
GCSE
RELIGIOUS STUDIES
8063/2X

PERSPECTIVES ON FAITH (ISLAM)

Mark scheme

Specimen

V1.0

Mark schemes are prepared by the Lead Assessment Writer and considered, together with the relevant questions, by a panel of subject teachers. This mark scheme includes any amendments made at the standardisation events which all associates participate in and is the scheme which was used by them in this examination. The standardisation process ensures that the mark scheme covers the students' responses to questions and that every associate understands and applies it in the same correct way. As preparation for standardisation each associate analyses a number of students' scripts. Alternative answers not already covered by the mark scheme are discussed and legislated for. If, after the standardisation process, associates encounter unusual answers which have not been raised they are required to refer these to the Lead Assessment Writer.

It must be stressed that a mark scheme is a working document, in many cases further developed and expanded on the basis of students' reactions to a particular paper. Assumptions about future mark schemes on the basis of one year's document should be avoided; whilst the guiding principles of assessment remain constant, details will change, depending on the content of a particular examination paper.

Further copies of this mark scheme are available from aqa.org.uk

Level of response marking instructions

Level of response mark schemes are broken down into levels, each of which has a descriptor. The descriptor for the level shows the average performance for the level. There are marks in each level.

Before you apply the mark scheme to a student's answer read through the answer and annotate it (as instructed) to show the qualities that are being looked for. You can then apply the mark scheme.

Step 1 Determine a level

Start at the lowest level of the mark scheme and use it as a ladder to see whether the answer meets the descriptor for that level. The descriptor for the level indicates the different qualities that might be seen in the student's answer for that level. If it meets the lowest level then go to the next one and decide if it meets this level, and so on, until you have a match between the level descriptor and the answer. With practice and familiarity you will find that for better answers you will be able to quickly skip through the lower levels of the mark scheme.

When assigning a level you should look at the overall quality of the answer and not look to pick holes in small and specific parts of the answer where the student has not performed quite as well as the rest. If the answer covers different aspects of different levels of the mark scheme you should use a best fit approach for defining the level and then use the variability of the response to help decide the mark within the level, ie if the response is predominantly level 3 with a small amount of level 4 material it would be placed in level 3 but be awarded a mark near the top of the level because of the level 4 content.

Step 2 Determine a mark

Once you have assigned a level you need to decide on the mark. The descriptors on how to allocate marks can help with this. The exemplar materials used during standardisation will help. There will be an answer in the standardising materials which will correspond with each level of the mark scheme. This answer will have been awarded a mark by the Lead Examiner. You can compare the student's answer with the example to determine if it is the same standard, better or worse than the example. You can then use this to allocate a mark for the answer based on the Lead Examiner's mark on the example.

You may well need to read back through the answer as you apply the mark scheme to clarify points and assure yourself that the level and the mark are appropriate.

Indicative content in the mark scheme is provided as a guide for examiners. It is not intended to be exhaustive and you must credit other valid points. Students do not have to cover all of the points mentioned in the Indicative content to reach the highest level of the mark scheme.

An answer which contains nothing of relevance to the question must be awarded no marks.

Levels of response marking

In GCSE Religious Studies, differentiation is largely achieved by outcome on the basis of students' responses. To facilitate this, levels of response marking has been devised for many questions.

Levels of response marking requires a quite different approach from the examiner than the traditional 'point for point' marking. It is essential that the **whole response is read** and then **allocated to the level** it best fits.

If a student demonstrates knowledge, understanding and/or evaluation at a certain level, he/she must be credited at that level. **Length** of response or **literary ability** should **not be confused with genuine religious studies skills**. For example, a short answer which shows a high level of conceptual ability must be credited at that level. (If there is a band of marks allocated to a level, discrimination should be made with reference to the development of the answer.)

Levels are tied to specific skills. Examiners should **refer to the stated assessment target** objective of a question (see mark scheme) when there is any doubt as to the relevance of a student's response.

Levels of response mark schemes include either **examples** of possible students' responses or **material** which they might use. These are intended as a **guide** only. It is anticipated that students will produce a wide range of responses to each question.

It is a feature of levels of response mark schemes that examiners are prepared to reward fully, responses which are obviously valid and of high ability but do not conform exactly to the requirements of a particular level. This should only be necessary occasionally and where this occurs examiners must indicate, by a brief written explanation, why their assessment does not conform to the levels of response laid down in the mark scheme. Such scripts should be referred to the Principal Examiner.

In questions where credit can be given to the development of a point, those developments can take the form of:

- **Example or evidence**
- **Reference to different views**
- **Detailed information.**

Spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPaG)

Spelling, punctuation and grammar will be assessed in 12-mark questions.

Spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPaG) will be assessed against the following criteria:

Level	Performance descriptor	Marks awarded
High performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learners spell and punctuate with consistent accuracy Learners use rules of grammar with effective control of meaning overall Learners use a wide range of specialist terms as appropriate 	3
Intermediate performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learners spell and punctuate with considerable accuracy Learners use rules of grammar with general control of meaning overall Learners use a good range of specialist terms as appropriate 	2
Threshold performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learners spell and punctuate with reasonable accuracy Learners use rules of grammar with some control of meaning and any errors do not significantly hinder meaning overall Learners use a limited range of specialist terms as appropriate 	1
No marks awarded	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The learner writes nothing The learner's response does not relate to the question The learner's achievement in SPaG does not reach the threshold performance level, for example errors in spelling, punctuation and grammar severely hinder meaning 	0

01 ISLAM: BELIEFS

Qu	Part	Marking guidance	Total marks
01	1	<p>Which one of the following is a prophet of Islam?</p> <p>A Ibrahim. B Jibril. C Mika'il. D Israfil.</p> <p>Target: AO1:1 Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of religion and belief, including beliefs, practices and sources of authority.</p> <p>Answer: A Ibrahim.</p>	1
01	2	<p>Name two of the Holy Books other than the Qur'an.</p> <p>Target: AO1:1 Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of religion and belief, including beliefs, practices and sources of authority.</p> <p>One mark for each of two correct points.</p> <p>Torah/The Psalms/The Scrolls of Abraham/Injil (Gospel).</p>	2

01	3	<p>Explain two contrasting beliefs of Islam and the main religious tradition of Great Britain about Jesus (Isa).</p> <p>Target: AO1:3 Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of religion and belief, including similarities and differences within and/or between religions and beliefs.</p> <p>First way Simple explanation of a relevant and accurate influence – 1 mark Detailed explanation of a relevant and accurate influence – 2 marks</p> <p>Second way Simple explanation of a relevant and accurate influence – 1 mark Detailed explanation of a relevant and accurate influence – 2 marks</p> <p>Students may include some of the following points, but all other relevant points must be credited: Students must correctly identify Christianity as the main religious tradition of Great Britain. The indicative content illustrates contrasting beliefs held by some Christians and Muslims but beliefs vary considerably within each religion.</p> <p>Christianity Jesus is the Son of God/God incarnate/one Person of the Trinity/died on the cross but resurrected/always present with Christians.</p> <p>Islam Jesus (Isa) was human/Jesus was a Prophet sent by God/Jesus did not die on the cross but was ‘raised by God to Himself’ Qur’an 4:157-8</p>	4
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01	4	<p>Explain two Shi'a beliefs about the Imamate.</p> <p>Refer to sacred writings or another source of Muslim belief and teaching in your answer.</p> <p>Target: AO1:1 Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of religion and belief, including beliefs, practices and sources of authority.</p> <p>First teaching Simple explanation of a relevant and accurate teaching – 1 mark Detailed explanation of a relevant and accurate teaching – 2 marks</p> <p>Second teaching Simple explanation of a relevant and accurate teaching – 1 mark Detailed explanation of a relevant and accurate teaching – 2 marks</p> <p>Relevant and accurate reference to scripture/sacred writing – 1 mark</p> <p>Students may include some of the following points, but all other relevant points must be credited:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • rightful successors of Muhammad/part of the Ahl al-Bayt (family of Muhammad)/Imam is appointed by God, first through Muhammad and then through each Imam in turn • Ali was the true successor/there have been 12 Imams (Twelver Shi'ism) or 7 Imams (Severners) • the Imam of this age is hidden and will reappear as the end of the world approaches/the authority of the Imam is the authority of God/the Imams are human, etc. <p>Sources of authority May include the Hadith of the pond of Khumm – The Prophet said ' Of whoever I am mawla, Ali is mawla' or hadith commanding love of the Prophet's household or of Ali, or 'the hadith of position' saying that as Aaron was to Moses so Ali will be to Muhammad – Aaron is named as the successor to Moses in the Qur'an. Any relevant sources may be used.</p>	5
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01	5	<p>'Muslim teaching about predestination means that people have no free will.'</p> <p>Evaluate this statement.</p> <p>In your answer you should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>Target: AO2 Analyse and evaluate aspects of religion and belief, including significance and influence.</p>	12																		
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<p>Students may include some of the following evidence and arguments, but all relevant evidence and arguments must be credited:</p> <p>Arguments in support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God is the only creator/so humans cannot have free will because that would mean that they created their own actions • this is how verses from the Qur'an such as 54:49 and 6:39 are interpreted by some Muslims 																					

