



Rewarding Learning

ADVANCED  
General Certificate of Education  
2014

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**Religious Studies**  
Assessment Unit A2 8  
*assessing*

Islam: Law, Tradition and Practice

[AR281]

FRIDAY 6 JUNE, MORNING

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**TIME**

2 hours.

**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

Write your Centre Number and Candidate Number on the Answer Booklet provided.  
Answer **two** questions from Section A and answer the compulsory question in Section B.

**INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES**

The total mark for this paper is 150.  
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 in allocating the available examination time.

## Section A

Answer **two** questions from this section

- 1 (a) With reference to relevant Surahs, outline and discuss the teaching of the Qur'an on war. [30]
- (b) "Interpreting and applying the Qur'an is the greatest problem facing the Muslim community today." Critically assess this claim. [20]
- 2 (a) Outline and examine the significance of Islamic rituals connected with birth and marriage. [30]
- (b) Critically evaluate the claim that religious rituals have less importance for Muslims in the modern world. [20]
- 3 (a) Identify and discuss the distinctive beliefs and practices of Shia Islam. [30]
- (b) "The first four Caliphs were responsible for dividing the Muslim community." Critically assess this claim. [20]
- 4 (a) Outline and explain the Islamic understanding of Allah and Angels. [30]
- (b) Critically evaluate the claim that believing in Allah and Angels are the least controversial articles of faith for Muslims. [20]

## Section B

### Synoptic Assessment

#### Theme: Orthodoxy

You **must** answer this question

- 5 (a) With reference to at least **two** different areas of study, examine some key ideas which have provided a basis for orthodoxy. [30]
- (b) Critically assess the claim that conflicting ideas about orthodoxy are the greatest challenge for religious communities. You should refer to other aspects of human experience in your answer. [20]

