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Edexcel

Examiners' Report
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2019

Pearson Edexcel GCE
In Religious Studies (8RS0)
Paper 4D: Islam

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Most candidates attempted all questions though the standard of answers was variable. Those achieving the higher levels produced work of a good standard and which was detailed and focused closely upon the question. Others tended to be narrative in style or brief, needing further development.

Question Q01 8 marks (AO1 Only)

Candidates were required to explore details of Muhammad as the final prophet. Answers in the lower levels tended to give brief details or generalised accounts of Muhammad's life that were narrative in style whereas those achieving marks in the higher levels focused closely upon the question and explored key ideas relating to the implications of Muhammad's prophethood.

Question Q02 9 marks (3 marks AO1/ 6 marks AO2)

The second question required candidates to assess the importance of the key ideas of the Day of Judgement within the Six Beliefs. Answers in the lower levels were brief and often described the Day of Judgement without comment or application to the question whereas those achieving marks in the higher levels focused upon the question assessing the importance of key ideas in the Six Beliefs about the Day of Judgement with full and reasoned arguments.

Question Q03 9 marks (3 marks AO1/ 6 marks AO2)

This question required candidates to assess the importance of the ummah to Islamic identity. Those answers in the lower levels described the ummah but did not assess its importance to Islamic identity. Those answers achieving marks in the higher levels demonstrated a close focus upon the question. These assessed the importance of the ummah as an expression of Islamic identity in depth, using clear and relevant examples.

Question Q04(a) 8 marks (AO1 Only)

Though answers in the lower levels were brief, those in the higher levels reflected a clear focus and balance of beliefs and practices relating to Hajj.

Question Q04(b) 20 marks (5 marks AO1/ 15 marks AO2)

Most candidates answered this question and whilst those achieving marks in the lower levels either gave brief descriptions of the five pillars or wrote a generalised narrative account, there were many pleasing answers which focused upon the question. These analysed the wide range of views and practices relating to the pillars and demonstrated the use of good examples and analysis.

Conclusion

- It is important that candidates should be familiar with all topics in the 8RS0 4D Specification.
- Candidates should plan their time carefully in order to complete longer question fully.
- Candidates should read all questions carefully and focus upon what is being asked. They should develop their answers and understand implications rather than giving brief descriptions of a generalised topic.