Allah's mercy.

(Total for Question 5 = 22 marks)

Examiner comments:

The candidate does try to assess the importance of the inner jihad. It would have been improved with a better explanation of the challenges to inner spiritual strength than can be found in the modern world, such as materialism and the decline of traditional values. Also more effort should have been made to compare the two ideas of jihad. Reference is made to the text, but students need to learn how to apply the text more fully to their answers.

Level 2 -7/12

Student response D:

(d) 'For Muslims today, the inner (greater) jihad is more important than the outer (lesser) jihad.'

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.

(12)

As Muslims we must work to improve ourselves. Fighting with self i.e Jihad bin Nafs is the greatest form of Jihad. We have to stop ourselves from performing a sin. It is extremely difficult for one to do so because many of us don't have actual control over our actions. We spit words out or perform sins without actually thinking about them. Evil therefore is spread all across the world today. ~~For~~ Inner jihad has a lot to

do with our own self judgment. If we commit a bad act we get a feeling of guilt. We try to refrain from doing it again because we recognize it as evil. This is because we fight with ourselves. Only if we are good human beings from within can we strive for ~~Jihad~~ outer Jihad. Outer Jihad often calls for

leaving every worldly possession for the cause of Allah and one cannot succeed in doing so until unless our faith is strong. Inner jihad therefore is the first important building block. If it is strong only then can we work on outer Jihad. We must strive in Allah's might in Allah's cause so that we may succeed.

Examiner comments:

This answer offers a developed assessment of the value of the inner jihad, also indicating that the inner jihad is necessary as a foundation for the qualities needed for the outer jihad. To improve the mark, the candidate needed to say more about the relationship between the two kinds of jihad. They also needed to refer to and offer some explanation of the text and how it applies to the question.

Level 3 -8/12

Student response E:

(d) 'For Muslims today, the inner (greater) jihad is more important than the outer (lesser) jihad.'

Assess this statement.

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

(17)

The inner Jihad refers to the Jihad-bi-nafs. Fighting against your own nafs could possibly the hardest thing to do in this world today. Controlling our one's nafs is related to the surrounding. If ^{we are} ~~the~~ surrounded by good and pious people, then it ~~is~~ is easier for the Muslims to control their nafs against the evil. But sadly, living in this world now, we realize that muslims have ~~&~~ forgotten their true values, ethics and their consciousness about the difference between the right and wrong. It is said that ~~as~~; "A society has a down fall, when it's people forget the difference between the right and wrong". And if we talk about the Muslim society today then we see the exact thing happening.

In today's World, Muslims can easily vague wars because they are strong but their nafs? Their nafs is their weak point. ~~For not~~ Shaytan drags us to the wrong and we blindly go without fighting our nafs to determine between the right and wrong. Inner Jihad is more important for the Muslims today because it's our nafs that forces us to do things. And if we muslim successfully fight our nafs to the good, then surely we will pass our test in (Total for Question 5 = 22 marks) this world and so we will get the good in hereafter and so will we get our next generation out of the "so-called" "More" "Modernization" and give them a life easier and better to follow.

Level 3 - 9/12

Examiner comments:

A very good discussion that refers to both the greater and the lesser jihad. It would have been improved with more explicit reference to the text and to other supportive teachings of the Qur'an or the Prophet.

Exemplar question 6a:

6 (a) Identify **one** action that Muslims perform during Hajj.

(1)

Mark scheme:

Question number	Answer	Mark
6 (a)	AO1 1 mark Award 1 mark for each action identified. • Pilgrims put on seamless white cloths (1). • They stand in vigil/prayer at Arafat (1) Accept any other appropriate response	(1)

Student response A:

6 (a) Identify one action that Muslims perform during Hajj.

The stay at Muzdalfah is a must and ⁽¹⁾ it is said that, "Any dua made here is surely granted."

1/1

Examiner comments:

A correct action

Exemplar question 6b:

(b) Describe the features of the payment of Zakah by Muslims.

(3)

Mark scheme:

Question number	Answer	Mark
6(b)	A01 3 marks Award 1 mark for initial point and a further 2 marks for development that shows understanding, up to a maximum of 3 marks. • Zakah is giving to those in need (1), it is a kind of religious tax (1), a moral obligation rather than an act of charity (1). • Muslims should donate at least 2.5% of their wealth each year (1), this makes them conscious of how Allah has been good to them (1), recognising that those who can afford it should help the less fortunate (1). Accept any other appropriate response.	(3)

Student response A:

(b) Describe the features of the payment of Zakah by Muslims.

Zakah can be given in forms of alms, silver, cattle and sheep, cows and buffaloes. Preferred amount of silver and alms given as Zakah is two and a half percent of each. 4 sheep and 1 cattle can also be given. Other than a cow or a buffalo can be given as Zakah.

1/3

Examiner comments:

This describes some of the ways in which Zakah can be given, but there is no attempt to develop the answer, for example by pointing out that it is usually obligatory, and also who is to benefit from it.

