



Examiners' Report

June 2023

Int GCSE Religious Studies 4RS1 02

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Introduction

In Paper 2 of iGCSE Religious Studies, candidates can answer questions on any one of six religions. Because approximately two thirds of candidates answer questions on Christianity or Islam, the examples in this report are drawn from those religions. However, this report will focus on lessons that can be learned from the way all questions are asked and answered, and centres that teach the other four religions can also use it to gain a better understanding of how to improve the performance of their candidates. In describing the strengths and weaknesses in the examples chosen, this report will seek to highlight best practice that can be generally applied.

It will be useful to start by highlighting some general principles of each type of question:

(a) questions ask for two examples of knowledge drawn from the specification, with the command word 'outline'. The question may ask candidates to outline beliefs or practices, and it may focus specifically on the way certain practices are performed. In Buddhism this year, for example, candidates are asked to outline features of Buddhist marriage rituals. Such a question asks the candidates to describe actions associated with the rituals. To gain full marks, candidates would need to give two examples, and develop them both. Development can take many forms, including further description, explanation, or reference to sacred texts. These questions are point marked, up to a maximum of four marks.

(b) questions ask candidates to explain an aspect of belief or practice. It is important to say from the start that (b) questions have a levels mark scheme, and are not points marked. This is very important because some candidates answer the question by giving a good deal of relevant but isolated examples of knowledge and understanding, often developed by description. However, in order to gain the higher marks, candidates are required to show a developed understanding of the topic of the question. It is understood by examiners that candidates cannot cover every possible aspect of the topic, and the top marks can be achieved by using fewer examples, and rather focusing on demonstrating a deeper level of understanding of the significance of the belief or practice. In the Hinduism section, for example, there was a question about the role of the Pujari, and it is entirely possible for a candidate to gain full marks by focusing on one role, such as conducting worship, and by fully developing that one role, providing a comprehensive understanding of why that role is important to Hindus.

(c) questions are also marked according to levels. As a general rule, answers that provide simply developed reasons on both sides of the discussion, and a summative conclusion, are not likely to gain more than 6 marks, the top of level 2. To achieve the higher levels, candidates must demonstrate the required skills of developing logical chains of reasoning (what may be described as developing their development) and providing an evaluative conclusion. In the Judaism section there was a (c) question about the importance of rabbis. Answers that developed arguments by adding further description of what rabbis do would not usually be a higher level response. To go part way to that level, a candidate might, for example, have explained the role of the rabbi in leading worship, and then developed a comprehensive argument about the value of that leadership, the importance in the leadership of worship of the rabbi's understanding of the Torah, and perhaps how a rabbi may be best suited to uniting the worshipping community.

With regard to (c) questions, there is provision in the rubrics for candidates to include a consideration of other religions, than the one being examined. That is certainly true, and relevant discussion would be rewarded. However, it should be said that a simple comparison between the faith and practice of two religions is unlikely to gain much credit, unless some evaluative conclusion is drawn out about the religion being examined. For example, a discussion about Muhammad could usefully be compared with the Christian understanding of the nature of Jesus as divine, drawing the conclusion that Muhammad as only human, is respected but not worshipped. Many examples I saw that did discuss another religion failed to add greater understanding of the target religion, and for that reason it is advisable to recommend that this option is not widely used.

Question 1 (a)(B)

This question asks candidates to identify two features of the baptism of Jesus. It was generally well answered. Some candidates lost marks by focusing on the practice of baptism today, and some offered development of a feature of Jesus' baptism by suggesting it washed away his original sin. But such missteps were rare. Examiners rewarded answers that focused on the events of Jesus' baptism, but also those who focused entirely on an interpretation of the meaning of Jesus' baptism.

This is a 4 mark answer, with the first two marks gained simply by reference to John the Baptist and the River Jordan. The developed description of the voice of God gained the other 2 marks.

1 (a) Outline **two** features of the baptism of Jesus.

1 Jesus dipped in the river Jordan. He was baptised⁽⁴⁾ by John the baptist even though he begged Jesus not to let him baptise him, rather Jesus baptised John.

2 A voice came from the clouds; "This is my son with whom I am well pleased. Listen to him". This is said to be the ~~the~~ voice of God.



There is more in this answer than needed to gain full marks. The reference to Jesus insisting on being baptised, for example, would also have gained marks.



In this case, the extra information provided may well not have taken too much of the candidate's time, but it is worth reminding candidates that two simply developed responses are all that is needed.

This is a 4 mark response that takes a slightly different approach to answering the question.

1 (a) Outline **two** features of the baptism of Jesus.

(4)

- 1 The baptism of Jesus was not just a physical one, but spiritual too. This is as God the Father says in a loud voice from heaven "This is my beloved son with whom I am well pleased". The spirit descended upon Jesus in the form of a dove.
- 2 Jesus' baptism, which took place in the river Jordan by St. John the Baptist, ~~also~~ also reinforces the dual nature of Christ. Jesus receives baptism like an ordinary man, the human nature. However, God also says during the baptism "This is my son", showing Jesus' nature of God.



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There is quite extensive theological explanation in his answer, which is praiseworthy. In the second point, though, the fact that the baptism of Jesus took place in the River Jordan, by John the Baptist, would have gained both marks. What follows could not add anything to the marks. This could be an issue if the candidate is pressed for time.



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Although there is some descriptive elements to this answer, the candidate also focused on a more interpretative response. This example demonstrates that, in many (a) questions, there can be a variety of legitimate approaches. In this case the word 'features' did not mean the candidate had to refer solely to events.

This response is awarded 2 marks because the answers are not developed.

1 (a) Outline **two** features of the baptism of Jesus.

(4)

1 Jesus was baptised by John the Baptist.

2 Jesus' baptism was unlike ordinary baptisms as his whole body was covered in holy water.



These are correct answers, but they give just two simple pieces of information – that Jesus was baptised by John the Baptist, and by full submersion. It could not be said that in Jesus' time this was out of the ordinary, so this could not be rewarded.



There is not a great deal required for development in (a) questions. In the first point, for example, it would have been sufficient for the candidate to say that the baptism was in the River Jordan, or that John had been reluctant to do it.

Question 1 (a)(D)

This question asks candidates to outline two roles of the imam in the Sunni community. It was a well answered question, and most candidates were able to name roles, and also to develop them by explaining why the role is important to the Muslim community. There were just a handful of candidates who spoke about the Imamate within Shi'a Islam, which could not usually be credited.

This answer is very representative of many of the 4 mark answers to this question, and a good example of how to gain the development marks.

1 (a) Outline **two** roles of the imam in the Sunni community. (4)

1 The imam leads the five daily prayer, which is one of the five pillars of Islam, and guides the believers which step in prayer should they be in or do.

2 The imam also may give Friday Khutbahs and advice, to guide Muslims and solve the worldly matters and affairs, clearing doubts, easing the right path to Jannah (heaven).



This answer chooses a first role, to be a prayer leader, and develops it by explaining how this guides believers in the correct form of prayer. The second role is to deliver the sermon at Friday prayers, which helps believers solve problems they may have in the modern world.



In the first example, the candidate refers to the importance of prayer as a pillar of Islam, but that does not answer the question about the role of the imam, and would not count as a development. Remember that the development must develop the response and answer the question. In this example, the development comes later in the answer.

This 4 mark answer is included to illustrate that, in this qualification, full sentences are not always required to gain marks. It would be correct for the first marks, to say that the role of the imam is to be 'leader' and 'teacher'.

1 (a) Outline **two** roles of the imam in the Sunni community.

(4)

1 leader: The Imam is seen as a leader that conducts prayers and conducts sermon during Juma'a prayers.

2 teacher: The Imam is visited by many muslims for moral and spiritual advice. He also educates muslims which expands their knowledge on Islam.



In fact, in this response, the candidate does provide more detail of what is meant by the roles of leader and teacher, and also gains all the development marks.

This 2 mark response illustrates how some candidates lose marks by failing to provide development. In some cases, of course, it is possible that candidates cannot think of anything appropriate to add. However, when compared with the earlier 4 mark examples, it is clear how simply these extra marks can often be gained. In this case, the two simple roles are that the imam will often make the call to prayer, and they preach.

1 (a) Outline **two** roles of the imam in the Sunni community.

(4)

1 In the sunni community imams are to call out the adhan

2 The imams are to preach about the ~~Islam~~ muslims past.



If we consider the second role, that the imam preaches, an example of what they might preach about would have gained the development mark, such as they give advice about family life, or they give advice about how Muslims may be good khalifas.

Question 1 (b)(B)

This question asks candidates to explain the contribution to Christianity of one significant Christian other than Jesus. It did cause problems for some candidates who were not able to distinguish between Christian figures and other people from the Bible.

A Christian was taken to mean anyone who was in a position to acknowledge Jesus as the founder of a new Faith, and did so either explicitly or implicitly. This, therefore, included Mary and the apostles and disciples, St Paul and the evangelists, and so forth, as well as any Christian who came after Jesus' death and resurrection. It did not include major Old Testament figures such as Moses. Having read candidates responses, it was decided also to accept important role holders, even when specific ones were not named, just as 'the Pope'.

