



**General Certificate of Education
January 2013**

Religious Studies

RSS10

World Religions 2

**Christianity, 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 candidates' 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 candidates' 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: Section A *Christianity***Question 1 Some beliefs about God: Trinity and salvation**

0	1
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Explain what the creeds (Apostles' and Nicene) say about Jesus.

Students need to explore a range of ideas about the person of Jesus from both creeds to gain the higher levels.

Nicene creed:

- Jesus is of 'one being' with the Father
- Fully divine
- Fully human
- All things made through him
- God the Son redeemed the created order by sacrificing himself on the cross
- The death of Jesus on the cross liberates human beings from the effects of sin
- By becoming a human being, God the Son made salvation possible for all humans by allowing them to share the divine nature and transcend the effects of death
- Risen and ascended
- Will come again to judge

Apostles creed:

- Jesus is God's son
- He is Lord
- Conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
- Born of the Virgin Mary
- Suffered, crucified, dead and buried
- Descended into hell
- Rose on the third day and ascended into heaven and now sits on God's right hand
- He will judge both living and dead when he comes again

N.B. Students do not necessarily have to give equal weighting in their responses to each of the creeds.

Maximum Level 5 if only one creed considered.

(30 marks)**AO1**

0

2

'The creeds force people to focus more on Jesus than on God.'

To what extent is this true?

In support of the statement

- Much of the content of the creeds is given over to describing who Jesus is
- The assertion in the creeds is that it is Jesus who will judge people
- The creeds show Jesus Christ at the centre of the faith

On the other hand

- Jesus is really God incarnate so the focus is of one being
- The creeds begin with belief in one God as a main focus
- Almighty and creator suggests all powerful, all seeing and all knowing which the creeds do not suggest of Jesus
- The creeds suggest to the reader Jesus is human but God is divine and that is the main focus
- Claim that Jesus is God incarnate still shows the focus of the creeds is on God himself
- The creeds also focus on the Holy Spirit.

(15 marks)

AO2

Question 2 Christian scriptures: nature and purpose

0

3

Examine the belief that the Christian scriptures are the word of God.

Candidates may approach this in a variety of ways, e.g.:

- Examination of differing Christian attitudes to the scriptures, ranging from literalists, taking every word as divinely given, and free from any errors, through more traditional approaches of divine inspiration, to liberal approaches. Examples and implications of each of these should be drawn out.
- Historical approach, seeing early Christianity in its Jewish context, and ways in which they 'inherited' the Jewish canon. Candidates should then be able to say something briefly about the formation of the Christian canon. The fact that both OT and NT are used within Christian liturgy today.
- Ecclesiological. Some may look at the beliefs about the authority of scripture within different traditions, for example, 'sola scriptura' within the teachings of the Reformation, the importance of scripture and tradition within the RC Church.
- The Bible is the only book that Christians call 'the word of God'.
- For many, the final authority comes in part from scripture because it is the word of God.
- Some believe that God guided the writers of the scripture to write down his will, word for word.
- Christians believe God spoke through the Old Testament prophets.
- Christians believe God revealed his will through the Old Testament.
- Jesus spoke of the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob who continued to act in his own life so the New Testament is the word of God.
- Christian Fundamentalists believe that the Bible is the word of God as it is free from error.

(30 marks)

AO1

0

4

To what extent do Christian scriptures have authority for Christians today?

Do have authority:

- They are the primary source for Christian worship, beliefs and practices.
- They play an important part in the life of believers.
- They are God's word to some so very special.
- Scriptures are studied daily.
- Many Christians today look to the Bible for guidance in everyday life.
- The message of the New Testament is what is important for Christians so it has authority.

Do not have authority:

- The teachings of the Old Testament were only relevant for the time and place they were written and not for Christian living today.
- Today, religious leaders have more authority than any scripture.
- Scriptures may not contain guidance for modern day issues for Christians so do not carry much authority.
- Religious institutions carry more authority for followers today than any texts.