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God has written the life of each human being in a book before it has happened/so Muslims cannot change what he has planned for them. <p>Arguments in support of other views</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Qur’an 57:14 is taken as evidence that humans make their own choices • the belief that God is Just shows that human beings must be free to choose good or evil/because a Just God would not punish people for actions he had made them do • the belief that God knows the future does not mean that humans are not free to choose, just that God knows what choices they will make. <p>SPaG 3 marks</p>	
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02 ISLAM: PRACTICES

Qu	Part	Marking guidance	Total marks
02	1	<p>Which one of the following is pilgrimage in Islam?</p> <p>A Tawhid. B Prophethood. C Hajj. D Resurrection.</p> <p>Target: AO1:1 Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of religion and belief, including beliefs, practices and sources of authority.</p> <p>Answer: C Hajj.</p>	1
02	2	<p>Give two of the features of a mosque that allow it to be used as a place of prayer.</p> <p>Target: AO1:1 Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of religion and belief, including beliefs, practices and sources of authority.</p> <p>One mark for each of two correct points.</p> <p>Minbar/mihrab/prayer mats/minaret/washing facilities/shoe storage/separate areas for men and women, etc.</p>	2

02	3	<p>Explain two ways in which fasting in Ramadan influences the life of a Muslim.</p> <p>Target: AO1:3 Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of religion and belief, including similarities and differences within and/or between religions and beliefs.</p> <p>First contrasting understanding Simple explanation of a relevant and accurate contrast – 1 mark Detailed explanation of a relevant and accurate contrast – 2 marks</p> <p>Second contrasting understanding Simple explanation of a relevant and accurate contrast – 1 mark Detailed explanation of a relevant and accurate contrast – 2 marks</p> <p>Students may include some of the following evidence and arguments, but all relevant evidence and arguments must be credited:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • it develops self-discipline and good behaviour: they neither eat or drink during daylight hours, and have to make an additional effort to keep the laws of God – This should extend beyond Ramadan • they focus on God so it strengthens faith: study or recitation of the Qur’an each night reminds of teaching of Qur’an so ensures that Muslims know what God expects of them • the fact that all Muslims are doing the same for that month unites community so strengthens it and sets them apart from others, so helps them preserve their own identity. 	4
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02	4	<p>Explain two purposes of zakah.</p> <p>Refer to sacred writings or another source of Muslim belief and teaching in your answer.</p> <p>Target: AO1:1 Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of religion and belief, including beliefs, practices and sources of authority.</p> <p>First way Simple explanation of a relevant and accurate way – 1 mark Detailed explanation of a relevant and accurate way – 2 marks</p> <p>Second way Simple explanation of a relevant and accurate way – 1 mark Detailed explanation of a relevant and accurate way – 2 marks</p> <p>Relevant and accurate reference to scripture/sacred writing – 1 mark</p> <p>Students may include some of the following points, all other relevant points must be credited:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to purify wealth – all wealth comes ultimately from God and Muslims must pay what they owe to God before they can spend it. • a reminder that money is something received from God to be used on his behalf • to remove greed and selfishness – zakah aims at educating Muslim attitudes to wealth • to share excess wealth with the needy/support the faith. Students may refer to the uses the money may be put to as specified in the Qur'an 2:215 and 17:26 	5
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02	5	<p>'It's not important for Muslims to celebrate festivals today.'</p> <p>Evaluate this statement.</p> <p>In your answer you should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>Target: AO2 Analyse and evaluate aspects of religion and belief, including significance and influence.</p>	12																		
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		<p>Students may include some of the following evidence and arguments, but all relevant evidence and arguments must be credited.</p> <p>Arguments in support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • some of the festivals celebrated by some Muslims are seen as un-Islamic by others – such as celebrations of Muhammad's birthday. • some argue that the way in which some festivals are celebrated today has very little religious significance they are just excuses for a 																			

		<p>party.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • it is more important to ensure that the community is safe -Bringing large numbers of Muslims together in one place is too dangerous in some situations, for example when they are targets for terrorist attack. <p>Arguments in support of other views</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Prophet's celebration of two festivals, Id-ul-Adha and Id-ul-Fitr, is mentioned in Hadith/it is Sunnah to perform them and Muslims should follow the Sunnah • festivals unite the community so they make the community stronger/encourages individual Muslims or Muslim families who may live apart from a Muslim community during the year • Ashura is central to Shi'a self-understanding, and to their duty to carry out their mission as servants of God/failure to carry out the festival could lead to loss of this special sense of identity. <p>SPaG 3 marks</p>	
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