

Teacher Resource Bank

GCSE Religious Studies (Specification A)

Additional Specimen Questions:

Unit 8 *Islam*

- Beliefs and Sources of Authority



PART B

There are 24 marks for each question.

B Beliefs and Sources of Authority

(a)(i) Describe the occasion when Muhammad was called to be a prophet. (4 marks)

(a)(ii) 'The example of Muhammad is all that Muslims need to guide them through life.'

Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer, showing that you have thought about more than one point of view. Refer to Islam in your answer. (6 marks)

(b) Explain the importance of the Hijrah in Islam. (4 marks)

(c) Outline the importance of Shari'ah law to Muslims. (4 marks)

(d) 'Religion is more about the way you treat other people than what you believe about God.'

Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer, showing that you have thought about more than one point of view. Refer to Islam in your answer. (6 marks)



General Certificate of Secondary Education

Religious Studies
Full or Short Course
Specification A

Unit 8 *Islam*

Additional SPECIMEN Mark Scheme
Beliefs and Sources of Authority

June series

B Beliefs and Sources of Authority

(a)(i) Describe the occasion when Muhammad was called to be a prophet.

Target: Knowledge of the Night of Power

Levels	Criteria	Marks
0	Nothing relevant or worthy of credit.	0 marks
Level 1	Something relevant or worthy of credit.	1 mark
Level 2	Elementary knowledge and understanding, e.g. two simple points.	2 marks
Level 3	Sound knowledge and understanding.	3 marks
Level 4	A clear knowledge and understanding with some development and / or analysis.	4 marks

Candidates may include some of the following points:

Muhammad's vision in cave Hira on mountain / angel Gabriel / flaming scrolls / Muhammad unable to read / conversation / hugging / reference to Muhammad's circumstances / date / result of vision / reference to home and Khadijah.

(4 marks) AO1

(a)(ii) ‘The example of Muhammad is all that Muslims need to guide them through life.’

Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer, showing that you have thought about more than one point of view. Refer to Islam in your answer.

Target: Evaluation of the life of Muhammad

Level	Criteria	Marks	Quality of Written Communication
0	Unsupported opinion or no relevant evaluation.	0 marks	The candidate’s presentation, spelling, punctuation and grammar seriously obstruct understanding.
Level 1	Opinion supported by simple reason.	1 mark	The candidate presents some relevant information in a simple form. The text produced is usually legible. Spelling, punctuation and grammar allow meaning to be derived, although errors are sometimes obstructive.
Level 2	Opinion supported by one developed reason or two simple reasons.	2 marks	
Level 3	Opinion supported by one well developed reason or several simple reasons. N.B. Candidates who make no religious comment should not achieve more than Level 3.	3 marks	The candidate presents relevant information in a way which assists with the communication of meaning. The text produced is legible. Spelling, punctuation and grammar are sufficiently accurate not to obscure meaning.
Level 4	Opinion supported by two developed reasons with reference to religion.	4 marks	
Level 5	Evidence of reasoned consideration of two different points of view, showing informed insights and knowledge and understanding of religion.	5 marks	The candidate presents relevant information coherently, employing structure and style to render meaning clear. The text produced is legible. Spelling, punctuation and grammar are sufficiently accurate to render meaning clear.
Level 6	A well-argued response, with evidence of reasoned consideration of two different points of view showing informed insights and ability to apply knowledge and understanding of religion effectively.	6 marks	

Candidates may include some of the following points:

Agree

Example of Muhammad as a role model / human example to follow / great leader with compassion / simple life / self-discipline / servant of Allah / strong faith / actions and sayings.

Other views

Muhammad was only a man / only a messenger / importance of the Qur’an as a guide to life / importance of worship / five pillars / family life / festivals, etc.

(6 marks) AO2

(b) Explain the importance of the Hijrah in Islam.

Target: Knowledge and understanding of the importance of the Hijrah

Levels	Criteria	Marks
0	Nothing relevant or worthy of credit.	0 marks
Level 1	Something relevant or worthy of credit.	1 mark
Level 2	Elementary knowledge and understanding, e.g. two simple points.	2 marks
Level 3	Sound knowledge and understanding.	3 marks
Level 4	A clear knowledge and understanding with some development and / or analysis.	4 marks

Candidates may include some of the following points:

New start / beginning of spread of Islam / base / support / start of calendar / first Muslim community / first mosque built in Madinah.

(4 marks) AO1

(c) Outline the importance of Shari'ah law to Muslims.

Target: Knowledge and understanding of Shari'ah law

Levels	Criteria	Marks
0	Nothing relevant or worthy of credit.	0 marks
Level 1	Something relevant or worthy of credit.	1 mark
Level 2	Elementary knowledge and understanding, e.g. two simple points.	2 marks
Level 3	Sound knowledge and understanding.	3 marks
Level 4	A clear knowledge and understanding with some development and / or analysis.	4 marks

Candidates may include some of the following points:

Shari'ah as the law of Islam / based on the Qur'an and the life of Muhammad / basic rules of Shari'ah found in the Qur'an / it is the right path to follow / code of behaviour / a criterion for judging right from wrong / to follow Shari'ah means to follow a morally responsible life / importance of the welfare of all people.

(4 marks) AO1

- (d) **‘Religion is more about the way you treat other people than what you believe about God.’**

Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer, showing that you have thought about more than one point of view. Refer to Islam in your answer.

Target: Evaluation of human behaviour and religious beliefs

Level	Criteria	Marks	Quality of Written Communication
0	Unsupported opinion or no relevant evaluation.	0 marks	The candidate’s presentation, spelling, punctuation and grammar seriously obstruct understanding.
Level 1	Opinion supported by simple reason.	1 mark	The candidate presents some relevant information in a simple form. The text produced is usually legible. Spelling, punctuation and grammar allow meaning to be derived, although errors are sometimes obstructive.
Level 2	Opinion supported by one developed reason or two simple reasons.	2 marks	
Level 3	Opinion supported by one well developed reason or several simple reasons. N.B. Candidates who make no religious comment should not achieve more than Level 3.	3 marks	The candidate presents relevant information in a way which assists with the communication of meaning. The text produced is legible. Spelling, punctuation and grammar are sufficiently accurate not to obscure meaning.
Level 4	Opinion supported by two developed reasons with reference to religion.	4 marks	
Level 5	Evidence of reasoned consideration of two different points of view, showing informed insights and knowledge and understanding of religion.	5 marks	The candidate presents relevant information coherently, employing structure and style to render meaning clear. The text produced is legible. Spelling, punctuation and grammar are sufficiently accurate to render meaning clear.
Level 6	A well-argued response, with evidence of reasoned consideration of two different points of view showing informed insights and ability to apply knowledge and understanding of religion effectively.	6 marks	

Candidates may include some of the following points.

Agree

Islam places strong emphasis on treating others well / importance of zakah and saum / importance of the Ummah / no barriers of race, etc. / love and respect to all / everybody and everything matters.

Other views

Importance of search for knowledge of Allah / to know Allah is to do his will / importance of idea of submission / correct thought about Allah is central to Islam / religion in practice / all Muslim life is to do the will of Allah.

(6 marks) AO2