



**General Certificate of Education
June 2012**

Religious Studies

RSS10

**World Religions 2: Christianity OR Judaism
OR Islam 1 *The Way of Submission***

AS Unit K

Final

Mark Scheme

Mark schemes are prepared by the Principal Examiner and considered, together with the relevant questions, by a panel of subject teachers. This mark scheme includes any amendments made at the standardisation meeting attended by all examiners and is the scheme which was used by them in this examination. The standardisation meeting ensures that the mark scheme covers the students' responses to questions and that every examiner understands and applies it in the same correct way. As preparation for the standardisation meeting each examiner analyses a number of students' scripts: alternative answers not already covered by the mark scheme are discussed at the meeting and legislated for. If, after this meeting, examiners encounter unusual answers which have not been discussed at the meeting they are required to refer these to the Principal Examiner.

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Examination Levels of Response

Religious Studies (Advanced Subsidiary) AS Level Descriptors

Level	AS Descriptor AO1	Marks	AS Descriptor AO2	Marks	AS Descriptors for Quality of Written Communication in AO1 and AO2
7	A thorough treatment of the topic within the time available. Information is accurate and relevant, and good understanding is demonstrated through use of appropriate evidence / examples	28-30	A well-focused, reasoned response to the issues raised. Different views are clearly explained with supporting evidence and argument. There is some critical analysis. An appropriate evaluation is supported by reasoned argument.	14-15	Appropriate form and style of writing; clear and coherent organisation of information; appropriate and accurate use of specialist vocabulary; good legibility; high level of accuracy in spelling punctuation and grammar.
6	A fairly thorough treatment within the time available; information is mostly accurate and relevant. Understanding is demonstrated through the use of appropriate evidence / example(s)	24-27	A mostly relevant, reasoned response to the issues raised. Different views are explained with some supporting evidence and argument. There is some analysis. An evaluation is made which is consistent with some of the reasoning.	12-13	
5	A satisfactory treatment of the topic within the time available. Key ideas and facts are included, with some development, showing reasonable understanding through use of relevant evidence / example(s).	20-23	A partially successful attempt to sustain a reasoned argument. Some attempt at analysis or comment and recognition of more than one point of view. Ideas adequately explained.	10-11	Mainly appropriate form and style of writing; some of the information is organised clearly and coherently; there may be some appropriate and accurate use of specialist vocabulary; satisfactory legibility and level of accuracy in spelling, punctuation and grammar.
4	A generally satisfactory treatment of the topic within the time available. Key ideas and facts are included, showing some understanding and coherence.	15-19	A limited attempt to sustain an argument, which may be one-sided or show little ability to see more than one point of view. Most ideas are explained.	7-9	Form and style of writing appropriate in some respects; some clarity and coherence in organisation; there may be some appropriate and accurate use of specialist vocabulary; legibility and level of accuracy in spelling, punctuation and grammar adequate to convey meaning.
3	A summary of key points. Limited in depth or breadth. Answer may show limited understanding and limited relevance. Some coherence.	10-14	A basic attempt to justify a point of view relevant to the question. Some explanation of ideas and coherence.	5-6	
2	A superficial outline account, with little relevant material and slight signs of partial understanding, or an informed answer that misses the point of the question.	5-9	A superficial response to the question with some attempt at reasoning.	3-4	Little clarity and organisation; little appropriate and accurate use of specialist vocabulary; legibility and level of accuracy in spelling, punctuation and grammar barely adequate to make meaning clear.
1	Isolated elements of partly accurate information little related to the question.	1-4	A few basic points, with no supporting argument or justification.	1-2	
0	Nothing of relevance.	0	No attempt to engage with the question or nothing of relevance.	0	

RSS10: World Religions 2

Section A *Christianity*

Question 1 Some beliefs about God: Trinity and salvation

0	1
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 Examine Christian ideas about salvation and how salvation can be achieved.