Although there were some excellent answers to this question, a good number of candidates offered a biography which did not always explain how what was done made a contribution to Christianity. Mother Theresa certainly founded hospices, for example. But it was necessary to draw out the way in which this witnessed to the example and teaching of Jesus, and perhaps also how her example reinforced the idea that Christians should have a 'preferential option for the poor'. In other words, not just what she did, but also why it was significant.

This candidate did not read the question carefully enough, because they have given short biographies of three people, when the question asked for just one. This was an important requirement, because these (b) questions are phrased in a way that allow candidates to develop their responses fully. So, although this candidate offers valuable insight into each of the people chosen, this could not go above level 1, 3 marks.

(b) Explain the contribution to Christianity of **one** significant Christian other than Jesus.

(6)

One significant Christian is Peter. For example, Peter was Jesus' first disciple, he was the first one to call him a Messiah and died a Martyr. This can teach Christians how everyone should have trust in God and stay in his path. Like Peter did, even though a lot of people hated Jesus, he still trusted him.

Another significant Christian is St. Paul. For example, St. Paul was first a persecutor of Christians, but he saw the light of God and converted. He wrote 27 books in the Bible and served 30 missions, making him an excellent missionary. This shows Christians that it is never too late to change as God is all-loving and all-merciful.

Lastly, another significant Christian is Martin Luther King. For example, MLK fought for black rights and involved many Christian quotes and scriptures in his speeches. This shows how we should follow God's words to find the right path and lead us into good.



This example suggests that the candidate has a good understanding of the contribution made by the individuals chosen: St Peter, for example, as someone who witnessed to the importance of having trust, even to the point of martyrdom. This makes it all the more unfortunate that each answer is so brief.



This may be the most important examiner tip, and so is worth repeating – candidates should be urged to read the question.

In this example the candidate gives an indication of the depth of understanding they have of the contribution of Aquinas, but it is simply too brief an answer, and more development is needed. It achieves 3 marks.

(b) Explain the contribution to Christianity of **one** significant Christian other than Jesus.

(6)

St Aquinas' "summa theologica" was extremely significant as it allowed us to view the Bible and interpret it with reason and experience. This is significant because it guided Christians to regard their conscience with a sense of authority as it guides us towards ~~the~~ good and away from evil.



This is much more than a biography of Aquinas – it immediately addresses his contribution – help with interpreting the Bible, and explaining the role of conscience for Christians. In order to go to level 2, these points need further development. Alternatively, they could have chosen another contribution and developed that to the same extent as the first. Two paragraphs of this quality could have gained all 6 marks.



Those who achieved the top of level 2 in (b) questions usually took one point of explanation and developed it very fully, or chose two different points, also developed, but to a lesser extent.

It is important to include this answer but it is not an isolated example. Quite a few candidates chose Old Testament figures, including Abraham, Noah and Moses. Because this topic is a key part of the specification, it is important for centres to underline who can and cannot count as a Christian.

(b) Explain the contribution to Christianity of **one** significant Christian other than Jesus.

(6)

Abraham showed Christians faith, love and obedience, he did whatever God told him to do as far as even accepting to kill his own son whom they got with Sarah at a great age. This teachings and acts of Abraham are significant because it showed the love faith and obedience Abraham had towards God, Therefore we should also do as Abraham did and God will reward us just as He did to Abraham.



Faith, love and obedience are recognised as Christian characteristics, and Abraham's teachings certainly contributed to the Christian faith, in respect of monotheism, for example. But these could not be credited where the person chosen was not himself a Christian.

Question 1 (b)(D)

This question asks candidates to explain why the establishment of the Muslim community in Madinah by Muhammad is important. There were a significant number of candidates who simply explained why Madinah is important to Muslims, and did not address the specific question. This concerns the historical event of the establishment of the Muslim community in Madinah, and how it permitted freedom of worship, instruction and, eventually, the spread of Islam. This was understood by most candidates and the question was often very well answered.

In this 2 mark answer there are hints of an understanding of the historical event that could be rewarded, although it is not clear that the candidate fully understands the question.

(b) Explain why the establishment of the Muslim community in Madinah by Muhammad is important.

(6)

The establishment of the muslim community in Maedinah by Muhammad is important because it brings about unity between many muslims. It is also the place where the prophet place be upon him died so it brings ~~sa~~ a sacred bond to the muslims. Muslims can also learn more about the islamic history.



There are two points in this answer that can be accepted as referring to the importance of the establishment of the community at Madinah – the idea of unity, and as a source of a greater understanding of Islamic history. Whilst it may not be the case that the candidate is referring directly to the historical event, examiners are told to mark positively, and give credit where possible.

This answer was awarded 4 marks. There are three key ideas, with some narrative, but also clear examples of development.

(b) Explain why the establishment of the Muslim community in Madinah by Muhammad is important.

(6)

In Makkah the believers had to live in constant fear and ~~and~~ torture of the disbelievers. Thus, the Holy Prophet PBUH migrated to Madinah with his companions, and Madinah became a place of safety and refuge for them. The Holy ~~is~~ Prophet PBUH established a mosque, Masjid-ul-Nabawi, which symbolises the first time Muslims were allowed to ~~to~~ pray openly. The Holy Prophet PBUH ~~ee~~ established peace between the Ansar and Muhajirin, which therefore gave Muslims a strong foundation to spread the message of Islam.



The three key ideas here are the establishment of a place of safety, the establishment of mosques, and peaceful co-existence leading to the spread of Islam. They are presented as separate ideas with simple development, and for that reason gains 4 marks.



The response could have tried to link these ideas together, to demonstrate an understanding that is 'assured and comprehensive'. This skill is shown in the subsequent example.

This is an example of a top level 2 response on a (b) question. It clearly addresses the historical event, and it provides a fully developed response, given the time available, to its importance.

(b) Explain why the establishment of the Muslim community in Madinah by Muhammad is important.

(6)

It is important as it was the first Muslim community that was established after the Hijrah and the first community where Muslims could practise their faith without any hardship or prosecution as was found in Makkah. This is further emphasised by the building of the first Mosque - Masjid - Al-Nabawi - being the first thing built. Its importance can also be seen as after this establishment, Islam was able to spread more than ever and as all the commandments of Allah from the Quran and Sunnah were put into practise. Therefore resulting in the non-Muslims being witness to the beauty of Islam and consequently embracing the faith.



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This answer highlights a number of important aspects of the event, freedom to practise the faith, linked both to the earlier persecution in Makkah and to the building of mosques in Madinah. This then is linked to the ability to spread the faith, by putting the commandments of Allah into practice, which led to the Muslim faith being seen in a positive light, and thereby able to attract converts. It is a response that starts with the importance of the freedom to practise, with links and developments right through to the concluding idea. This shows that the candidate's understanding of the importance of the event is 'assured and comprehensive'.

Question 1 (c)(B)

This question asks candidates to discuss whether “The main purpose of Jesus’ life was to die on the cross”. It was generally a well answered question. Many candidates were able to identify other important aspects of Jesus’ life – his example, his teaching, his resurrection, for example – to provide a counter argument. As always with the (c) question, the key to achieving the higher levels is being able to provide fully developed arguments that demonstrate insight into Christian belief. The conclusion can also be very important in assessing answers to (c) questions, which needs to be evaluative rather than just summative.

This is a 4 mark response. It does address the question, but is awarded a mark at the bottom of level 2 primarily because it contains isolated ideas that are mostly not developed.

(c) "The main purpose of Jesus' life was to die on the cross."

Discuss this statement considering the arguments for and against.

In your answer you should include:

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

(10)

I believe that Jesus' main purpose of life was not to die on the cross.

A strong argument for my view is that Jesus performed many miracles such as the healing of the Blindman and the paralyzed man, and some might say the purpose of his life was to ~~help~~ help others.

However others will disagree and say that the purpose of Jesus' life was to ~~die~~^{die} on the cross ~~and~~ to sacrifice himself and die for ~~our~~ our sins.

However people who disagree with me are wrong as Jesus

did many other things in his life such as overcoming the temptations of Greed, power and vanity, and becoming ~~baptised~~ baptised and a significant Christian to Christianity.

Although Jesus dying on the cross is very significant to Christians, he still did other significant things in his life that had purpose.



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This answer has many of the characteristics of a level 1 response, because it states a point of view, with just mostly descriptive explanations rather than arguments. There is also no significant development. It was given level 2 because there is a simple attempt to offer a judgement, that there were many things in the life of Jesus that had purpose, not just his death.

This is a very good example of a top level 2, 6 mark answer on a (c) question. There are two points of view, with evidence and development, and a summative conclusion.

(c) "The main purpose of Jesus' life was to die on the cross."

Discuss this statement considering the arguments for and against.

In your answer you should include:

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

(10)

I choose Christianity, (Roman Catholic) and as a Christian I would strongly ~~dis~~agree to this statement because, God the Father sent his only Son to die for our sins, yet he had other purposes and missions to fulfill. Jesus being born as a human, teaches our ancestors about the Kingdom of Heaven, where we are all called to be, ~~although~~ ~~the~~ without Jesus coming down as man and teaching our ancestors, how would we know that there is going to eternal life after death. Keeping in mind all of these points, we must also remember that the death of Jesus was the only way in which we humans would have earned salvation. Yet some people find it odd to say that Jesus's main purpose was to die. It does sound intimidating, yet we should ~~be~~ believe in our own faith. In the Book of Genesis, it clearly states that since the forbidden fruit was consumed by Adam and Eve, Sin was brought into the world and the only way to get rid of this Original Sin is to do

something, by someone who has no original sin and so in the Gospel of Matthew it states "God so loved the world, that he sent his only Son, and give him up for all of us". If Jesus never died and rose from the dead, we would not believe in God and there wont be eternal life after death, and so Jesus's main purpose was to die for our sake on the cross, and to rise from the dead, in order to show that death has no victory over us and to signify New Life in Jesus's name.