(15 marks)

AO2

Question 3 Aspects of Christian worship

0	5	Explain the main practices of public worship in two Christian denominations.
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Students could cover any two denominations to consider public worship:

For e.g. ***Eastern Orthodox***

Use of icons

Importance attached to symbolic actions

During the service, worshippers move around, light a candle and place it near an icon.

There are no pews so they will genuflect and touch the ground with their foreheads submitting to God

Importance of the Liturgy of the Eucharist

Much of the action of the Liturgy initially behind the Holy Doors

Priest sharing Eucharist with the people; spoon

Unaccompanied choral singing

Society of Friends (Quakers)

No fixed service

Sit in a square with table in middle

Sit in silence in worship

Someone may stand and speak for a few minutes to share a personal testimony or poem

No hymns are sung, no sermon is given and there is no altar or pulpit

Roman Catholic

At morning mass the altar is prepared

Mass commences with a hymn and the Gloria

Incense is burnt Nicene Creed

is said Consecration of bread

and wine

Sign of the peace and worshippers take communion

Prayers and a blessing at the end.

Maximum Level 5 if only one denomination considered.

(30 marks)

AO1

0

6

'For Christians, private worship is more important than public worship.'**Assess this claim.****In support of the statement**

- Most Christian worship is addressed to God and only in private can you express a faith.
- Christians find their closest experience of God through private worship.
- God is a personal God therefore private worship important.
- Contemplation is arguably the oldest form of worship for Christians.
- Best way to gain inner strength and inspiration.

Other views

- Christians can gather together with other believers.
- Members of a congregation take part in the act which gives them a place in Christian worship.
- Enables them to express and declare their faith.
- Inspire and strengthen them in their daily lives.
- Christian belief cannot be separated out from corporate worship.
- Role of sacraments and preaching.
- Public worship enriched by music/hymns/anthems/worship songs.

(15 marks)**AO2****Question 4 A Christian way of life; initiation, marriage and death**

0

7

Examine beliefs associated with baptism and with confirmation.**Baptism:**

- Original sin
- Need for grace
- Gift of grace bestowed through baptism
- Traditional beliefs that an unbaptised child would perish in hell
- Beliefs about importance of infant baptism and membership of the 'family' of the Church
- Beliefs that only the baptised can receive communion, though this now relaxed in the practice of some churches
- Believers' baptism – the importance of commitment, and the ability of the candidate to give testimony
- For both infant and believers' – beliefs about salvation and about new beginnings

Confirmation:

- Beliefs about need for people to make their own commitment
- In some churches, pre-requisite to receiving communion
- Beliefs about the adult responsibilities within the church, and the person taking on roles within church

Answers need to focus on beliefs rather than practices, so material on practices can only be credited if it is illustrating belief

If only one of baptism or confirmation is dealt with, then max L5.

(30 marks)**AO1**

0

8

To what extent is confirmation the most important way of marking commitment to the Christian faith?

In support of confirmation being the most important way:

- A person is old enough to make the commitment themselves.
- Baptism is too early and therefore meaningless to the baby.
- Unless the parents are serious in their intention to bring up the child as a Christian as they promised during a Baptism service, there could be more harm than good done and therefore better to wait until confirmation.
- No intention of keeping the promises made unless done so at the appropriate age.
- Public declaration of personal faith is important.

Against confirmation being the most important way:

- Beliefs about original sin mean that a Baptism or earlier service of commitment is important.
- Baptism is clearly more important because it is a preparation for later confirmation.
- Welcoming child into family of the Church which is too late if left until a confirmation ceremony.
- A naming ceremony has much more religious significance than any later ceremony of commitment.
- Promises made on behalf of baby are important early on in the life of a Christian.
- Showing commitment in everyday life is more important than a particular ceremony.
- Other ways, e.g. wearing Christian symbols.

(15 marks)

AO2

Section B *Judaism*

Question 5 God and his people

0

9

Explain Jewish beliefs about the relationship between God and the Jews.