Salvation

- Expect some reference to beliefs about ‘fallenness’ and original sin
- Thus, the need for salvation
- Salvation from guilt, fear and death
- Salvation for acceptance, eternal life etc
- Belief that all in need of salvation;
- For some groups imperative of offering salvation to all;
- Recognition that emphasis varies between denominations

How it can be achieved

‘How’ may be approached in either or both of two ways:-

- Through grace
- Baptism and Eucharist as ‘means of grace’
- Exemplification of this from liturgical quotation
- Variation between denominations which stress the importance of the sacraments and those which stress importance of faith

- Through the work of Christ in the crucifixion
- And atonement
- Accept some development of this;
- Some of the language going back to sacrificial concepts of OT
- ‘For us and for our salvation’ – part of creed

Both ideas about salvation and ‘how’ need to be addressed for marks above Level 5, but there may be some overlap between these two elements.

(30 marks)

AO1

0	2
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 ‘For Christians today, salvation is still necessary.’
Assess this view.

Agree

- Human nature has not changed, therefore need for salvation has not changed
- Christian beliefs have not changed, even if some of their emphases have;
- In a largely secular age, with many social problems, could be argued that the need for salvation is even greater.

Disagree

- For some, idea is based on outmoded language and concepts;
- People today see themselves as being in control of their own lives; may contrast with periods of high infant mortality, when immediate baptism was seen as necessary for all children.
- Theologically, hard to equate with idea of all-loving God;
- Today’s society much more inclusive; much of the language of salvation may belong at a time of an exclusivist Christian message.

(15 marks)

AO2

Question 2 Christian scriptures: nature and purpose

0

3

Explain why the Old Testament is part of the Christian scriptures.

Some may approach this from point of view of development of canon, although full marks can be gained without this.

- Expect brief awareness of what the OT is and what it contains
- Christianity arose out of Judaism, and therefore these books were the scriptures of the first Christians
- Christian teaching presume the teachings of the OT, and thus natural for these to be included;
- Importance for early and later Christians of teachings in the Pentateuch;
- Moral teachings (e.g. the Decalogue)
- Progressive revelation, which Christians saw as leading up to Jesus
- Jesus seen as being of the lineage of David
- Jesus seen as the fulfilment of the prophets, therefore prophetic teaching essential for Christians
- Liturgical material in the Psalms – an important part of Christian tradition.

(30 marks)**AO1**

0

4

'Christians today do not need the Old Testament.'
Assess this claim.**Agree**

- It is a book for Jews not for Christians
- All that Christians need is in the NT, which is the 'word of God'
- Much of OT relates to historical circumstances which have little or no relevance for Christians today;
- For Christian, OT superseded by the NT

Disagree

- The NT cannot make sense without the OT
- Jesus' teachings stem from the OT
- OT writings in themselves (e.g. Law and Prophets) are of great theological and moral value
- Understand more of the nature of God and his relationship to the world through the OT

(15 marks)**AO2**

Question 3 Aspects of Christian worship

0

5

Explain beliefs and practices associated with Christian prayer.

Students might cover some of the following:-

Beliefs:-

- Belief in the importance of prayer as means of communicating with God.
- Jesus taught his followers how to pray with the Lord's Prayer
- Most end with the words 'Through Jesus Christ our Lord' i.e. God is too great to approach directly and it is only through Jesus they can approach him
- Prayer in Christianity is the Christian tradition of communicating with God, either in God's fullness or as one of the persons of the Trinity
- Prayer in the New Testament is presented as a positive command. The people of God are challenged to include prayer in their everyday life.
- Prayer is it is thought to bring the faithful closer to God.

Practices:-

- Role of the Lord's Prayer
- Great variety across denominations
- In public worship, use of prayers within set liturgies and extempore prayer
- In some also, very spontaneous prayer
- Importance of the Lord's Prayer
- This may be developed more fully
- Different types of prayer – adoration, confession, intercession, petition and thanksgiving.
- Private prayer, both in the home and in the Church
- Some use contemplative prayer.

N.B. max level 5 if only one aspect adequately covered.

(30 marks)

AO1

0

6

'Prayer is the most significant aspect of Christian worship.'

How far do you agree?

Agree:-

- Prayer is the central practice of a Christian
- Worship can be expressed through many different media but prayer holds more significance than others for many Christians
- Prayer holds the central place in any act of worship
- Christians can reach God much more directly and easily through prayer
- The Lord's Prayer is regarded by most Christians as the most significant teaching Jesus gave.
- Music and liturgy are forms of prayer anyway so it is in all aspects of worship

Disagree:-

- For many the sacraments must be seen as the most important part of worship, and even though these contain many prayers, and are within a context of prayer, they go beyond prayer itself.
- For others, the reading and preaching of the Word is the most significant aspect.
- Music may also be seen as most important, and may for some evoke stronger responses than prayer.