~~Although~~ this is a very controversial topic, Many people would have their own beliefs and ideologies of this matter, yet I have stated what I believe in.



This essay could have gone into level 3 with a better, evaluative conclusion. It should be remembered that when examiners mark using levels, they have to decide on a best fit, because many answers will have elements that fit into different levels. There is a strong discussion in this answer in favour of one point of view, of level 3 quality but it is rather less strong on the other side of the argument, and the conclusion says very little. Level 2 will have been awarded as the best fit for this answer.



Conclusions are very important on (c) questions. They should attempt a measure of evaluation – explaining which side of the discussion is more convincing, and why the arguments for that view have more merit.

This response is included because it demonstrates how an answer may move from level 2 to level 3.

(c) "The main purpose of Jesus' life was to die on the cross."

Discuss this statement considering the arguments for and against.

In your answer you should include:

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

(10)

There ~~are~~ ^{are} arguments for and against this statement

Firstly, Christians believe that Jesus' death on the cross is an atonement for mankind's sins and ~~Jesus~~ Jesus sacrificed Himself to restore our relationship with God and salvation. Christians also believe that Jesus' death on the cross is significant as it represents victory over death and evil. Besides, Christians also believe that Jesus' death shows that there is eternal life as Jesus rose from the dead and He resurrected. Also, Jesus' death and resurrection enables more people to believe in Jesus as the Son of God as nobody but the Son of God could do this. Hence, Christians think that Jesus' death is the most important event in His life.

Secondly, there are some Christians believe that the whole ~~lifetime~~ lifetime of Jesus is particularly important. It is because Jesus had done a lot of miracles to help other people. As the Son of God Himself, He cured the leper and praised the Good Samaritan. He also cured the woman with severe bleeding. ~~Jesus~~ Jesus also mentioned that

it was the people's faith in Jesus which had healed them. This makes more people to believe Him as the Son of God and have faith in Him. Without these miracles, there might be less people to believe in Jesus. Also, Jesus re-interpreted the Ten commandments, particularly 'Do not kill' and 'Do not commit ~~and~~ adultery'. This allow people to think that Jesus ~~and~~ is all loving and is the Son of God.

In my opinion, I think that not only Jesus' death on the cross is the most important, but his ~~whole~~ whole lifetime. It is because through the miracles and re-interpretation ~~of~~ done by Jesus, these further reinforced that Jesus is the Son of God, the Messiah which comes to earth ~~as~~ as God in the form of mankind. Though His death and resurrection are vital as well, the main purpose of Jesus' life is to spread love and make people to have faith in God.

Hence, I ~~do~~ ~~not~~ partially agree with the statement



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In this level 3 answer, there is more of a balance in the quality of the the two points of view, and there is an evaluation at the end, suggesting exactly why, in the opinion of the candidate, it is the life time of teaching and miracles that is most important, because they are what will have reinforced the view that he was the Messiah.

Question 1 (c)(D)

This question asks candidates to consider whether the Qur'an is the only source of authority a Muslim needs. Many candidates fully appreciated the various dimensions of this question, about the belief in the divine authority of the Qur'an itself, but also of the need for interpretation, and for good examples, such as Muhammad as well as imams and parents. Some candidates had a very good understanding of the role of ijma and qiyas in Islamic jurisprudence. This was a question that prompted a few candidates simply to quote from the Qur'an, as a way of emphasising their belief in its value. It is worth saying that these (c) questions do allow candidates to express their personal beliefs, but it asks them, too, to explain why they hold these beliefs, and also to explain why some may take a different view on the topic.

This is an example of an answer that achieves level 2. Although it is a brief response, there are some limited examples of an attempt to develop a point of view.

(c) "The Qur'an is the only source of authority a Muslim needs."

Discuss this statement considering the arguments for and against.

In your answer you should include:

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

Qur'an teach us alot of the Islamic laws and it is the first source of Islam whatever is written in the Qur'an it should be applied immediatly. some people sees that Qur'an itself is enough because it is the words of god and it explains alot of cases and how should we deal with it.

As a muslim I think that we should follow Qur'an but we should follow Sunnah because whatever prophet Muhammed was doing we should do because his actions is from god for example Qur'an asked us to pray but didn't explain how but in Sunnah we can know how to perform the prayers. So muslims should follow Qur'an and Sunnah to complete their religion.



The first paragraph of this answer shows an attempt to develop an argument. For example, the Qur'an is the first source of Islam, and perhaps should be enough because it is the word of God which teaches a lot about God's laws. In the second paragraph there is a briefer explanation of why the Sunnah is also important, but with an example. It gains level 2 because of the development, but cannot go higher because the discussion is then curtailed.

This answer achieved 5 marks, the middle of level 2. It contains a good deal of development for one point of view, although some of it is descriptive, but is less effective on the other side of the discussion.

(c) "The Qur'an is the only source of authority a Muslim needs."

Discuss this statement considering the arguments for and against.

In your answer you should include:

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

Quran is very important for muslims. The Quran teaches muslims about Allah, the angels, the books and it is a book written by Allah and thereby it is all Allah's words that is in the Quran. The Quran guides muslims when they are lost, it is a book of guidance. The Quran mentions everything that may happen in the afterlife if they don't worship Allah. The Quran teaches us about the prophet's history and it tells the good and the bad things. It is the book that was revealed in the month of Ramadan to teach the whole of mankind how to be with their faith, because prophet Muhammad (sal) is the last messenger. The Quran tells us about the purpose of life and the role of men and women. and the It teaches the rights Islam has given for the mankind and teaches in which situations are wars supposed to be held

Although the Quran tells about the guidance, during prophet's time, the Quran wasn't revealed so therefore the prophet's teachings, say and sayings only guided the

muslims. Prophet muhammad (sal) sunnah's also teaches about good habits and discribed manners. Prophet (sal) said the importance of treating everyone equally and ~~also~~ sharing resources among the people.

Not only the holy Quran, but also the teachings and sayings of the Prophet muhammad (sal) is also a source of authority a muslim needs.



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It cannot be argued that the Qur'an was not revealed during the lifetime of the Prophet. There is a good argument for why the teaching and example of the Prophet are also important, it is not the one offered here, and that affected the overall mark. However, there is a good discussion on the first page of the answer, and on 'best fit', this is certainly a level 2 response.

This is a very good answer. It offers developed arguments for both points of view, and chains of reasoning, but there are also elements of evaluation of the arguments. It is a top level 3 response, gaining 8 marks.

(c) "The Qur'an is the only source of authority a Muslim needs."

Discuss this statement considering the arguments for and against.

In your answer you should include:

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

(10)

I agree with this statement to an extent. The Quran was revealed to ~~the~~ Prophet Muhammad by Angel Jibril when he was meditating in the Cave of Hira. The Quran is referred to as the holiest book in Islam and that it provides all knowledge and guidance needed to lead a good Muslim life and go to Jannah.

The Quran contains a collection of Surahs which provide ~~ans~~ ^{answers} to many of the questions any Muslim or person may have. Prophet Muhammad would often teach that the Quran was the one true word from God. Therefore, since the Prophet is the "great exemplar" for Muslims and is the main holy book which provides deep mental, spiritual and physical guidance is the main source of authority for Muslims.

However, in Muhammad's final sermon, he said ~~that~~ "I will leave two things behind; The Quran and the Hadith, and any person who follows them will never go astray." This means that the Hadith is also ^{an} important source of authority a Muslim needs. The Hadith is a compilation of Sunnahs which are examples of Muhammad. Therefore, since Muslims consider him the "great exemplar", they must read and seek ~~for~~ ^{guidance} from the Hadith in order to live good Muslim lives.

However, people often need authority from people and not just books. Therefore, it is also important to consider Imams an important source. In the Sunni community, Imams are considered a teacher and interpreter who provides religious guidance and support. It is fairly easy to become an imam as it is only required to study Islamic sciences (However in Shi'ism, only descendants of Muhammad can be an imam). A person such as an imam is important for a Muslim to understand the words of the Quran and Hadith and provide authority and guidance if their case is special and requires an imam's opinion. Therefore, Imams are also an important source of authority for Muslims.

In Conclusion, I agree that the Quran is the main source of authority as it is a core of Islam. It is a must to believe in the Quran in order to be a Muslim. However other books such as the Hadith, Torah, Zabur (Psalms), Injil (Gospels), Scrolls of Abraham, Scrolls of Moses, Kitab (book of John the Baptist) are also read by many Muslims as a source of religious knowledge ~~an~~, understanding and authority.



To award an answer above level 2, there must first of all be all the elements of a level 2 response – usually that means a balanced, developed discussion, and a conclusion. These can be easily seen in this response. What is added here is an element of evaluation. On the top of the second page, for example, there is the idea that people need authority from people and not just from books, and also later that believing in the Qur'an is essential to being a Muslim. This is therefore considered a level 3 response.



