

# GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES SHORT COURSE (8061)

**Marked Responses**  
Summer 2018 - Islam

See a range of responses and how different levels are achieved and understand how to interpret the mark scheme.

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# EXAMPLE RESPONSES



Whilst every attempt has been made to show a range of student responses, the following responses and examiner comments provide teachers with the best opportunity to understand the application of the mark scheme. They are not intended to be used as model answers, although they are genuine student responses from the summer examinations which were marked by senior examiners.

## Two mark questions (A01.1)

0 | 1 | . | 2

Give two of the five roots of Usul ad-Din in Shi'a Islam.

**[2 marks]**

### Answer A

Everything that happens has been decided by Allah/God

Believe in the oneness of Allah/God (Tawhid)

### Answer B

Belief in judgement day

Belief in Tawhid = 'The oneness of God'

### Answer A

This response gives two simple points as required by the 2 mark question. The first is credited as the idea that justice is expressed in what happens to us being decided by God; and Tawhid is correct.

2 marks

### Answer B

As with the previous response, the reference to judgement day is acceptable for justice (Adalat). Tawhid is correct, but there was no requirement here to define the term, simply stating 'tawhid' would be sufficient in a 'give' question.

2 marks

## Four mark questions (A01.2)

0 | 1 | . | 3

Explain two ways in which the Qur'an influences Muslims.

[4 marks]

### Answer A

The Qur'an influences Muslims as it shows them what is right and guides them to become a good Muslim.

Qur'an is the Holy Book and word of God and teaches that God was all-knowing and powerful so Muslims are inspired.

### Answer B

To treat others the way you would like to be treated, respecting views of others. The Qur'an influences Muslims because it's the words of Allah. Allah's rules of how to follow their religion.

The influence this has on Muslims is to direct them to be caring and follow their religion to go to heaven.

#### Answer A

Two detailed points are given in this response with a clear focus on influences. The idea of showing believers what is right (influence) is explained with the idea of guidance on being a 'good Muslim.' The second influence is that they are inspired by the Qur'an, and the development is awarded for the example that it teaches about the attributes of God.

4 marks

#### Answer B

The structure used in this response is less clear than the previous, however more than enough is included here to meet the requirements of the mark scheme for 2 detailed points. The first sentence is an exemplification of the influence in the second paragraph on 'direct them to be caring'. The second influence is to follow the religion, which is explained with the reasoning that they do this because the Qur'an contains the words of Allah.

4 marks

## 12 mark questions

### Levels of Response

| Level | Criteria  | Marks |
|-------|---|-------|
| 4     | <p>A well-argued response, reasoned consideration of different points of view.</p> <p>Logical chains of reasoning leading to judgement(s) supported by knowledge and understanding of relevant evidence and information.</p> <p><b>References to religion applied to the issue.</b></p>   | 10-12 |
| 3     | <p>Reasoned consideration of different points of view.</p> <p>Logical chains of reasoning that draw on knowledge and understanding of relevant evidence and information.</p> <p><b>Clear reference to religion.</b></p>   | 7-9   |
| 2     | <p>Reasoned consideration of a point of view.</p> <p>A logical chain of reasoning drawing on knowledge and understanding of relevant evidence and information.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Recognition of different points of view, each supported by relevant reasons / evidence.</p> <p><b>Maximum of Level 2 if there is no reference to religion or the argument is one-sided.</b></p> | 4-6   |
| 1     | <p>Point of view with reason(s) stated in support.</p>  | 1-3   |
| 0     | <p>Nothing worthy of credit.</p>  | 0     |

## 12 mark questions (A02)

|   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| 0 | 1 | . | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|

'The Oneness of God (Tawhid) is not the only important Muslim belief.' Evaluate this statement.

In your answer you should:

- refer to Muslim teaching
- give reasoned arguments to support this statement
- give reasoned arguments to support a different point of view
- reach a justified conclusion.

**[12 marks + 3 SPaG]**

### Answer A

In the Islam religion there are many things that Muslims believe. Although believing in one God is very important to Muslims beliefs, there are many other important beliefs within Islam. For example beliefs about contraception and marriage are important to the Islam religion. "Man can have more than one wife" is a belief that Muslim men take on.

Although there are many other beliefs, "The Oneness of God" is usually the most important belief as believing in just one God is the main part of being a Muslim. Some may believe that if you don't believe in just one God, you cannot be a part of the Islam religion.

I think that "The Oneness of God" is the main Muslim belief, however it isn't the only important belief as there are many important beliefs that Muslims follow within Islam.