Best answers are likely to debate the definition of prayer, and how far it can be set against other aspects of worship.

(15 marks) AO2

Question 4 A Christian way of life; initiation, marriage and death

0	7
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Explain the importance of Christian marriage for Christians.

- Christian tradition, perhaps following Greek and Jewish ideas, has a view that marriage is a natural condition and that it is set down by God in the scriptures.
- Linked to this is the idea that sexual behaviour is to do with fulfilling God's will to multiply and that this can only be within the marriage since this is the vehicle for the family.
- Seen in some Christian traditions as a sacrament and thus an essential feature of being a Christian.
- Many Christian traditions see the marriage as blessed by God and the couple bound together by God, hence the disapproval of divorce.
- Marriage part of their Christian life, and therefore important for the ceremony to be part of a Christian service.
- Seen as the starting point for Christian family life, and the later upbringing of children within the faith.
- Reflects the marriage between Christ and his Church.

(30 marks) AO1

0	8
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'Remarriage after divorce is unacceptable to Christians.'

Assess this view.

This is a complex situation with conflicting denominational views; so much will depend on angle from which this is approached.

Agree

- For some, it clearly is, because divorce is unacceptable
- NT appears to suggest that Jesus rejected divorce
- 'whom God has joined let no one put asunder'
- Therefore, re-marriage is seen as acceptance of divorce

Disagree

- Reality is that there are many divorced clergy and lay Christians, who have been re-married in their Churches, so the situation must be ambiguous;
- Divorce and re-marriage not desirable but a fact of life
- Recognition of human error and forgiveness

(15 marks) AO2

Section B *Judaism*

Question 5 God and his people

0	9	Explain challenges to the traditional Jewish ideas about God.
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Expect brief explanation of **traditional ideas**, e.g.: oneness, omnipotence, omniscience, omnibenevolence, God who enters into relationship with people, and in special relationship with chosen people. This latter relationship expressed in Covenant.

Challenges

- Events of persecution through history challenging status of Jews and understanding of their relationship with God
- The Holocaust – how could a loving God allow the Holocaust to happen to his people? This may be developed, but should not be the sole focus of an answer at top levels
- Variety of challenges to concept of God entering into relationship with chosen people;
- Modernity challenging traditional concepts of God in Judaism as in other religions – this exemplified through philosophy, science, feminism, new concerns with the self.
- Feminism challenging traditional language about God;
- Post-enlightenment challenges from Jewish thinkers trying to reconcile modern philosophical trends with Jewish tradition, e.g. work of Solomon Formstecher, Leo Baeck and Hermann Cohen

(30 marks) AO1

1	0	‘God has clearly kept covenant with the Jewish people.’ Assess this claim.
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In support of the statement:-

- Everything is a test of Jewish faith so even if there have been events in Jewish history where Jews have felt God has broken the covenant, he has kept it.
- God has said with the covenant that he would never abandon the Jews entirely and now they have the state of Israel.
- Jews are still God’s chosen people and important messengers of God in history.

Against the statement:-

- Students might discuss some of the periods of Jewish history when it would seem that God is not with his people, like the Babylonian exile and later the Holocaust.
- Examples through history when Jews have suffered e.g. the Holocaust and God did nothing about this.
- History is littered with problems the Jews have had to face, notably persecution in the Middle Ages.

Best answers are likely to explore implications of ‘kept covenant’.

(15 marks) AO2

Question 6 Scripture

1

1

Explain ways in which scripture is used in Judaism.

This question can be approached in a variety of ways:

How scripture is used and interpreted – e.g.:

- Torah as absolute word of God, never translated
- Talmud seen as centre for scholarly discussion and learning
- Differences between Orthodox and Reform in some aspects of views of Scripture

Use to guide daily life – e.g.

- Practical guidance of Torah in all aspects of daily life, especially for the Orthodox.
- Role of Talmud and rabbis in interpreting this

Practical use – e.g.