To move from level 3 to level 4 this would have needed more elements of evaluation. They tend to be brief and isolated in this answer. Also the conclusion could have been stronger, perhaps by offering an opinion why the other holy books are read as sources of authority when Muslims have the Qur'an, rather than just stating it. Because not all these books form part of the main discussion, it could have been more effective to return to the point about the need for both books and people as sources of authority.

Question 2 (a)(B)

This question asks candidates to outline two reasons Christians celebrate Easter. It was well answered, with most candidates focusing on Jesus' death and also his resurrection.

Easter is taken to include all the events from the Last Supper to the resurrection, and the post resurrection appearances, although it does not include the Ascension or Pentecost.

This is an example of a response without development, and therefore gains 2 marks.

2 (a) Outline **two** reasons Christians celebrate Easter.

(4)

1 The death & resurrection of Jesus Christ.

2 Christians were born again & they would have new ~~new~~ lives.



There is 1 mark for the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and 1 mark for the fact that Christians have new lives as a consequence.



If the candidate had wanted to make two distinct points, about the death of Jesus and the resurrection of Jesus, then they would have needed to write them as separate points, or at least make clear that they understand them as two distinct ideas.

If the first answer had said, 'Christians celebrate the death of Jesus, who then rose again to show his power over death' that would have gained 2 marks.

This 3 mark response shows both how sometimes candidates fail to develop on (a) questions, but also an example of how the death and resurrection can be included in one response and gain 2 marks.

2 (a) Outline **two** reasons Christians celebrate Easter.

(4)

- 1 to celebrate the day that ~~God~~ Jesus died and ~~resurrected~~ was resurrected for our sins to be washed away
- 2 to signify that Jesus was able to suffer because like humans suffer



The first response gains 2 marks for development – it celebrates the day that Jesus died and was resurrected for our sins to be washed away. But there is just one simple idea in the second response – that it signifies that Jesus was able to suffer like human beings.



A possible development of the second point is that, because Jesus was able to suffer, he understood the human condition.

This is a well answered question overall, and many responses, like this one, gained full marks.

2 (a) Outline **two** reasons Christians celebrate Easter.

(4)

1 To ~~commemorate~~ remember and celebrate the death of Jesus christ on the cross to cleanse the sins of the world & . and the highest point in christianity

2 To reflect on the resurrection of Jesus christ, revealing that christians can be resurrected into the spiritual land of heaven with God in eternal joy.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

There are two well developed responses, one focusing on the death of Jesus, and one on the resurrection. This proved the most effective kind of response to gain 4 marks.

Question 2 (a)(D)

This question asks candidates to outline two reasons Eid ul-Fitr is celebrated by Muslims. It is a topic that was well understood by candidates, and well answered. But there are two important points to make. Firstly there is sometimes confusion between Eid ul-Fitr and Eid ul-Adha, so that could be stressed in lessons. Also, whilst Eid ul-Fitr marks the end of the fast during Ramadan, and gives thanks to Allah for the ability to maintain the discipline of the fast (both of which were credited), answers cannot be developed by explaining the meaning of Ramadan, because candidates needed to focus on the festival of Eid itself.

This answer gained 2 marks, because of the confusion about the festivals.

2 (a) Outline **two** reasons Eid ul-Fitr is celebrated by Muslims.

After Hajj

(4)

1 To celebrate the completion of Hajj in a lifetime.

2 To live like Muhammad who is the 'Seal of the prophets' and the most important Muslim.



Because the Hajj festival is Eid ul-Adha, this could not gain any marks for the first response.

This is a 3 mark answer because of the lack of development in the first response.

2 (a) Outline **two** reasons Eid ul-Fitr is celebrated by Muslims.

(4)

1 It is celebrated to thank god for the power he gave humans of self-control and devotion to him.

2 It is celebrated as an opportunity to give money to the poor and fast with the community, this strengthens Umma (community).



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

In the first response there is a single undeveloped idea – thanking God for giving them the ability to show self control and devotion. The brief suffix, 'and devotion' is not in itself sufficient to gain the development mark.

In the second response, Muslims do not fast at Eid ul-Fitr, but they do give money to the poor, and this is an act that helps to strengthen the Ummah, so 2 marks could be awarded.

A 4 mark response that effectively develops both reasons, and focuses solely on the festival itself.

2 (a) Outline **two** reasons Eid ul-Fitr is celebrated by Muslims.

(4)

1 To celebrate the end of Ramadan and the personal achievement of fasting through a whole month.

2 To celebrate and strengthen the Ummah by donating to the poor (zakat) and putting up decorations / holding large Raasls.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

A mark was awarded for celebrating the end of Ramadan, and also that this same celebration is about the personal achievement of being able to complete the fast, gaining the development mark.

The festival also strengthens the Ummah, because a special zakat is given during this Eid.

Question 2 (b)(B)

This question asks candidates to explain the significance of Christmas for Christians. As Christmas is such a popular festival, this topic was particularly well understood. The one weakness in some responses was their focus on what Christians do at Christmas, rather than on the meaning behind the signs and symbols. Some of the apparently more secular aspects of the festival, such as gift-giving and family meals, were credited, provided they were illustrative of religious ideas such as the coming of the Magi, and the model of the 'Holy Family'.

This is a 2 mark answer, because the second paragraph is not sufficiently focused to gain any extra marks.

(b) Explain the significance of Christmas for Christians.

(6)

- christmas is when jesus christ was born and the celebrate it by going to church because the believe if he wasn't born the non of these to could happen
- christians celebrate this christians believe that jesus showed them great example and therefore the celebrate him.
- some christians believe.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

The first mark is gained by simply pointing out that Christmas marks the birth of Jesus. This idea is developed, albeit very simply and not clearly expressed, by saying that Christians go to church because the birth meant that other things could happen.

Having already established that Christmas marks the birth of Jesus, the second paragraph needs to exemplify the example that Jesus showed to gain further marks.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

On the second part of the response, some candidates pointed out the exemplary nature of Jesus being born into an ordinary family, and this would have helped to gain extra marks here too.

This is a very good example of the kind of response many candidates gave to (b) questions, by giving two simply developed reasons.

(b) Explain the significance of Christmas for Christians.

(6)

It is a remembrance of Jesus's birth.
For this reason many believe it to be significant as without it Christianity would not exist and humanity would still have the original sin.

It is also a time of celebration and community to celebrate ~~the~~ ~~life~~ Jesus's life and teachings, and so many consider it a family festival to give thanks and be with one another.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

There are two ideas here. The first is that Christmas is a time of remembrance, because without the birth of Jesus, there would be no Christianity and original sin would remain. The second is that it is a family celebration, because it is a time to remember Jesus' life and teachings.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

These paragraphs could have been developed to gain extra marks. For example, the candidate could have developed the idea of Original Sin, and the Christian belief that the birth of Jesus is a key moment in salvation history because he became man to save people from sin. Simply stated, as it is in this answer, the extra development marks cannot be gained.

This was awarded 6 marks because both reasons are fully developed.

(b) Explain the significance of Christmas for Christians.

(6)

Christmas is where we celebrate the nativity of our Lord. In the Book of John, it is stated that 'the Word was made Flesh.' We celebrate and give thanks to God for giving us His Son.

Christmas is also a time for ^{family} (~~sacrifice~~) and giving. Jesus was born in a family, and Mary and Joseph have set us a good example ^{for a} (of a) family. So we remember the ones closest to us and exchange gifts ^{of giving gift} we each other. This is also related to the tradition ^{of giving gift} after the Three Wise Men gave gifts to Jesus.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

There are examples of much better development here. For example, in the first paragraph, Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus. This was expressed by John in his Gospel, who spoke about the Word becoming flesh, and so Christmas is a celebration of God giving his Son. There is a similarly full development in the second paragraph.

Question 2 (b)(D)

This question asks candidates to explain why Muslims visit places of pilgrimage. It was well understood, and there were some comprehensive answers about the value of Hajj and any form of pilgrimage. Some candidates did overly focus on what happens on Hajj, and failed to get to grips with the specific question of why pilgrimage is an important activity. Such answers, even if developed, were likely to achieve only up to 4 marks.

This is a 3 mark response. There is development of one reason, but not the other.

(b) Explain why Muslims visit places of pilgrimage.

(6)
It is an order by Allah (SWT) that every Muslims should visit places at pilgrimage at least once in their lifetime as it shows our faith and submission to Allah (SWT) and following his commandments.

It is also one of the pillars of Islam and is obligatory to be followed by the command of Allah (SWT)



The main argument here is that Muslims go on pilgrimage because it is commanded. It is commanded by Allah to go on Hajj at least once in a lifetime, and this is developed by explaining how it shows faith and submission to Allah. The second response just says it is also obligatory because it is one of the Five Pillars.



To explain pilgrimage in terms of being commanded is entirely legitimate, but to gain the highest marks there would need to be some explanation of the purpose beyond obedience to command, especially the spiritual benefits that are believed to be received.

There were many examples of 4 mark answers, the result of simple development. This is quite a good mark, of course, but it is important to see how a higher mark could have been gained.

(b) Explain why Muslims visit places of pilgrimage. =

(6)

Because Hajj^(pilgrimage) is one of the 5 pillars of Islam it is obligatory for muslims to go to makkah and perform hajj at least one^{time} in their life. During pilgrimage the muslims iman is strengthened drawing them closer to Allah so the muslim can reap the rewards of this life and the next so then he may enter heaven. Performing salah in near the kabbah gives a muslim extra good deeds so he may enter heaven.