Student response B:

(b) Describe the features of the payment of Zakah by Muslims.

Muslims pay Zakah for fulfilling the needs of the needy and poor, as also made obligatory by Allah for those to whom Allah has blessed wealth with. Zakah is not obligatory on those who cannot afford to give, not due to their ill intentions.

Examiner comments:

This is a good attempt to describe the significance of Zakah, and would have gained the extra mark with a better description of how the tax is paid, or in what amount.

2/3

Student response C:

(b) Describe the features of the payment of Zakah by Muslims.

Zakah is one of most ^{important} pillars of Islam. Zakah is must to be given by the ones who are wealthy. If a person has cattle then he should give away some share of it to the poor. 2.5% of Zakah is given ^{on} the gold and silver Jewellery. Zakah should be given to the deserving ones. Zakah should be given in a way that the person does not know and so he does not get hurt.

3/3

Examiner comments:

This explains both the action and it develops by offering an explanation of the need to respect the receiver.

Exemplar question 5c:

(c) Explain the importance of Eid-ul-Fitr for Muslims.

(6)

Mark Scheme:

Question number	Indicative content
6 (c)	AO1 (3 marks)/AO2 (3 marks) - Eid-ul-Fitr marks the end of Ramadan and is understood as a celebration, involving breaking the fast after a month of self-denial (AO1). It is an opportunity to thank Allah for the will and the strength to obey His commandments during Ramadan and thereby increases the gratitude a Muslim feels for Allah's goodness (AO2). - It is not simply a personal celebration but also a day of prayers and alms-giving (AO1). It is a time to reflect on what a Muslim learned about themselves during Ramadan and to make resolutions to improve their lives in the future (AO2). - It is a celebration that helps to bring together families and friends in unity and friendship (AO1). The unity that is generated by the common celebration around the world reminds Muslims of the brotherhood of all Muslims and so reinforces the Ummah worldwide (AO2).

Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material.
Level 1	1-2	- Limited use of facts, some of which may inaccurate or irrelevant. (AO1) - Understanding addresses a narrow range of concepts/themes which lack detail and are not developed. (AO2)
Level 2	3-4	- Good use of facts, which are mostly accurate and relevant. (AO1) - Understanding addresses a range of concepts/themes, some of which are not fully detailed and/or developed. (AO2)
Level 3	5-6	- Excellent use of facts, which are accurate and relevant. (AO1) - Understanding addresses a broad range of concepts/themes, which are detailed and fully developed. (AO2)

Student response A:

(c) Explain the importance of Eid-ul-Fitr for Muslims.

(5)

The importance of Eid-ul-Fitr for Muslims is that it's a festival which comes after the month of Ramadan. After keeping all the fasts this celebratory festival is celebrated by the Muslims and this festival is considered a break after the month of Ramadan. The Muslim children also collect money from their elders which makes them happy. This festival is considered a festival of happiness and keeping a fast on this day is forbidden.

Level 1 -2/6

Examiner comments:

This is just a simple description of the events of Eid-ul-Fitr. It does not offer much by way of explanation of why this is such an important celebration, for example that it is a time to bring families together or that the universal celebration strengthens the ummah.

Student response B:

(c) Explain the importance of Eid-ul-Fitr for Muslims.

(6)

Eid-ul-Fitr is celebrated after Ramadan on the first of Shawwal. Basically Eid-ul-Fitr has 3 days. It holds great importance for Muslims as it is the reward, the gratitude by Allah for fasting for 30 days. On the day of Eid we celebrate the moment the joy of happiness with our loved ones and our families. We meet with our family relatives and send them our blessings. This is the day when Muslims have learned their self-control. But the day starts off with the Eid prayers, which consists of 2 Rak'ats and after the prayers a short ~~Qura~~ Khutba is given by the Imam on the Eid-ul-Fitr. It is also a sign of brotherhood.

Level 2 -3/6

Examiner comments:

This is broadly descriptive rather than explanatory but there is reference to the festival as a reward, and as an expression of 'brotherhood'. These are the ideas that need to be developed, to be explained more fully, to gain higher marks.

Student response C:

(c) Explain the importance of Eid-ul-Fitr for Muslims.

(6)

Eid-ul-Fitr is as a gift for Muslims after the fasting the whole month of Ramadan. It is important for Muslims to celebrate Eid-ul-fitr as it marks the end of the end of the most important Islamic month. Eid-ul-Fitr is given as a reward to the muslims for ^{successfully} fulfilling a major test for their iman given to them by Allah. Allah gave us this opportunity to be Allah as it was seen that many ~~to~~ people were seen to be sad because the month ended but Allah said that it was a happy occasion as muslims had just done a great job in Ramadan.

Level 2 -4/6

Examiner comments:

The candidate offers a series of explanations of the importance of the festival, such as that it is a reward of the self-discipline of Ramadan, and that it promotes good deeds. The explanations just need to be developed a little further to gain full marks. For example, that it is important that Islam be understood as a balanced religion that emphasises both discipline and joy.

