
ISLAMIC STUDIES

8053/12

Paper 1

October/November 2017

MARK SCHEME

Maximum Mark: 100

Published

This mark scheme is published as an aid to teachers and candidates, to indicate the requirements of the examination. It shows the basis on which Examiners were instructed to award marks. It does not indicate the details of the discussions that took place at an Examiners' meeting before marking began, which would have considered the acceptability of alternative answers.

Mark schemes should be read in conjunction with the question paper and the Principal Examiner Report for Teachers.

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Section A

Question	Answer	Marks
1(a)	<p>Outline the main religious beliefs and practices associated with Mecca in pre-Islamic times.</p> <p>Basic answers will give a few factual details, but will not go much further. Fuller answers will add further details and will show signs of trying to distinguish beliefs and practices.</p> <p>More advanced answers will give full descriptive accounts.</p> <p>The fullest answers will give full accounts with additional details such as the names of the main deities, and associations with Ibrahim.</p>	12
1(b)	<p>Explain why the early Muslim community destroyed traces of these beliefs and practices.</p> <p>Basic answers will give descriptive accounts of what happened at the conquest of Mecca.</p> <p>Fuller answers will still be mainly descriptive, but will make references to the clash of pagan and Muslim beliefs.</p> <p>More advanced answers will explain the differences between pagan and Muslim beliefs and hint at the necessary intolerance of one towards the other.</p> <p>The fullest answers will give full explanations, showing confident understanding of the tension between monotheism and polytheism.</p>	8

Question	Answer	Marks
2	<p>The author of a well-known biography of the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) gave his work the title ‘Prophet and Statesman’. How far do you think this sums up the significance of the Prophet (pbuh)?</p> <p>Basic answers will begin to describe Muhammad (pbuh) under these two headings.</p> <p>Fuller answers will give more complete factual details of Muhammad (pbuh) as Prophet and Statesman.</p> <p>More advanced answers will elaborate on these details and will give reasons to explain why or why not the title is adequate.</p> <p>The fullest answers will contain a rounded discussion of Muhammad (pbuh) as Prophet and Statesman, but will also discuss other titles such as teacher, example of human perfection.</p>	20

Question	Answer	Marks
3	<p>Which of the Rightly Guided Caliphs was most beneficial for the future of Islam in the measures he took? Give reasons to support your answer.</p> <p>Basic answers will give sketchy and incomplete factual details about measures taken by some or all Caliphs. Fuller answers will give further facts, and will attempt to explain the importance of some of the measures. More advanced answers will discuss in some detail the political, social and religious measures, and will attempt to arrive at a judgement. The fullest answers will give complete and confident accounts of a range of measures by various Caliphs, and may question whether it is possible to decide between them.</p>	20

Section B

Question	Answer	Marks
4	<p>What characteristics distinguish the parts of the Qur'an revealed in Mecca from the parts revealed in Medina?</p> <p>Basic answers will be restricted to a few details about the chronology of the revelation of the Qur'an. Fuller answers will still be mainly factual, but contain hints of the different contexts of Mecca and Medina. More advanced answers will refer to major thematic differences between the Meccan and Medinan surahs. The fullest answers will contain confident descriptions of the two periods of revelation, referring to the main themes that characterised both, and hinting at continuity of some themes from one period to the other.</p>	20

Question	Answer	Marks
5	<p>Two of the major themes of the Qur'an are the oneness of God (<i>tawhid</i>) and the messengers sent with his revelations (<i>risalah</i>). How are these two themes connected together in the Qur'an?</p> <p>Basic answers will give outlines of the two themes, but will not go much further. Fuller answers will give fuller accounts of the two themes, and will begin to link them. More advanced answers will show clear attempts to link the two themes. The fullest answers will link the two themes, and give examples of particular prophets making the link.</p>	20

Question	Answer	Marks
6	<p>Abu Bakr was reluctant to have the Qur'an written down, though this was nevertheless done. Why did the early Muslim community regard it as important to have a written Qur'an?</p> <p>Basic answers will give an outline account of what happened under Abu Bakr. Fuller answers will give an account of the collection of the Qur'an under Abu Bakr and 'Uthman. More advanced answers will add to their descriptive accounts reasons why the Qur'an had to be written down. The fullest answers give reasons fully and with confidence, e.g. that the deaths of memorisers at Yamama under Abu Bakr threatened the loss of the Qur'an, that variations in recitation under 'Uthman necessitated an authoritative text.</p>	20