- The Jews are God's chosen people, i.e. a group of dedicated people who would serve God as part of the relationship and prepare the world for a future time when all human beings would know him.
- The relationship between God and Jews is the central point of the Jewish faith and arguably the most important issue for Orthodox Jews.
- The Shema declares the most basic teaching of Judaism that Jews believe in one God.
- Jews' relationship with God is understood in the terms of the Covenant which has a two-way nature.
- In the past, Jews have felt that God has abandoned the covenant relationship e.g. the Holocaust.
- God is bound by the terms of the Covenant too and he will never abandon the Jewish people entirely.
- It can be broken by either side; analogy of marriage.
- Circumcision is the mark of the covenant.
- The Covenant relationship with God makes life meaningful for Jews and there is the idea of God working through history as an example of how the chosen people are looked after by God, e.g. Passover and Hanukkah.
- By keeping God's rules in the relationship, Jews become God's servants and help to fulfil his plan.
- Rules of the relationship can be found in the Torah.
- Jews are bound by the terms of the covenant to obey all 613 mitzvot as far as practical. Jews believe that by fulfilling the commandments they are communicating with God.
- Terms of the covenant are renewed each year at Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

(30 marks)**AO1**

1

0

‘Corporate responsibility is the most important part of the Jewish people’s relationship with God.’

Assess this claim.

Agree:

- Term ‘chosen people’ implies collective idea – demands on the whole community.
- Important theme of Hebrew scripture.
- Importance of minyan.
- Language of prayers uses 1st person plural rather than singular.
- Strong sense of community.

Disagree:

- Emphasis on personal beliefs and morality.
- Daily prayer is often personal.
- Existence of major divisions within Judaism.
- Many secular Jews, so theory does not work.

(15 marks)

AO2

Question 6 Scripture

1

1

Examine the types and styles of material found in the Torah, Nevi'im and Ketuvim.

Types and styles (which may be seen as content and literary forms) both need to be addressed, although this may be done permeatively, and sometimes implicitly.

Torah (law/teaching):

Types:

- Law
- Teachings about origins of the world and Jewish people
- Fundamental events of Abraham and Moses – beginnings of the Covenant relationship

Styles:

- Apodictic and casuistic law
- Genealogies
- Narratives

Nevi'im (prophets)

Types:

- History
- Work and teachings of prophets

Styles:

- Narratives
- Genealogies
- Prophetic oracles
- Discursive teachings

Ketuvim (writings)

Types:

- Theological teachings
- Reflections on the human condition
- Type of literature with parallels in other parts of ancient world
- Practical advice for everyday living

Styles:

- Poetry
- Distinctive style of Psalms, with Hebrew parallelism
- Aphoristic style of some parts of wisdom
- Also, more discursive (e.g. Job)

Types and styles of each of Torah, Nevi'im and Ketuvim, need to be dealt with for marks above L5, so there are 6 elements to be addressed.

(30 marks)**AO1**

1	2
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'The Nevi'im and the Ketuvim are of no importance to most Jews today.'

Assess this claim.

In support of the statement:

- Ketuvim hardly ever feature in public worship
- Although a portion of the Nevi'im is read each week in the synagogue, it has much less significance than the Torah
- Though the Psalms, for example, might embrace human experience it is of a bygone age for most Jews and therefore of no importance
- What prophets said thousands of years ago does not help a Jew in his or her day to day life

Against the statement:

- They are both the foundations of Jewish beliefs and still carry importance. Prophetic advice always relevant. Moral and ethical aspects important.
- Both are still used each week in synagogue worship, for example, the Ketuvim contains Psalms that are read every worship service and festival and particularly at Shabbat.
- Proverbs are read out in devout households by the husband to his wife on Shabbat. Job is often cited to explain suffering, Esther is read at Purim, Lamentations read at Tisha B'av, Jonah read at Yom Kippur. Job is often cited to explain suffering.
- Nevi'im and Ketuvim are part of the Tanak and cannot be separated out for some Jews as less important than the Torah
- They are part of the continuous dialogue between man and God and so have a special place in the life of Jews. Constant reminder to Jews to be loyal to the covenant.