There are three simply developed reasons here, relating to obligation, strengthening the iman, and the good deeds that can gain paradise. There are no examples of deeper development, so this could not go above 4 marks.



It is important to remember that even a large number of simply developed reasons cannot go above 4 marks due to the requirements of the levels. A fuller account of how pilgrimage might strengthen the iman would have been a good way to add development to this answer.

This 5 mark response is included to illustrate how answers can be more fully developed.

(b) Explain why Muslims visit places of pilgrimage.

(6)

Pilgrimage to Mecca is important because it is the birthplace of Muhammad and contains the Kaba so going there allows them to ~~get~~ connect with their religion. Muhammad fought for many years to be able to return to Mecca after fleeing to Medina in 622 CE so the right to pilgrimage is very important for Muslims ~~and~~ now that they have it.

Hajj is ~~one~~ of the fifth pillar of Islam so it is very important to Muslims that they go on pilgrimage to Mecca in their life.

Hajj occurs at the same time as Eid ul-Adha so it is a way of showing devotion to Allah that Muslims can celebrate Eid ul-Adha in such a religiously ~~an~~ important place.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

In the first paragraph, there is a well developed account of why Mecca (Makkah) is an important place of pilgrimage, because of its association with Muhammad, which makes it a particularly important place to connect with the religion.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

This answer would have been even better had the candidate explained a little more why being in a place associated with Muhammad might bring benefit to Muslims, such as the ability to appreciate more fully the challenges faced by Muhammad, which might encourage them to face their own challenges.

Question 2 (c)(B)

This question asks candidates to discuss whether “Jerusalem is the holiest city for Christians.” There was some confusion about what happened in Bethlehem and what happened in Jerusalem. Also some candidates fell into the overly simple response of listing events and places of interest, and saying such things as ‘Jerusalem is important because there is the Church of the Holy Sepulchre’. This is true, of course, and not without merit, but candidates really needed to speak about the importance of places and events for Christians, and perhaps even to give some thought to what is meant by the word ‘holy’. However, there were some very good answers, with some excellent evaluative conclusions.

This is a 3 mark answer, the top of level 1. It is mostly made up of simple observations, with mainly descriptive development, and does not really offer more than limited insight into the significance of places of pilgrimage.

(c) "Jerusalem is the holiest city for Christians."

Discuss this statement considering the arguments for and against.

In your answer you should include:

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

This statement is suggesting that Christians will experience more holiness ~~than~~ in ~~the~~ Jerusalem than Bethlehem or Lourdes or Walsingham, well personally I believe that this is false. I believe that this is true.

Jerusalem ~~is~~ has high significance within Jesus' life and his life events, for example his crucifixion although in Calvary [right outside of Jerusalem] ~~it~~ he walked through Jerusalem when going to his final destination.

The Garden of Gethsemane, this place is highly significant to show Jesus' faith and his ~~Jesus~~ downfall.

he is betrayed by Judas and he 'automatically' knows that is for his doing.

In conclusion ~~the~~ ~~most~~ ~~significant~~ ~~place~~ ~~of~~ ~~worship~~ ~~and~~ ~~it~~ ~~has~~ ~~the~~ ~~more~~ ~~significant~~ ~~places~~ ~~within~~ ~~it~~ ~~to~~ ~~be~~ ~~appealing~~ ~~to~~ ~~tourists~~. Jerusalem was the most significant place of worship and it has the most significant places within it to be appealing to tourists.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

Whilst there is some development in this answer, it takes the form of what may be seen and done in Jerusalem, and even that is quite limited. There is also no argument in favour of any other place.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

Development by description was a feature of a number of answers this year. On this particular question, candidates often simply named the sites or described pilgrimage activities. These have some merit, of course, but they do not provide any deep insight into why any place may be considered holy.

This is a level 2 response that gains 6 marks. It takes the form most associated with answers at the top of level 2, with a series of developed reasons, and a conclusion that mainly just repeats in summary what has been already said.

(c) "Jerusalem is the holiest city for Christians."

Discuss this statement considering the arguments for and against.

In your answer you should include:

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

(10)

The statement asks if Jerusalem is the most religiously significant pilgrimage sight for Christians. It'll be argued that no pilgrimage sight should have domination over others, as wherever you are God is with you, somewhere he has visited should not matter as he made the ground you walk on.

Jerusalem holds significance for Christians as it ~~is~~ is the place of ^{the majority of} Jesus' life. ~~It is~~ ~~many~~ A pilgrimage to Jerusalem will show devotion and love to God, however just because it holds significant Christian value, doesn't mean it should be the "holiest city." It held Jesus for many years with significant milestones in Christianity's popularity, however ~~if~~ a true Christian would ~~not~~ believe Earth is the holiest destination as it is all come from God himself, Jerusalem is just a part of ~~the~~ it.

~~Other~~ Other cities such as Rome can also hold significance in Christianity, some might argue even more so than Jerusalem, or maybe

Bethlehem as it held the birth of Christ. Yet, God teaches us to "love all equally". ~~It~~ ~~that~~ What defines a place as Holy? Yes, the son of God and saviour of humanity spent most of his time there, and taught us the ways to live but does that mean if a Christian does not visit Jerusalem then they are not true to their faith? I believe the whole Earth is holy and God would not want us to compare parts of it to see which is more "Holy", the same way he would not want us to battle each other for faith or betterness.

In conclusion, it was argued that no pilgrimage site is more Holy than the others. I conclude with the belief that although Jerusalem is extremely significant in Christianity, other places are also as equally significant and no place can be more Holy than the other, as Earth itself is the Holiest place of them all.



The first paragraph of this response does no more than say what is going to be argued, and on the second page there is a misunderstanding about how much time Jesus spent in Bethlehem. However, the key arguments are valid and, overall, it presents reasons for different points of view, and a conclusion. The view is that it achieves 6 marks as a best fit.



This year there was an increase in time spent explaining what the answer is going to contain. For the most part, that is not a good use of the time available, as in itself it is unlikely to gain marks.

This is an example of an answer at the top of level 3 that provides an opportunity to distinguish between description and explanation as forms of development, which can often move an answer up a whole level.

(c) "Jerusalem is the holiest city for Christians."

Discuss this statement considering the arguments for and against.

In your answer you should include:

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

(10)

Jerusalem is the holiest city for Christians. This is mainly because Jerusalem contains the Garden of Gethsemane. This garden ~~had~~ was witness to many of the major events in the Bible. In this garden, Jesus was arrested after he'd been betrayed by Judas. This garden is also where one of Jesus's disciples had cut off a man's ear for ~~trying to~~ ^{trying to} arrest Jesus. Jesus then stopped him and healed the ear of the pharisee, this story plays a vital role in teaching all Christians that they must choose to show kindness to others. As ~~Jesus had~~ ^{said in the Bible:} "thou shall ~~en~~ love thy neighbour as they love thy self."

Jerusalem is the holiest city for Christians as it contains Via Delarosa. Via Delarosa is the path Jesus had to climb whilst holding the cross as punishment before he was crucified. This path is known as a reminder for Christians all over the world ~~that~~ ^{the} hardship Jesus had faced for our sins. It is proof that Jesus loved his disciples as he later died for our sins on a cross. Via Delarosa is a ~~part~~ ^{holy} place as Jesus had to suffer climbing the trail, thus many Christians go there today to experience what Jesus had to go through whilst literally walking on the footsteps of Jesus.

However, Jerusalem isn't necessarily the most important city for Christians. ~~The~~ ^{considered} Rome and the Vatican are extremely holy places as well. In Vatican City, lies a popular pilgrimage destination known as St. Peter's Basilica.

This place was the resting place of St. Peter himself, the first Pope. St. Peter's Basilica allows Christians to pay their respects to St. Peter and ~~remember~~ ^{acknowledge} how he was a martyr. Through this Christians ~~can~~ ^{follow} St. Peter's example and try to do their best to follow in the footsteps of Jesus and the ^{sinless} path God had made for us. St. Peter's tomb here allows Christians to understand how ~~good~~ ^{much} he had trusted Jesus and God and how we must do the same.

Another place that's the most important for Christians other than Jerusalem is Bethlehem. In Bethlehem, was where Jesus himself was born. For example, in the Chapel Manger is where Jesus had been put to sleep by Joseph and Mary. At this chapel, Jesus was visited by 3 wise men who'd gifted him Myrrh, ^{As Jesus} gold and more. ~~The~~ ^{place} was born in a barn, this represents equality for Christians. Jesus, the Son of God, was born in a place considered 'poor' ^{proving} to Christians the importance of equality. Once Jesus had been born the first to see him were fishermen & wise men, people very different from each other. This proved to Christians that Jesus loves all types of people: from the rich to the poor, thus suggesting how ~~is~~ ^{equality's} a vital Christian teaching and why Bethlehem ^{is} the most important place.

In conclusion, I believe that the most important place for Christians is Jerusalem. ~~Visiting~~ ^{Visiting} Jerusalem as part of a pilgrimage allows Christians to walk in the footsteps of Jesus and to be able to experience what Jesus, the Son of God, himself had to experience for our sins. In Jerusalem, ~~so~~ many vital parts and teachings take place, thus being the most important.