- Shema – read in synagogue and contained in Mezzuzah
- Tefillin contain passages from Exodus and Deuteronomy
- Parts of the scripture read at different services
- Ways in which the scrolls are kept in the Ark, and processed during the synagogue service before reading. Signs of respect shown by worshippers.
- Importance of reading scripture during Bar Mitzvah
- Reading from Torah often followed by reading from prophets
- Use of Psalms in worship
- Use of particular sections of scripture at particular festivals, e.g. Esther at Purim

(30 marks) AO1

1

2

To what extent do Jewish scriptures have relevance for Jews today?**Has relevance:-**

- Scriptures are stand alone in Judaism and in no need of translation or explanation so they have absolute relevance.
- The Torah is easily understood by all Jews and is beyond the passing of time.
- There is no need for commentary on any of the scriptures because they are clear and relevant.
- Jewish scriptures have been guiding people for centuries and this is no different today.

Does not have relevance:-

- Modern issues not referenced in Jewish scriptures
- Human nature may have changed
- Understandings of God may have changed because of the experience of the Holocaust
- Progressive Jews may see relevance as more limited because of understandings of scripture
- If scripture is not a final and complete revelation then relevance is bound to be limited.

Better answers are likely to distinguish between the attitudes of different groups of Jews, but a good discussion can be made without this.

(15 marks) AO2

Question 7 Aspects of worship and festivals

1	3
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Examine the meaning of Pesach for Jews.

- Fundamental meaning of God entering into history on behalf of his people
- Beginning of salvation history
- Israel totally reliant on God's help
- Slavery to freedom
- 'Let my people go'
- Expression of God's power through parting of Red Sea ('Sea of Reeds')
- Pesach as festival commemorating this event (various theories of its roots)
- Today, a time for celebrating Jewish identity
- Expect some exemplification of these ideas from the Seder ritual.

(30 marks)

AO1

1	4
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'The value of Pesach today lies in its educational aspects rather than in its spiritual aspects.' Assess this claim.

Agree

- Through its combination of ritual and visual elements, Pesach is a way of teaching each generation the importance of their story; both didactic and kinaesthetic
- Strong role of symbolism in the Sedar dish
- Specific roles for members of each generation, meaning that the story is passed down
- Haggadah itself is presented in a very educational way
- Period of Pesach is a time for Jews to reflect on who they are and what God has done for them
- Almost all Jews, whether or not they are religious, celebrate this festival

Disagree

- It is essentially a spiritual event, and the rituals and the teaching would be nothing without this
- 'next year in Jerusalem' is a powerful spiritual element
- All of Jewish life is bound up together, so distinctions such as that in the claim have little meaning.

(15 marks)

AO2

Question 8 Styles of Judaism: Orthodox and Reform beliefs and practices

1

5

Examine the differences in how Orthodox Jews and Reform Jews worship in the synagogue.

Differences in synagogue layout

- Orthodox – men and boys together, women in gallery; Reform – family groupings
- Orthodox – centrality of Bimah; Reform – often towards the front. This affects aspects of the ritual worship
- Orthodox will have strict observance of Shabbat; Reform, - more relaxed, allowing use of electricity and technology in the synagogue during service.

Frequency of services

- Greater expectation of attendance at synagogue for prayer in Orthodox; Reform may regard synagogue attendance as less important.

Roles

- Orthodox, only male rabbis, only men taking part in leading worship; Reform – female rabbis, women taking part in service.
- Orthodox – men cover their heads, and wear tallith, women, if attending will cover heads. Greater use of tefillin. Reform – men wearing kippah rather than hat, women may or may not cover heads.

Language

- Orthodox, whole service in Hebrew; Reform – only parts of it (about half)

Music

- Orthodox – unaccompanied singing; reform – may use organ

(30 marks)**AO1**

1

6

‘Reform practices are more relevant than Orthodox practices to 21st century Jews.’ Assess this claim.

This can be approached in a variety of ways, and better answers are likely to discuss more relevant to whom?

Some may follow on closely from 15 and focus only on worship; others may take ‘reform practices’ in a broader sense. Either approach is acceptable.

Agree

- Reform practices more relevant to values and practices of the modern world
- Less strict rules mean that Reform Jews can more easily live in both a Jewish world and the secular world;
- Less constrained by what may be seen as outdated rules and regulations (e.g. on diet and Shabbat)
- Approaches to worship more easy to accommodate in modern world.