(15 marks)

AO2

Question 7 Aspects of worship and festivals**1****3****Outline the way Yom Kippur is observed and explain its meaning and purpose.****Outline:**

- On the eve of Yom Kippur special donations to charities are made.
- Some men go to the Mikveh.
- Men put on white kittel over their clothes.
- Leather, jewellery and makeup are not worn.
- The rabbi and cantor will wear white and the Ark curtains will be white.
- Special meal is held on the eve of Yom Kippur then the fast takes place which goes on for over 24 hours.
- Evening service, prayer (Kol Nidrei) chanted.
- Confession is made; Shacharit and musaf (additional services) are held.
- Minchah or afternoon service is held and Leviticus 18 is read, then Jonah.
- End of Yom Kippur Neilah or closing service is held, the Ark doors are opened.
- Blast on the shofar to symbolise the end of the 25 hour fast.

Explain:**Meaning:**

- Making things right with God and with other people.
- Stress on purity and new beginnings.

Purpose:

- Fasting encourages discipline and recalls times when Jews might have had very little.
- Charity donations recognise taking people's sins away.
- Spiritual cleansing at the Mikveh for men.
- The wearing of white symbolises purity and festivity.
- God cannot forgive a sin against others unless Jews have tried to put it right.
- Short and long confessions ask for forgiveness.
- Jews remember ancient times when a goat, thought to carry the people's sins, would have been sent out of the city.
- Doors of the Ark are opened to represent the 'doors of repentance' being opened.

Max Low L4 if only 'Outline'.

Max L5 if the three elements of outline, meaning and purpose are not all addressed.

(30 marks)**AO1**

1

4

‘The social aspect of Yom Kippur is far more important than the spiritual aspect for Jews today.’

Assess this claim.

In support of the statement

- It is a chance for families to get together, and families celebrate on the eve with a meal.
- Collective atmosphere in the synagogue – often packed.
- Business contacts are often made as it is one of the few times some people are seen in the synagogue.
- Chance to meet up with old friends.

Against the statement

- It is the holiest day of the year.
- God decides what sort of year you will have on Yom Kippur.
- Solemn occasion and very spiritual, solemnity will override social aspects.
- Fasting cannot be a social occasion as there are many spiritual aspects of fasting.
- Attendance at the synagogue to say prayers and confess sins is spiritual.
- Declarations of faith Jews make are spiritual.
- The ‘no wearing of leather or finery’ does not suggest a social atmosphere.

(15 marks)

AO2

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

1

5

Examine different definitions of who is a Jew.

Students may approach this from religious, social or ethnic angle:

- Anyone descended from Jewish parents and grandparents.
- Belonging to the family of Jews.
- People who have entered into a covenant with God.
- Descended from the 12 tribes of Israel.
- Belonging to the Jewish faith.
- Matrilineal descent defines a Jew, although some Reform communities accept patrilineal.
- A person who has converted to Judaism.
- Identified as a Jew through the Diaspora.
- Claim to Israeli citizenship.
- Hebrews or Children of Israel.
- The terms Jew come from the tribe or kingdom of Judah.
- Jew refers to all physical and spiritual descendants of Jacob.
- A person can be Jewish by birth or by conversion.

(30 marks)

AO1

1

6

'Being a Jew has nothing to do with religious observances.'**Assess this view.****In support of the statement**

- One is a Jew through birth and conversion, not through practice.
- Can be a badly behaved Jew and still be classed as a member of the covenant people.
- Love and fear of God are the two foundations of a good Jewish life and this is vital.
- Israel does not recognise the right of return from Reform Jewish converts no matter how devout.
- Jews should be honest and truthful, show respect for parents, and work hard.

Other views

- Jews' lives are totally influenced by the Torah and religious observances contained within.
- Concept of the covenant people.
- The need to keep covenant and mitzvot is a constant reminder.
- All the festivals are religious observances and these play a major part in the lives of Jews e.g. importance of attending the synagogue on Yom Kippur.
- The writing of the book at Yom Kippur is dependent on behaviour.
- Circumcision is a religious rite.
- Kashrut is still at the heart of the Jewish home.
- Shabbat is still at the heart of family life
- This statement would not sit well in particular with Orthodox Jews.