Exemplar question 6d:

وَمِنْ آيَاتِهِ أَنْ خَلَقَ لَكُمْ مِنْ أَنْفُسِكُمْ أَزْوَاجًا لِتَسْكُنُوا إِلَيْهَا وَجَعَلَ بَيْنَكُمْ مَوَدَّةً وَرَحْمَةً ۚ إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ لِقَوْمٍ يَتَفَكَّرُونَ ﴿الروم: ٢١﴾

And of His signs is that He created for you from yourselves mates that you may find tranquillity in them; and He placed between you affection and mercy. Indeed in that are signs for a people who give thought. [Qur'an 30:21]

- (d) 'All Muslims should get married and have a family.'
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.

(12)

Question number	Indicative content
6(d)	AO2 (6 marks)/AO3 (6 marks) - In Islam, marriage is seen as one of Allah's greatest gifts to mankind and should be embraced by Muslims (AO2), Allah has commanded Muslims to promote and extend Islam, it is therefore important for Muslims to marry, have children and bring them up to worship Allah and obey Him. As it says in Surah 30, Allah gave the gift of spouses so that man and wife may find comfort in each other, which helps to generate a care they then pass on to their children (AO3). - A happy marriage and sexual union to create a family, also helps to avoid the attraction of illicit sexual relationships, such as extra-marital sex (AO2). Muslims should avoid illicit sexual activity and so become spiritually stronger, witnessing to the truth of Allah's word, and in this way help to promote a healthy and moral society. It says in Surah 30 that those who think carefully about their faith will see the truth in this teaching (AO3). - In the Qur'an, Allah highly recommends marriage and family life but he does not command it (AO2). Some married couples prove unable to have children but in Surah 42 it is made clear that this is sometimes the will of Allah in His wisdom. It is therefore possible to conclude that it would be unfair to suggest that makes them less-faithful Muslims, so each individual's responsibility in this matter should depend on their circumstances (AO3).

Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material.
Level 1	1-4	- Limited understanding of concepts/themes, leading to an unbalanced argument. (AO2) - Limited use of the text provided to support argument. (AO2) - No application of own/others' views to consider questions/issues. (AO3) - Interpretation of information will be basic, with no analysis of issues. (AO3)
Level 2	5-8	- Good understanding of concepts/themes, leading to a partially-balanced argument. (AO2) - Good use of the text provided to support argument. (AO2) - Some application of own/others' views to consider questions/issues. (AO3) - Interpretation of information will be good, with mostly relevant analysis of issues. (AO3)
Level 3	9-12	- Excellent understanding of concepts/themes, leading to a balanced argument. (AO2) - Excellent use of the text provided to support argument. (AO2) - Thorough application of own/others' views to consider questions/issues. (AO3) - Interpretation of information will be excellent, with thorough analysis of issues. (AO3)

Student response A:

(d) 'All Muslims should get married and have a family.'
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.

(12)

All Muslims should get married because it is a blessing from Allah and it prevents one from committing sins. A married person will have less of a chance of falling prey to ~~the~~ vices, such as fornication. It prevents bad thought. Marriage is a support system by which all Muslims have someone to love, to get loved, to take care of, ^{and} to get taken care of. ~~That~~ Starting a family ~~not~~ helps increase the Muslim Ummah, and it is parents who can give children an Islamic upbringing, love and make them good human beings by teaching them certain qualities. The mother cannot do what the father can and vice versa. They each instill particular characteristics in the children.

Level 2 -6/12

Examiner comments:

This is a brief answer. It does try to assess the value of marriage and family life for Muslims, but it needs to be developed further. Also attention needs always to be paid to the set text, and also it is important to consider another viewpoint, such as the attitude towards those who, by choice or circumstance, never marry.

Student response B:

(d) 'All Muslims should get married and have a family.'
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.

(12)

Allah created Adam and Eve and created a special bond between them. Such is the bond between a husband and wife that it provides support to both of them. Having a family is extremely important for the welfare of society. By getting married ~~we~~ there can be continuation of the human race in a way approved by Allah. The newborns will have a respect n society. The welfare of the family results in propagation of community. Marriage leads to fulfilment of marital needs in a halal manner. The wives look after the household whereas the husband takes care of the financial needs. Both the parties care and look after each other. They become a source of comfort during hardships and ease the other person's life. It gives moral

strength. The Quran says "We have created you in pairs". A married woman earns respect in society. Family life gives support to the sick. It gives shelter to women and children. Marrying prevents a person from committing adultery. The

husband and wife are a source of love and affection. They understand the other and look after the other's needs.

Level 2 - 8/12

Examiner comments:

A good attempt to assess the value attached to marriage and the family in Islam. Higher marks could have been gained by considering the attitude towards those who choose not to marry or cannot have children. Also, these d) questions need much fuller use to be made of the text provided.