Disagree

- If one is a believing, practising Jew, then ‘relevance’ is not an issue; one lives by the Torah
- Keeping to strict rules gives a framework in which everything is relevant
- In many religions there is the obvious appeal of strict, fundamentalist approaches, and Judaism is no exception

(15 marks)**AO2**

Section C *Islam 1 The Way of Submission*

Question 9 The Qur'an

1	7
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Examine the importance of both the hadith and the sunnah for Muslims.

Hadith:

- Students may give a brief definition of hadith which is a narrative of the words, deeds or approvals of Muhammad
- It is impossible to understand the Qur'an without reference to the **hadith**
- For example, the details of how to perform salah (ritual prayer) were given by the Prophet through his words and action, and not by the Qur'an. This means that Muslims would not know how to pray, fast, pay zakah, or perform Hajj without the examples given by the Prophet as recorded in the hadith.
- All the necessary details are given in the hadith, not in the Qur'an.
- If Muslims reject the hadith, they may misread the Qur'an
- The Qur'an is the message, while the hadith is the verbal translation of the message into pragmatic terms, as exemplified by the Prophet.
- The hadith is central to a proper understanding of the Qur'an.

Sunnah:

- The **sunnah**, on the other hand literally means 'busy path', 'trodden path' or 'beaten path'. As a term, it means the practices of the Prophet Abraham to which the Prophet Muhammad gave religious sanction among his followers after reviving and reforming them and after making certain additions to them.
- While the Qur'an is the metaphysical basis of the sunnah, the sunnah is the practical demonstration of the precepts laid down in the Qur'an and this is of vital importance to Muslims.

If only one covered, max. level 5

(30 marks) AO1

1	8
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To what extent are the hadith and the sunnah more important than the Qur'an for Muslims today?

Are:-

- Muslims use the sunnah and hadith alongside the Qur'an as a source of holy law
- The role of the Ulema or Imam may well counter the claim that the Qur'an is the most important for Muslims today

Are not:-

- The status of the Qur'an as the Word of God and final revelation to humanity suggests how important the Qur'an is
- Reference may also be made to modernist movements in Islam some of which challenge or reject the value of the hadith and hence the traditional understanding of Shari'a – a slogan for one such group is 'God alone – Qur'an alone'.

(15 marks) AO2

Question 10 The Five Pillars

1

9

Examine the significance of both Shahadah and Salah for Muslims.

- Expect mainstream outline but be aware of differences within Islam.
- For explanation there should be comments on why both are performed and why in this way, and / or on the significance they have for Muslims and for the community, for example, purification; self-discipline; commanded by God; strength and faith and following practice of Muhammad
- Both are the foundation / support of faith as one of 5 Pillars; means of communication with God.

Shahadah

- This simple yet profound statement expresses a Muslim's complete acceptance of, and total commitment to, the message of Islam
- Recitation of the Shahadah is believed to be the most important of the Five Pillars of Faith and is performed daily.
- This statement of faith should be declared publicly which reveals its significance
- The second phrase of the Shahadah declares that Muhammad is God's messenger to humankind and this bears significance for Muslims regarding prophecy as he is regarded as the 'seal of the prophets'
- Reciting and accepting the Shahadah, before two witnesses is all the formality required from anyone who wants to embrace Islam
- Islamic law and literature over the ages show how there are far reaching implications of 'No god but God and Muhammad is His messenger.'
- Any non – Muslims who wish to convert to Islam must publically recite the statement
- Technically Shi'a connect the Shahadah to all Muslim beliefs

Salah

- Five times a day, facing Makkah, rakah, etc
- One of Five Pillars; means of communication with God
- Call to prayer reminds people of the primacy of God and of the actions of believers throughout history
- Reminder too of the trumpet which heralds day of judgment ; inspires believers to Greater Jihad, and motivates them to live Islamically
- Support of whole Ummah in practising prayer at the same time; sense of shared faith and unity
- Importance of public prayer
- Wherever possible people should pray together
- Preparations show Muslims as marking out time and space
- Responding to command of God and example of Muhammed; Hadith of the Prophet endorses public prayer.
- Significance for the individual and the community

Max level 5 if both Shahadah and Salah are not addressed, although it is likely that more will be written on Salah.

(30 marks)**AO1**

2

0

'Shahadah is the most important of the Five Pillars for Muslims.'
Assess this claim.