(15 marks)**AO2**

Section C *Islam 1 The Way of Submission*

Question 9 The Qur'an

1

7

Explain the importance of the Qur'an, the hadith and the sunnah for Muslims.

Qur'an:

- The direct revelation of God
- Nearest thing to God that exists on earth
- Muhammad was given it, underlining its importance
- It is the basis for the Muslim faith
- It has absolute authority
- It is the most holy thing a Muslim can possess
- Muslims keep their copy on a high shelf

Hadith:

- Accepted as genuine in terms of what Muhammad said as an example
- Prophetic hadith have the wise words of Muhammad and show Muslims compassion and practical wisdom
- The sacred hadith are important as they can be traced back to God and are further insights into that which God revealed to Muhammad
- Reliable and important as they can be traced back to a 'chain' of authority

Sunnah:

- Important because it gives Muhammad's example to Muslims
- Passed on from generation to generation
- Prayer movements and times are contained within the sunnah
- Customs and manners are contained within the sunnah vital for Muslim's conduct
- Accepted as a perfect guide to life by many Muslims

Maximum Level 5 if all three not addressed.

(30 marks)

AO1

1

8

'For Muslims, the guidance given in the Qur'an is relevant for all time and for all places.'

Assess this view.

In support of the statement

- The Qur'an offers much guidance on public and private prayer, personal contemplation, religious, social, moral guidance, use as talisman, in education. Reflection on nature of God, signs of God within creation, use by Sufis, source of law, history, teaching about Islam that is still of worth and value today.
- The Qur'an has much on doctrinal statements and how to keep the Pillars of Faith.
- It tells of how Governments should treat their subjects and other states.
- Imams still use the Qur'an as a basis for their sermons in the mosque.
- Life is ibadah and the Qur'an guides Muslims on the straight path.
- The meditations in the Qur'an can enable a Muslim to come closer to God.
- It is regarded as unique in its nature and authority.
- Use in madrassah to show importance of learning verses in Arabic as sacred language.

Other views

- The Qur'an was given to Muhammad in a very different religious and moral time to today.
- The warnings to people of God's judgement have little place in the 21st century.
- The short poetical sections, whilst of great beauty, hold little guidance for Muslims today.
- Many of the teachings Muhammad received which are in the Qur'an have to do with matters of law at the time such as inheritance rights, usury and the conduct of business affairs.
- No need for consensus / scholars' views if not relevant today.

(15 marks)

AO2

Question 10 The Five Pillars

1

9

Examine the significance of the Five Pillars for developing the ideal Muslim character.

- Muslims believe God has commanded the Pillars of Faith as duties for a Muslim's own good.
- They will become better Muslims by doing them.
- Islam will also become stronger.
- Shows obedience to God.
- Is a complete way of Life for Muslims.
- They are spiritual training for a Muslim's good character.

Students may cover each of the Five Pillars in turn and relate what they have said to the development of a good Muslim character.

(30 marks)

AO1

2

0

‘Following the Five Pillars will not necessarily make someone a good Muslim.’

Assess this claim.

In support of the statement

- Emphasis on the importance of intention can be different from following the Five Pillars.
- Greater Jihad (striving) might be seen as more important than following the Five Pillars.
- They do not necessarily prove a Muslim’s faith and show their desire to please God.
- Genuine intention is required with the actions of a Muslim especially if they are not living close to other Muslims so the Five Pillars may not be enough to make a Muslim good.
- A ‘good Muslim’ performs additional prayers, studies and learns the Quran, follows the example of the Prophet in every aspect of life, is honest and morally upright – as well as following the Five Pillars.
- Other aspects of being ‘a good Muslim’.

Other views

- Expect evidence of the claims made for correct practice of the pillars and their effect on the life of a Muslim.
- Pillars reflect Iman.
- The pillars (as their name suggests) are the underlying supports that are essential for Muslim life.