### Answer A

The response includes two points of view, although neither are developed past a surface level. One view is that teachings on marriage and contraception are important, which is exemplified with a quote although this is not taken any further with evaluative comment. The second paragraph explains the importance of Tawhid, but again why the student believes it is the 'main part of being a Muslim' could have been developed. The conclusion is repetitive of previous points.

Level 2, 4 marks

SPaG 3 – Despite the answer being a little shorter than expected (139 words), spelling and punctuation has a good level of accuracy throughout. There is also accurate spelling of subject terms such as 'contraception', 'belief' and 'Muslim.'

## Answer B

Tawhid, or the oneness of God, is an important teaching with regards to beliefs about not worshipping idols. Sunni Muslims believe that the Qur'an should be interpreted by schools since not all of the information is up to date. This means that Sunni Muslims will believe that Muslim beliefs evolve around other teachings such as the 5 pillars of Islam and the 6 articles of Faith. The 6 articles of faith demonstrates that Tawhid is only one of the important Muslim beliefs. Others such as "belief in Prophets" and "belief in the day of Judgement" are equally as important. Sunni Muslims also believe that all humans have free will so are entitled to believe what they want as long as it follows Allah's teachings.

Shi'a Muslims may disagree with the statement depending how literal they are. Shi'a, like Sunni will believe that Allah has 99 names, such as Al-Azic, but Shi'a perhaps believe more strongly that Tawhid is the most important Muslim belief. Since they might believe so strongly in the Oneness of God, they will also think that Allah is Just and Merciful so will allow all Muslims who have followed his ways to Jannah.

Atheists may see Tawhid as confusing and believe that it is certainly not the only important belief that Muslims have since they may not understand how Allah can be one being but more than one at the same time.

In my opinion, I believe that Tawhid is possibly the most important Muslim belief since most other beliefs, such as the Pillars and Articles and Roots all are based on God's teachings. However, I do think that beliefs in prophets are equally as important, especially Muhammad, since many Muslims follow the Hadith, which are the words and teachings of Muhammad.

### Answer B

This response contains evidence of reasoned consideration of different points of view which places it in Level 3. The first paragraph contains clear reasoning and good use of teachings to support points made. The third paragraph on the atheist view is not relevant, and the Shi'a paragraph begins to stray away from the statement at hand. The conclusion reaches a judgement, although the point on prophets could have been expanded further.

Level 3, 9 marks

SPaG 3 – high performance. A range of subject terms are used, spelling and grammar are generally accurate throughout.

## Answer C

Tawhid is a sacred teaching in Islam and is believed by all but is it the not the only important teaching?

More literal Muslims (like Shi'a muslims) may disagree with the statement - saying it is. This was highlighted by God when he used Ibrahim (who believed first that - oneness of God). Also, within the Qur'an it describes Allah as "not "comparable" ("nothing compares to him"). They believe everything in the Qu'ran word for word and so think God is the most important belief and that their is one of him relates to this (as in not comparable and beyond human understanding).

More liberal muslims (like Sunni muslims) would agree with the statement. They would agree that the bible is "infallible" (as it states) but all the teachings have an impact and are important. They understand God is superior but without knowing how to worship God and taking inspiration from others would also anger God. Breaking the religion in other areas would also result in "Jahamah" not just praying to other, false idols.

As someone who is non-religious, I would disagree with the statement. I understand how important Allah is to muslims and the tawhid belief but, it can't be the only important one. I think that if this was the case the Qu'ran would be 2 pages long. All the teachings and behavioural structures result in an afterlife for muslims, in my eyes, are equally important. Muslims can still be punished for the things outside of tawhid - for this reason I disagree with the statement (as other aspects of Islam are very important to Islam).

In conclusion, Allah is clearly very important to muslims and influences them but even the belief of tawhid isn't the most important (despite God not comparable with humans). Most muslims would agree that all teachings are important even ones not regarding Allah.

### Answer C

This response is well argued and is entirely focused on the quote from the question. There are lots of developed ideas that are used to build a convincing case on different sides. The fourth paragraph is written from a non-religious perspective, but the student uses Islamic concepts in their reasoning which maintains its relevance to the question.

Level 4, 12 marks

SPaG 2 – Although the response is long, and punctuation is used well, there are several spelling mistakes of key Islamic terms such as Qur'an, Muslims is spelled without capitalisation, and it is assumed that "Jahamah" in paragraph 3 refers to Jahannam. As such, intermediate performance is best fit for this response.



## Get help and support

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