In support of the statement:-

- Clearly the Pillar of Faith that states belief in One God and his prophet must be the most important
- It is the first Pillar, suggesting greater importance than the others
- It is part of the Adhan and the last thing a Muslim would try and say on his or her deathbed
- This is the spiritual Pillar. Others are less so as they deal with practicalities in life

Other views:-

- Pillars are all of equal importance
- All are needed to support faith
- Numerical order does not decree numerical importance
- A case could be made for suggesting prayer, fasting or pilgrimage are more important
- If a Muslim did not give Zakah, others might not be able to survive.

(15 marks)

AO2

Question 11 The doctrine of God

2

1

Examine what Muslims believe about humanity's relationship with God.

- According to Islamic belief, in addition to sending prophets, God manifests his mercy in the dedication of all creation to the service of humankind.
- Islamic traditions maintain that God brought the world into being for the benefit of his creatures.
- His mercy toward humanity is further manifested in the privileged status God gave to humans.
- According to the Qur'an and later traditions, God appointed humankind as his vice regents (caliphs) on earth, thus entrusting them with the grave responsibility of fulfilling his scheme for creation.
- In contrast to Christian views, the Qur'an maintains that after their initial disobedience, Adam and Eve repented and were forgiven by God.
- Consequently Muslims believe that the descent by Adam and Eve to earth from Paradise was not a fall, but an honour bestowed on them by God.
- Adam and his progeny were appointed as God's messengers and vice regents, and were entrusted by God with the guardianship of the earth.
- The Shahadah encompasses a Muslim's relationship with God.

(30 marks)

AO1

2

2

'In Islam, lawgiver and judge are the best descriptions of God.'
How far do you agree?

In support of the statement:-

- Muslims live under God's law and this should never be challenged so it is the best description of Allah
- Everything a Muslim needs to know is given by God through the holy book or a series of prophets and he will judge accordingly
- Muslims should do the will of Allah or he will judge

Other views:-

- There are 99 beautiful names of Allah and one does not have greater significance than the other over the nature of Allah
- It is best to think of Allah as merciful and compassionate, witness the zakah payments
- There should be no descriptions of Allah given the belief in Tawhid

Allow for discussions which debate whether 'law giver' or 'judge' is the better description.

(15 marks)

AO2

Question 12 Key beliefs

2

3

Explain what Muslims believe about judgement.

- Muslims believe in the Day of Judgement (the Day of Resurrection) when all people will be resurrected for God's judgement according to their beliefs and deeds.
- This may focus solely on events at the final judgement as long as the teaching is clear, e.g. judged by God according to his law for intentional actions, words and thought throughout out life.
- Humanity responsible for its actions and justly rewarded or punished for them. Judgement day; heaven and hell; role of recording angels and beliefs about the final judgement.
- A central doctrine of the Qur'an is the Last Day, on which the world will be destroyed and Allah will raise all people and jinn from the dead to be judged.
- Until the Day of Judgment, deceased souls remain in their graves awaiting the resurrection
- On the Last Day, resurrected humans and supernatural beings (*jinn*) will be judged by Allah according to their deeds. One's eternal destination depends on balance of good to bad deeds in life. They are either granted admission to Paradise, where they will enjoy spiritual and physical pleasures forever, or condemned to Hell to suffer spiritual and physical torment for eternity. The Day of Judgement is described as passing over Hell on a narrow bridge in order to enter Paradise. Those who fall, weighted by their bad deeds, will remain in Hell forever.

(30 marks)

AO1

2

4

**‘Muslim beliefs about resurrection and judgement are unreasonable.’
Assess this claim.**

In support of the statement:-

- Muslim beliefs about judgement and resurrection were a break from pre – Islamic beliefs
- Emphasis on angels does not sit well in a modern world
- Views about the nature of judgement and resurrection seem fanciful and unworldly to some
- Too many mystical traditions in Islam that place heavenly delights for those who are judged favourably seem far fetched

Other views:-

- Belief in the "Day of Resurrection", Qiyamah is crucial for Muslims as it is preordained by God but unknown to man.
- The Qur’an emphasises bodily resurrection and to deny this for Muslims would be tantamount to denying what is written in the Qur’an
- How do we know what will happen after death? A Muslim’s belief in judgement and resurrection is as sound a belief as the alternatives

(15 marks)

AO2

UMS conversion calculator www.aqa.org.uk/umsconversion