Section C

Question	Answer	Marks
7	<p>The Five Pillars are central to Islam. Explain why observance of them is so important in the Muslim community.</p> <p>Basic answers will do little more than describe the Pillars. Fuller answers will give more detailed descriptions of the Pillars. More advanced answers will try to offer explanations of the function of the Pillars in keeping the community together. The fullest answers will give complete and rounded explanations of the way in which joint observance cements the community.</p>	20

Question	Answer	Marks
8(a)	<p>Give an outline of the celebration of 'Id al-Adha.</p> <p>Basic answers will give a basic outline of the main elements of the festival. Fuller answers will give a more accurate account of what happens. More advanced answers will give a complete outline. The fullest answers will give a complete and accurate outline, and will say what happens in Mecca and what happens in other parts of the world.</p>	12
8(b)	<p>Explain its importance in the history and beliefs of Islam.</p> <p>Basic answers will make an attempt to link the festival with the Prophet. Fuller answers will link the festival with the Prophet and will also refer to Ibrahim. More advanced answers will make these historical links, and will also refer to the spiritual importance of Muslims remembering past events. The fullest answers will give complete and confident explanations of the importance of historical continuity and community solidarity.</p>	8

Question	Answer	Marks
9(a)	<p>Write an account of the teachings in the Qur'an about angels.</p> <p>Basic answers will give some sketchy details about instances in the Qur'an. Fuller answers will give more details of individual appearances of angels. More advanced answers will give fuller accounts of the main angels and their roles. The fullest answers will give rounded accounts of angels and will give detailed references to what the Qur'an says about them.</p>	12

Question	Answer	Marks
9(b)	<p>What is the importance of angels to Muslims today?</p> <p>Basic answers will repeat the teaching that angels are part of Islamic beliefs.</p> <p>Fuller answers will try to emphasise the importance of accepting traditional beliefs.</p> <p>More advanced answers emphasise the importance of angels as part of the entirety of Islamic teachings whether they are seen or not.</p> <p>The fullest answers may question whether angels appear any longer since prophets no longer appear, and will thus make the link between angels and prophets.</p>	8

Section D

Question	Answer	Marks
10	<p>In a world that is very different from seventh-century Arabia, how can the Qur'an continue to form the foundation of the Muslim community?</p> <p>Basic answers will do little more than state the importance of believing in the Qur'an. Fuller answers will refer to the belief that the Qur'an is universal and timeless, but will not elaborate much. More advanced answers will build on this by beginning to explore ways of interpreting the Qur'an. The fullest answers will refer to consensus and analogy, and will hint at <i>ijtihad</i> and how it can be practised.</p>	20

Question	Answer	Marks
11(a)	<p>Give an outline of the legal principles of consensus (<i>ijma'</i>) and analogy (<i>qiyas</i>).</p> <p>Basic answers will give undetailed descriptions of these two principles. Fuller answers will provide more detail, but will remain sketchy. More advanced answers will give fuller accounts and will show how these principles supplement the Qur'an and Sunnah. The fullest answers will give complete accounts, and will provide examples.</p>	12
11(b)	<p>Explain how either of these can be used in Islamic legal practices today.</p> <p>Basic answers will try to show how the two principles are put into practice, but will not really answer the question. Fuller answers will provide more details, and will show signs of trying to explain the relevance of the two principles in the world of today. More advanced answers will begin to recognise difficulties and challenges. The fullest answers will discuss the practical problems involved, and will explain how these have been overcome.</p>	8

Question	Answer	Marks
12	<p>‘The legal teachings of the Qur’an could not be understood without the Prophet’s Sunnah.’ Give reasons to agree or disagree with this statement.</p> <p>Basic answers will describe the use of the Qur’an and Sunnah in legal and moral situations. Fuller answers will attempt to show how the Sunnah supplements the Qur’an. More advanced answers will contain full accounts of the ways in which the two are used together. The fullest answers will contain full accounts of the ways in which the two are used together, but will also hint at the position of some Muslims that the Qur’an alone is adequate.</p>	20