At the end of the first paragraph, where there is a description of events in Gethsemane, there is an explanation of what the event highlights about the teaching of Jesus and what lesson a Christian can learn. In a similar way, in the first paragraph of the second page, there is an explanation of how being near the martyrdom of Peter in Rome encourages Christians to learn from his example. This kind of explanation differs from one that might say more simply – that in Jerusalem, pilgrims can visit where Jesus was arrested, and in Rome the place where Peter was executed. This essay contains further similar examples, which explains why it was considered, on best fit, a level 3 answer.



This very good answer fails to achieve level 4 in part because there is not a strong evaluative conclusion. It says what pilgrims to Jerusalem can experience, but it needed to go on to elaborate on the ways in which this experience can impact the spiritual life, in a way that contributes to the idea that the place itself is 'holy'.

Many candidates could have scored higher marks if they had addressed in their answers why any place might be considered holy or, more specifically, what holiness means.

Question 2 (c)(D)

This question asks candidates to consider whether all festivals are of equal importance for Muslims. As Principal Examiner, I needed to decide, having read candidate responses, what can count as a festival. Although the word could be thought to encompass mainly joyful celebrations that might involve fine clothes and meals as well as prayers and services, the term was taken to include more solemn occasions, such as Ashura as celebrated by the Shi'a community, and Ramadan. Many answers spoke with knowledge and understanding of the importance of different festivals, but not so many candidates were able to address what it might be that would make one festival have more value. On the other hand, it did draw out some very good evaluations of the meaning of sacrifice, thanksgiving and self-discipline.

Some candidates displayed a simple insight into this issue, but then failed to expand the comments in a way that could have taken them from level 1, as this achieved, into level 2.

(c) "All festivals are of equal importance for Muslims."

Discuss this statement considering the arguments for and against.

In your answer you should include:

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

(10)

The statement is true as Muslims believe both eid's are equally important and we treat them each with high respect and importance. Each festival are celebrated for different reasons but they are both very significant to Muslims. Other people just simply won't agree if they believe in another faith. The Muslims weren't given any Scripture nor Hadith to believe one is greater than the other so each festival should be thought of equally.



There are two good insights in this answer – that all festivals are celebrated for a different purpose, and that there is no authoritative text that suggests one is greater than another. Unfortunately these are not then developed, so they stand as isolated explanations.



The candidate could have improved this answer by giving examples of the different purposes of Muslim festivals. Even some simple development could have taken this answer into level 2.

This answer, which was awarded 6 marks, exemplifies the most seen response to this question – a comparison between Eid ul-Adha and Eid ul-Fitr.

(c) "All festivals are of equal importance for Muslims."

Discuss this statement considering the arguments for and against.

In your answer you should include:

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

(10)

There are two major festivals of Islam: Eid-ul-Fitr and Eid-Al-Adha. Eid-ul-Fitr refers to the festival that celebrates the previous month of fasting, while Eid-Al-Adha refers to the festival that celebrates the conclusion of Hajj. This shows that both these festivals celebrate a pillar of Islam, emphasizing their ^{equal} significance in Islam.

They are ^{also} both equally important as they are done and celebrated for the same purpose, which is to remind Muslims that Allah must always be the center of a Muslim's life. This is shown in both festivals as they both require Muslims to endure hardships for the sake of Allah. In Eid-ul-Fitr, this is shown in the fasting from sunrise to sunset for a full month, and in Eid-Al-Adha, this is shown in the standing at Arafat ^{directly} under the sun. This similarity also indicates the both festivals are equally important.

However, some may argue that Eid-Al-Adha is more important for Muslims. This is because this festival that occurs

after Hajj, ~~This means~~ ^{which is that} ~~this~~ large event that is considered lifechanging. It involves several historic references from the time of Prophet Adam and Eve meeting at Arafat to the near sacrifice of Prophet Ibrahim Ibrahim's son, ~~at Mina~~. This makes ~~Hajj~~ ^{Eid-Al-Adha} significantly important as it reminds ~~them~~ ^{Muslims} of their religion being from the very beginning.

~~Hajj~~ ~~is~~ This festival may also be regarded as more important as ~~it only needs to be~~ the pilgrimage before it needs to be performed only once. This festival is a way of reminding Muslims of their duty to perform Hajj, which was ~~directly~~ said in the Prophet Muhammad's final sermon.

In conclusion, Islam is all about equality in the creations of Allah and these festivals are no exception. They are both significantly ^{and equally} important and both bring immense ~~job + joy~~ joy to Muslims worldwide.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

This is a very good level 2 discussion, with arguments for saying that festivals are of equal importance and for making a distinction. The conclusion is also promising, in that it raises the idea, for example, that importance might be linked to the joyful impact they have on the worldwide Muslim community. This could have been expanded on, perhaps by explaining how the celebration of all festivals at the same time, by Muslims all over the world, unites the Ummah in joy, and strengthens commitment to Islam, and that is why they have equal value. That is the kind of evaluative response that can take a level 2 answer into level 3.

This answer moves into level 3, and is included to illustrate how this higher mark is attained.

(c) "All festivals are of equal importance for Muslims."

Discuss this statement considering the arguments for and against.

In your answer you should include:

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

(10)

I do agree that all the muslim festivals like Eid-ul-Addah and Eid-ul-Fitr are equally important since each have their own significance for which they are celebrated around the world by the Muslim community.

However, some people may argue that Eid-ul-Addah is much more important than Eid-ul-Fitr, since Eid-ul-Addah is the bigger eid and it signifies the sacrifice made by prophet Ibrahim, moreover, Eid-ul-Addah is after one of the most difficult and important pillars of Islam - Hajj.

Yes, I do agree that Eid-ul-Addah is very important but Eid-ul-Fitr is an equally important since it has its own significance. Eid-ul-Fitr, fitr- means break, the break up of the bad deeds and increased self control.

Moreover, Eid-ul-Fitre is also after one of the pillars of Islam - Sawm. Moreover, Allah in the Quran signifies the importance of Sawm - "fasting has been prescribed to you as it was prescribed to the ones before you, you may shall have self-restraint" this signifies the importance of Sawm and Eid-ul-Fitr which is at the end of Ramadan.

Moreover, Eid-ul-Fitr marks the end of the holiest month, the month of Ramadan during which the Quran was first revealed to prophet Muhammed.

Hence in conclusion I believe that both the festivals made great importance ~~to~~ ^{due to the} Muslim history, moreover, are equally important due to their great history each are linked to. Eid-ul-Adha signifies sacrifice, Muslims should be ready to sacrifice anything for the sake of Allah and Eid-ul-Fitr signifies, self-control over the bad deeds, a beginning of new start, with no bad deeds, just the will to follow the right path.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

The key to the higher mark in this answer is mainly in the conclusion. There is a clear attempt to identify what it is that gives festivals value, such as the importance of the idea of sacrifice, and also of providing an opportunity for making fresh starts. Although this is not expanded upon, it is an example of a response that seeks to draw lessons from the preceding discussion.

Question 3 (a)(B)

This question asks candidates to outline two features of a Christian baptism. Most candidates were familiar with the rituals of baptism, both those for infant as well as believer's baptism. Candidates are also rewarded if they offer, both as a feature and as a development, an understanding of the meaning behind the rites and symbols. The three following examples show the progress from answers gaining 2 marks, 3 marks and 4 marks.

This gains 2 marks for two simple features.

3 (a) Outline **two** features of a Christian baptism.

(4)

1 either being wiped or submerged in holy
water three times.

2 family and friends are invited.



This answer was judged to offer two simple responses – that baptism involves either 'wiping' with or submerging in water, and that parents are present. This latter feature may seem rather obvious, but as parents have a specific role, their presence is a feature.



This response highlights again an issue about single sentence responses. Presuming the candidate had the knowledge to add more, had they said that infant baptism usually involves 'wiping' but adult baptism often involves being submerged, that could have been seen as a developed response. It can seem like a fine distinction, but it is the added content (about babies and adults) that makes the difference between a simple and a developed idea.

This 3 mark response has a developed and a simple feature.

3 (a) Outline **two** features of a Christian baptism.

(4)

1 Baptism font. A font for infants to be baptize in.

2 Water or holy water. Christians get baptize in water, so their sins would be fully washed.



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Examiner Comments

The baptismal font is a feature, but the further explanation is in fact just saying the same thing in more words. The second case is different. Holy water is indeed a feature, and the idea of the washing of sins is the development.

Finally, a full 4 mark response, with two examples of developed features.

3 (a) Outline **two** features of a Christian baptism.

(4)

- 1 Christian baptism includes a priest who will pray over a child along with many family members who are ~~is~~ welcoming the holy spirit ~~is~~ for the child as well as welcoming the baby to the Christian community
- 2 Christian baptism also include a "holy water" which will be poured on the baby's head ~~water~~ in order to symbolise the washing away of the "original sin"



In the first response there is quite a lot for the examiner to unravel – a priest praying, family members welcoming the Holy Spirit, the family welcoming the child into the Christian community. It would have been simpler for the candidate (as well as the examiner) if just one developed point had been made. However, it is clear that, at a baptism, prayers are said, including ones that invoke the Holy Spirit (or that welcome the child into the Christian community), so it is a developed response.

