



Rewarding Learning

ADVANCED SUBSIDIARY (AS)
General Certificate of Education
January 2011

Religious Studies

Assessment Unit AS 8

assessing

An Introduction to the Study of Islam

[AR181]

FRIDAY 28 JANUARY, AFTERNOON



TIME

1 hour 20 minutes.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Write your Centre Number and Candidate Number on the Answer Booklet provided.
Answer **one** question from Section A and **one** question from Section B.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The total mark for this paper is 100.

Quality of written communication will be assessed in **all** questions.

Figures in brackets printed down the right-hand side of pages indicate the marks awarded to each question or part question.

ADVICE TO CANDIDATES

You are advised to take account of the marks for each question or part question.

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Section A

Answer **one** question from Section A

- 1 (a) Explain the Arabian background into which the prophet Muhammad was born. [35]
- (b) Explore the claim that the main reason for the rapid spread of Islam was Muhammad's strong leadership. Justify your answer. [15]
- 2 (a) Describe and explain the nature and importance of the Qur'an, Sunnah and Hadith. [35]
- (b) Explore the view that it is only possible to submit to the Qur'an when living in a Muslim society. Justify your answer. [15]

Section B

Answer **one** question from Section B

- 3 (a) Explain the importance of the Pillars of Shahadah (creed) and Sawm (fasting). [35]
- (b) With reference to other aspects of human experience, comment on the claim that religious beliefs are meaningless without actions. Justify your answer. [15]
- 4 (a) Give an account of the celebration and symbolism of the **two** major festivals of Islam. [35]
- (b) With reference to other aspects of human experience, comment on the importance of festivals for the religious believer in a secular age. Justify your answer. [15]