(15 marks)

AO2

Question 11 The doctrine of God

2	1
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Examine the Muslim doctrine of Tawhid.

- Belief in only one God.
- It shows absolute monotheism, rejection of idolatry and declares commitment to Islam.
- Nothing else should be worshipped.
- It shows 'one-ness' 'unity' or 'the alone'
- It is seen in the first part of the Shahadah, confession of faith, the first pillar, which is the foundation of Islam, setting out that God is believed to be omnipotent and omniscient who will judge man on his response.
- Consequently, man must submit to God's will, put God first, worship God in intent and action and live accountably.
- It is seen in Surah 112 'He is Allah the one...'
- To associate anything with God is Shirk.
- The doctrine of Tawhid emphasizes rejection of partners of God and need to acknowledge God's power by following God's will.
- God's closeness to each human being.
- The concept of God as transcendent incorporating his omniscience as Creator of all.
- As a consequence, man's role is to submit throughout the whole of life to God's will, making every effort to please God and act as his servant.
- Man should be in awe of God, responding with humility, recognition of God as master and sustainer of the universe, who is beyond knowledge.

(30 marks)**AO1**

2

2

Assess the claim that no Muslim can ever understand God.

In support of the claim

- Tawhid or the oneness of God is acknowledged as one of the hardest Muslim beliefs to grasp.
- It means accepting that God by definition is supreme. How can a mere mortal fully understand this?
- God is outside of time – what does this mean for a Muslim?
- When Muslims talk of God as being ‘eternal’ or ‘infinite’, they are admitting that he is beyond human knowledge and reasoning.
- Surah 6; ayat 103 states ‘No vision can grasp Him...He is above all comprehension.’
- God is beyond the world of matter and no Muslim can really conceive of this.
- A Muslim is encouraged not to think of God in human terms.

Against the claim

- Allah knows what is in people’s hearts and ensures his subjects know him.
- Allah is the one true God; Allah is the cause of things and this is not beyond human comprehension.
- Tawhid is clear as a belief and every Muslim has a grasp of it.
- People are able to understand difficult concepts about God.
- Prayer brings a Muslim closer to knowing God.
- Humanity is able to conceive of things outside of human terms. This has happened throughout time.
- There are 99 names of Allah that allow a Muslim to understand something of God.

(15 marks)

AO2

Question 12 Key beliefs

2

3

Examine the implications of Risalah and of Akhirah for a Muslim's life.**Risalah**

- God's messengers are a means of communication and have told Muslims how to live.
- All are regarded as intermediaries of God and revealed his will to the world.
- Students could give some examples of different prophets and their message for Muslims which is still relevant today such as Adam and Noah (Nuh) as faithful, or Abraham (Ibrahim) as the 'friend of God' as Muslims should be.
- The prophets guide Muslims in their life on whether an action is right or wrong
- They have given the laws Muslims need to live by.
- Each prophet had a good life and sets an example to Muslims.
- Angels as part of Risalah are recording a Muslim's deeds so this has an impact on how Muslims behave.

Akhirah

- Muslims will want a favourable afterlife so will behave in a way that guarantees them this.
- They will wait in barzakh for the day of judgement and will want to be judged favourably
- Paradise is the reward for good works in this life.
- They will want to avoid doing evil on earth for fear of hell.
- It makes Muslims see life as fair.
- Life is worthwhile, no matter how difficult or painful because it leads to something better.

Maximum L5 if only one area covered.

(30 marks)**AO1**

2

4

Assess the view that it is not reasonable for Muslims to believe in life after death today.**It is reasonable**

- Muslims cannot know for certain that there is life after death
- Images of heaven and hell are too fanciful to be true
- The threat of hell is just encouraging Muslims not to do evil deeds, it does not really exist

It is not reasonable

- Stated in the Qur'an so must be true
- So many Muslims believe in life after death, they cannot all be wrong
- What else would suggest a reason why Muslims should suffer in this world, perhaps unfairly if there is not the promise of an afterlife where things will be better?

(15 marks)**AO2**