Question 3 (a)(D)

This question asks candidates to outline two features of Muslim worship in the home. It was clear that many candidates had experience of such worship and this was a well answered question. It is useful to stress here that in some questions, such as this one, a feature could be encapsulated in a single word. For example, a mark would be given for the term 'wudu', and the development mark for explaining its purpose.

This 4 mark answer is chosen because it includes a reference to the Qur'an that needs to be clarified.

3 (a) Outline two features of Muslim worship in the home.

(4)

1 They must perform wudu before praying this involves washing knees, hands and feet to show your purity before God

2 The Qur'an is kept on an elevated platform and clean to show your respect for the Qur'an and Allah.



The first response to this question was quite common – that wudu is part of worship, and there is a developed explanation of why it is important.

There were various references to the Qur'an, and some of them clearly referred to where the Qur'an was kept in the house when not used in worship. The examiners awarded marks where the reference could be understood as referring to worship. It is the case that during worship in the home, Muslims will place the Qur'an on a suitable raised platform, and certainly never on the ground.

This answer gains 2 marks, specifically because it is necessary to define what could count as worship.

3 (a) Outline **two** features of Muslim worship in the home.

(4)

1. A Muslim ~~must~~ ^{may} appoint a certain, clean ~~part of~~ ~~prayer~~ area to offer Salah in their homes. Especially in minorities where finding a ~~nearby~~ nearby Mosque may be hard.
2. The mother has the utmost responsibility of ensuring a halal home for their children where they grow up becoming pious worshippers of Allah.



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Examiner Comments

The second response makes use of a wider definition of worship that could be accepted. Ensuring a halal household in Islam, a kosher home in Judaism, or more generally a home that respects the laws and commandments of God, can be a way of honouring God. In the context of the specification, however, the term 'worship' is used about the rituals and forms of the different modes of prayer and adoration that are part of many religions.

Question 3 (b)(B)

This question asks candidates to explain why the celebration of the Eucharist is important for most Christians. There were some excellent answers to this question, and some candidates clearly have a deep understanding of the importance of the Eucharist, especially within certain specific Christian traditions. It is worth saying that, whilst the question acknowledged that the Eucharist is not important within all traditions, credit could not be given for answers that explained why this is the case.

A 4 mark answer in which three simply developed reasons can be clearly identified.

(b) Explain why the celebration of the Eucharist is important for most Christians.

(6)

The eucharist is the sharing of wine and bread ~~as~~ to symbolise Jesus' blood and body. This is important to Roman Catholics as they believe Jesus is spiritually ~~there~~ ^{present} and that they get to connect with him as they eat the bread and wine. It is further important as at the last supper he commanded that his 12 disciples ^{to} do this in memory of him. By doing eucharist, they are following Jesus' word. In the Methodist church, Eucharist is important as they share a loaf of bread - ~~are~~ all having a part, building community. It also spiritually ~~is~~ ^{nutrizes} the Church.



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Examiner Comments

This answer offers three responses. The bread and wine represent Jesus' body and blood, which makes Jesus spiritually present in the Eucharist. It is following Jesus' command, when he told his apostles to do it in his memory. Methodists share bread as it builds community, and spiritually nourishes the Church. These are all very good answers, in some cases showing a good insight into Christian thinking, but they do not naturally link together, and they are not developed.



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Examiner Tip

Taking just one example, the candidate could have gone on to expand on why Jesus might have thought it so important to command people to celebrate the Eucharist, and what spiritual benefits are thought to come from it.

This 6 mark answer shows how ideas can be linked together to form a fully developed understanding of the importance of the Eucharist.

(b) Explain why the celebration of the Eucharist is important for most Christians.

(6)

For a Catholic, the celebration of the Eucharist is important because the bread and wine transubstantiates into the body and blood of Christ. This makes it significant because it means that Christ is physically present at the celebration. God's presence is seen as significant ~~as~~ as he is "the way to the Father" and eternal life. However ~~as~~ even those who do not believe that the bread and wine literally transform into the ~~br~~ body and blood, ^{like Quakers,} value the celebration of the Eucharist ~~as~~ ^{like Quakers,} because it is seen as symbolic of Christ's sacrifice and a good way of remembering his importance. They also ~~believe~~ believe that during the Eucharist there is the real presence of God through the holy mystery, once again highlighting its importance.



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Examiner Comments

In this answer there is a much fuller account of the spiritual benefits that many Christians believe are associated with celebrating the Eucharist. There is also a link from one Christian tradition to another, emphasising a shared understanding. This demonstrates an added insight into the different ways of expressing a common Christian belief.

Question 3 (b)(D)

This question asks candidates to explain why death rituals are important for Muslims. This question did seem to differentiate between candidates quite noticeably. Many candidates were aware of the rituals themselves, but fewer could attach a full understanding of the significance of the rituals. Those that could, often demonstrated a very deep understanding of this aspect of Islam.

This 6 mark answer focuses on two different approaches to the question, and provides well developed explanations for both.

(b) Explain why death rituals are important for Muslims.

(6)

The death rituals are important and each step in the death rituals are important. Death rituals help the people understand that death is just a gateway to the next eternal world, hence its not something which should be glorified or wasted money on. The death rituals help to remind the muslims that death is ~~un~~ unpredictable and this world is temporary ~~and just a preparation for the ne~~ its just a test from Allah, on which we should be answerable on the day of ~~judg~~ judgement. The death rituals such as ghusl, is carried out to make sure the person is clean of impurities caused due to the sins committed. During the time of the rituals muslims tend to spend their time praying and reading Surah, asking for the dead persons forgiveness and reflecting on their deeds, asking for repentance. And understanding the power Allah hdds in our life.



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Examiner Comments

One acceptable approach, in the first part of this answer, is why death rituals in general might be considered important, referring to the way they help to understand the transitory nature of life and its dependence on Allah. Then, in the second part, it focuses on the actual rituals and how they stress the ideas of purification and repentance, again returning to the way life and death depend on Allah. Put together, these two approaches add up to a very good, developed understanding, for which the examiner awarded 6 marks.

This 4 mark answer is a mixture of explanation and description. It is a good answer, but one that could have developed the explanatory elements a little more.

(b) Explain why death rituals are important for Muslims.

(6)

When a person loses their life a Jannazah is held for the deceased person. It is a prayer read by Muslims to ask forgiveness upon the deceased person and protect them from the punishment of the grave. Once the prayer is complete the body is buried. It holds such importance as a reminder that death is inevitable and has no written date it can happen at anytime. It is written said to do by the prophet Muhammad (Saw) and Muslims follow his teachings which another reason for the importance it holds.



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Examiner Comments

There is description here of what happens, and quite a few lines dedicated to the fact that it is done by the direction of Muhammad. These are valid aspects of an answer, but the explanatory aspects of the response answer the question more directly (about asking for forgiveness and the recognition that death is inevitable) and could have been expanded for further credit.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

In answering 'explain why' questions, it can often be taken for granted that what happens is understood, and so the candidate can focus more fully on 'why' - in this case why the rituals are performed, and what is their importance in terms of understanding Muslim belief.

Question 3 (c)(B)

This question asks candidates to consider whether all Christian churches should have the same features. There was one notable error in the interpretation of this question, on the part of a few candidates. The question comes from section C of the specification, which refers to places of worship, and the lower case 'c' in churches also indicated the building. However some candidates spoke about the features of the beliefs of different denominations. There was rarely nothing at all of merit in these answers, but usually they only touched on the actual question topic itself.

Otherwise, there were some interesting discussions about the features of church buildings, though it was rare for candidates to be able to draw out the full implications of church design. Many knew, for example, why some traditions favour altars and others communion tables, but few candidates provided the development of the themes of sacrifice and shared meal that would have taken the discussion to a deeper level.

This 6 mark answer offers a discussion of both points of view, but the supporting material is less developed, and there is a simple conclusion.

(c) "All Christian churches should have the same features."

Discuss this statement considering the arguments for and against.

In your answer you should include:

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

(10)

Many Christian churches are in the shape of a cross facing east. This is so that from heaven you can see the cross and know that it is a church. This is incredibly important to many Christians as the church is a stable part of their lives. Traditional churches will all be built in the same way meaning wherever you go they will have the same significance for people. Traditional churches are built with the roof of the nave being in the shape of the underside of a boat. This is to symbolise the church guiding you through your life much as a boat would guide you to your destination. Traditionally the altar would be at the back of the church nave so the ordained minister could be as close to Jerusalem whilst giving the communion. By having the same features, you are uniting the churches under one God and showing Christians that the church has some sort of formality.

However, the church is not just the building

looks like but the people in the building. It does not matter how decorated or ornate the church building is but the quality of the people inside. ~~Just~~ Many modern christian churches have been set up in buildings that do not look like traditional churches but that does not mean that these churches are any less valued by God than the traditional ones. Jesus died on the cross to save everybody, regardless of what the building they worship inside looks like. In a modern society, there is a growing trend to not visit church but instead worship from home. ~~This is not a wrong~~ This is still regarded as the same worship just it is not in a traditional building.

In conclusion, whether or not churches should all have the same features is a very controversial topic. I believe that it does not make a difference as to the type of church you worship in as it is all the same under God.



When comparing this with the following 8 mark answer, it is apparent that most of the arguments offer a description with a brief explanation, eg, that many traditional church roofs look like upturned boats, to represent the idea of the Church acting as a guide. Such ideas would have benefitted from further development, and a better explanation of changed attitudes. Also the conclusion acknowledges that the topic raises a controversial issue, but then offers just a simply expressed opinion that it does not really matter.



When making a good discussion point, the instinct should always be to develop it further, and not then to move on to the next point. In (c) questions, depth is more important than breadth.

This 8 mark response is included to mark the contrast with an answer that is at the top of level 2, which relates in particular to its evaluative conclusion.

(c) "All Christian churches should have the same features."

Discuss this statement considering the arguments for and against.

In your answer you should include:

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

(10)

Catholics would agree because the Church is a sacred place with the presence of God in the Eucharist. It is a holy place for worship for followers, thus it must have certain features such as the presence of an altar, tabernacle because the bread and wine which symbolises the body and blood of Christ is stored in the tabernacle. Thus, it holds great importance as it is the presence of Christ in the Church. The altar should also be present because it is where transubstantiation takes place. During mass, the priest blesses the bread and wine which changes to the body and blood of Christ through transubstantiation. All churches must have these features so that the Holy Communion can be carried out.

Some Protestants would also agree because features of the Church depict their faith. For example, the crucifix should be in every Church because it is the central of Christian faith. It reminds Christians about how Jesus died on the cross and sacrificed for the salvation of man. It strengthens Christian faith because the crucifix acts as a reminder of their faith and religion, therefore it should be featured in all churches.

Moreover, ~~concrete~~ Christians believe that the stations of the cross and stained glass windows should be featured in all churches because they remind Christians of the ~~crucifixion~~ crucifixion of Jesus and the sufferings He ~~be~~ bore for them before He died on the cross. Stained glass

windows depict biblical stories which convey teachings of the Church, to guiding Christians to lead a good Christian life and follow the will of God. This strengthens their faith, so ~~it should be~~ all ~~christian~~ Christian Churches should have these ^{same} features.

However, some non-catholic Christians would disagree because they do not worship the Virgin Mary but there are statues of the Virgin Mary in some Catholic Churches. They believe that ~~the~~ worshipping ~~any~~ any religious figures other than God is idolatry. Thus, they will not accept that all Christian Churches should have the same ~~the~~ features.

Additionally, the Quakers will disagree because they do not believe in the prestigious designs of the Church as they believe that those designs are all materialistic and serves no purpose in worshipping God. They believe ~~and~~ in simplicity and modesty therefore excessive features of a Church is not needed and should not be the same in all churches.

In my point of view ~~not all the~~ Christian Churches should not have the same features because there are many diverse denominations in Christianity in which they having contrasting beliefs between each other. The characteristics of their traditions of the Church should be kept according to their beliefs as a form of respect for their personal faith.

In conclusion, although Catholics would agree on having certain features of the Church to facilitate the Holy Communion and to strengthen faith, not all Christian Churches should have the same features because there should be respect for the diversity of beliefs in different denominations of Christianity.



There is a consistent argument throughout this answer, that church design reflects the variety of Christian belief. It also suggests that there are some features, such as 'stations of the cross' that perhaps all churches should share because they represent a common aspect, namely the suffering and death of Jesus. It is a full answer, with a good deal of supporting argument. It goes to the top of level 3 primarily because of the way it is concluded, with the candidate not just noting the diversity of belief and practice within Christianity, but also suggesting the importance of accepting this diversity, in the design of churches, as a way of respecting and even of strengthening Christian faith of the individual members.



The evaluative nature of the conclusion of this answer is a very good example of how a candidate can reach and express an informed view of a topic. This is something that is required by the rubrics for the higher levels, and which demonstrates the skills that allow the stronger candidates to stand out.

Question 3 (c)(D)

This question asks candidates to consider whether the most important purpose of a mosque is as a place of education. It was not a surprise that most candidates were anxious to point out that almost all Muslims would stress that the mosque is primarily a place of worship. Some even went to the extent of suggesting that any other view was not worth entertaining. This is an opportunity to emphasise the importance of these (c) questions. They allow for strong convictions, but there is great educational value in trying to understand why a different point of view might have some merit. In this case, at the time of the establishment of the first mosques in Madinah, they served many important purposes – worship of course, education, and as a place of refuge being among them. Also, all the reasons a candidate provides for why different points of view might be considered incorrect will be credited according to their merit.

The following two responses demonstrate the difference between an answer with random or disconnected thoughts and one where the candidate has constructed a well argued discussion and drawn a strong conclusion.

This is a 4 mark answer. That is not because there is no understanding or insight here, but rather because the answer is not constructed into an essay, but is presented more as a series of random and usually undeveloped ideas.

(c) "The most important purpose of a mosque is as a place of education."

Discuss this statement considering the arguments for and against.

In your answer you should include:

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

(10)

Muslims highly support this statement
"The most important purpose of a mosque is as a place of education."

Peaceful Place: Muslims gather in the mosques as a brotherhood and sisterhood.
mind free, peaceful place for Muslims to recite Quran.

Educating: Teaching classes are given for children / and other people who want knowledge for Islam they are free to ask any daily life questions. There are many mosques in the community which are giving education in the mosque for Quran and Islamic teachings.

And attending this class muslims gets relief. They get answered to their questions.

They can discuss there questions and get answered for there questions.

Mosques is the most beautiful Place for muslims to get education and offer prayers in the mosque to show the togetherness.

And mihrab: The imam gives khotaba's on every friday for friday prayer and 'Jumma' and on eid prayers.

But some people do not agree with this statement "mosque is as place of education" They believe that mosque ~~she~~ is only for prayer and nothing else can done in masjid.



Reading this answer, when compared with the 8 mark answer, will uncover some common threads – education, peace, prayer, brotherhood. However, in the (c) questions, it is important for candidates to construct a fluent response, with connections between ideas. Also there is little value in a conclusion that simply says that some people think one thing and others think another, without backing that up with reasons.



This is likely to have been the last question answered by the candidate and, of course, they could have been running short of time, hence the almost bullet-point nature of the answer. One last piece of advice, then, would be to have a clear idea of timing when answering the paper, and allocating appropriate blocks of time to each question.

This is a very well formed discussion, which acknowledges that for many Muslims a mosque is primarily a place of prayer, whilst also constructing an argument for understanding it as a place of education.

(c) "The most important purpose of a mosque is as a place of education."

Discuss this statement considering the arguments for and against.

In your answer you should include:

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

(10)

The first thing that Prophet (SAW) did after ~~at~~ ^{boarding} and settling in Madinah is to build a mosque, which is the best place of worship for Muslims. Mosques also serve as a place for education, kids visit mosques to obtain basic ethical and Islamic values, adults come to the mosque to obtain knowledge, & people come together as a community to discuss queries that they must be having in regards to their religion. People from outside can come to mosques to discuss certain laws in context of religion. Overall mosques serves as an outlet through which one may obtain education regardless of their gender, ~~relig~~, age, financial conditions, race. People can ask the imams of the mosque for personal guidance. People of old age mark their attendance, as they listen to khutbahs and supplicate.

Some people may suggest that Mosque is a place that is purely intended for the cause of religious practices, and that people should come to mosques just to pray, and rest all the knowledge and information that needs to be obtained, can be obtained through schools, or madrasas.

They deem the purpose of worshipping and remembrance of Allah as the most important one of a mosque. As it is a holy place that is meant for worshipping and there needs to be no other distractions that can divert your mind from that. While it can serve as a place of ^{education} it is predominantly centralized around just performing your salah in congregation, and then doing dhikr, reading Quran.

Personally for me I agree that mosque is a place of education, as alongside performing your salah, the reason behind praying in congregation is just for people to come together which encourages the brotherhood between them and strengthens the ties between them. Apart from that education is something that is absolutely essential for every individual and receiving it from such a holy place by people who are well experienced regarding their religious concepts is definitely significant in its own. And the education obtained is certainly not limited.



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Examiner Comments

A careful reading of this well constructed answer will reveal a series of well argued points of view, supported by evidence from Muslim beliefs. There are chains of reasoning, such as how the mosque can be a source of education for all, and does not discriminate on grounds of age, wealth, or even prior religious convictions, because each have their own reasons for seeking guidance. The conclusion clearly points to the view that this cannot be an either or issue, because the two aspects of education and worship are clearly related, because religious education received in a holy place, from people of spiritual wisdom, is all the more effective.

Paper Summary

In summary, this was a well answered paper, and some candidates demonstrated a sophisticated understanding of aspects of religious belief and practice, as well as how to respond effectively to the different question types. However, as always, there are lessons that can be learned from this year's examination.

- On (a) questions the main lesson is to develop answers, and to be aware that this is usually not a task that adds much time. The example of Jesus being baptised by John (1 mark) in the River Jordan (development mark) comes to mind.
- On (b) questions, candidates should avoid a series of simply developed reasons, because they rarely add up to a 5 or 6 mark answer. Rather they should focus on fewer reasons if necessary, but providing fuller, more comprehensive explanations of their significance.
- On (c) questions it is important to remember that a balanced discussion, with simply developed ideas on both sides, and a summative conclusion will rarely go above level 2. Levels 3 and 4 are reserved for answers that provide depth, chains of reasoning, and an evaluation of different points of view.
- There were also more candidates who, in (c) questions, referred to the beliefs and practices of other religions. It needs to be stressed that this approach only has merit where it helps to draw out the importance of the belief or practice raised in the question, which always relates to the religion chosen by the candidate.

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