

Teacher Resource Bank

GCSE Religious Studies Specification A

Unit 9 *Islam : Ethics*

Exemplar Scripts and Commentaries



Script 1

PART A

A1 Lifestyle

- (a) Give **two** reasons why some Muslims do **not** drink alcohol. (2 marks)

1. *It is forbidden in the Quran.*

2. *They disagree with doing things that may harm your body.*

Commentary

Two clear reasons are given.

(2 marks)

- (b) 'No Muslim should take drugs.'

What do you think? Explain your opinion. (3 marks)

I think Muslims should take MEDICAL drugs, because the Quran encourages it because Allah has created cures. I think Muslims shouldn't take illegal drugs because it is bad for them and therefore discouraged a lot by their religion. I think they can take legal drugs like tobacco as it isn't forbidden by Islam or by the law.

Commentary

Three clear points are made, relating to medical drugs, illegal drugs and legal drugs.

(3 marks)

- (c) Explain Muslim attitudes to gambling. (4 marks)

"Squander not your wealth" – Quran. This quote shows that Muslims shouldn't waste their money – i.e. on gambling. Also, Muslims believe one shouldn't have money that they haven't earned and worked for, therefore Muslims don't believe in gambling.

Commentary

Two clear points are made – and the first is slightly developed.

(3 marks)

- (d) 'All Muslim children should be educated in Islamic schools.'

What do you think? Explain your opinion. (3 marks)

I disagree with this because it is possible for a child to be a good Muslim and go to a non-Islamic school too. Different children are better suited to different environments so I think the choice of school should be dependent on the individual, rather than their religion.

Commentary

The opinion is supported by two reasons, neither of which is developed. A simple example to back up the second point would have earned the third mark.

(2 marks)

A2 The Environment

- (a) Explain **two** ways in which humans contribute to pollution. (4 marks)

1. *By using cars / burning fossil fuels, which release CO2 gases.*

2. *Littering, which can harm habitats for animals / plants, therefore disturbing eco-systems.*

Commentary

Both ways are clearly stated. The first is slightly developed, the second more clearly so.

(4 marks)

- (b) What is khilafah (stewardship)? (2 marks)

Taking responsibility for something?

Commentary

A very limited answer, just worth one mark.

(1 mark)

- (c) 'It is acceptable to experiment on animals.'

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)

Islam teaches that scientific research is a good thing, so experimenting on animals for medical purposes for example would be agreed on. Animal rights enthusiasts however may disagree because it is unfair on the animals. Other people may believe that animals can be tested on for everything e.g. make up, because animal lives aren't important. My opinion is that a human life is worth more than an animals so I agree with medical testing, but not cosmetics because they're not as important as an animal's life.

Commentary

Reasoned consideration of two points of view, but the reference to religion is too generalised for the answer to be awarded level 5.

(4 marks)

A3 Wealth and Poverty

(a) Give **two** causes of poverty. (2 marks)

1. Natural disasters.
2. Political instability.

Commentary

Two clear points made.

(2 marks)

(b) Describe the work of Muslim Aid. (4 marks)

Muslim Aid provides emergency aid when natural disasters occur mainly in Muslim countries. They don't discriminate against race / beliefs / gender etc of people, and work to provide equipment to ensure clean water, ability to farm etc. They also educate locals on how to get back on track and live independently so they can keep dignity.

Commentary

A full answer.

(4 marks)

(c) 'Muslims should keep only the money they need to live.'

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

I disagree because Islam doesn't say to only keep money to survive. Muslims are required to give 2.5% of money for Zakah. "If anyone saves a life it would be as if he saved the whole of mankind" – this shows that it isn't necessary for a Muslim to give LOADS of money – helping 1 person is an accomplishment too. I disagree with the quote because Muslims should be able to enjoy their life and have luxuries as well. Others may disagree and say that because Muslims believe in heaven they should have their luxuries there rather than on Earth.

Commentary

There are some very good points here, at the beginning and end of the answer. It is not obvious how the quote from the Qur'an shows that it isn't necessary for Muslims to give loads of money – but the general idea that there are other ways of serving rather than giving money is clear. Why Muslims should be able to have luxuries is not clear, but the last part about luxuries in heaven is very good. This is the only place in the answer where the candidate shows that there are different points of view about this.

(5 marks)

A4 Crime and Punishment

- (a) Give **two** aims of punishment. (2 marks)

1. *Teaching a wrong-doer their lesson – justice.*
2. *Prevention of occurrence of future crimes.*

Commentary

Two aims are clearly stated.

(2 marks)

- (b) Explain Muslim teaching on forgiveness. (4 marks)

Islam teaches that Allah is merciful and forgiving if a person prays and regrets, therefore humans should try and show mercy as well, however, Islam also says that if someone has done something bad to you it's not their right to be forgiven by you – it is down to you. Allah doesn't forgive someone unless the victim of their sin also wishes to forgive.

Commentary

There are two developed points here. The second point would have been more clearly made if an example had been used.

(4 marks)

- (c) 'Corporal punishment stops people committing crime.'

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)

I agree that it would put a lot of people off doing a crime, however some still would. Islam teaches that adultery-committers should be 'flogged 100 times', so Islam agrees with it in certain crimes that are seen to be serious enough to deserve it, and that it would prevent it. Others may believe that it wouldn't stop people because a criminal is a criminal and doesn't take consequences of actions into consideration. I agree with the quote, but don't agree that corporal punishment is always the best way to punish someone – it would make them hateful and want to commit crime again.

Commentary

The candidate has made an excellent attempt. S/he clearly understands the role of corporal punishment in Islam and that it may or may not succeed in deterring the criminal. Clear arguments support that point of view. Level 6.

(6 marks)

PART B

B6 Life and Death

- (a)(i) Explain what is meant by the 'sanctity of life'. (2 marks)

Sanctity of life means the holiness of life – it is a God-given gift.

Commentary

Two simple points made.

(2 marks)

- (a)(ii) 'A Muslim would never agree to have an abortion.'

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

It depends on the circumstances. Muslims allow abortion within the first 40 or 120 days after conception. Generally however, after this time period abortion isn't allowed because Allah breathes life into foetus while it's in the womb – so abortion is like murder. However, this doesn't mean a Muslim would never agree to one because not all Muslims always follow the rules of their religion. Another reason a Muslim would agree to abortion is if they would be at risk of dying / other problems if they gave birth – this is allowed by Islam. Others may disagree though I think a Muslim would never have an abortion because the foetus is a gift from God that they do not have the right to regret.

Commentary

A full and well-argued answer.

(6 marks)

- (b) Explain Muslim attitudes to contraception. (4 marks)

Muslims allow contraception if:

- *The couple cannot financially afford to raise a child.*
- *There is a high risk of the child being disabled.*
- *The lady would be at risk by giving birth.*

Other than these 3 exceptions, contraception is disallowed because they don't believe in stopping Allah's plan.

Commentary

This answer consists of a list of points.

(3 marks)

- (c) Describe Muslim beliefs about resurrection. (6 marks)

Muslims believe that when you die, two Angels question you when you're in the grave, and that you go to a state of waiting for the day of judgement, when an angel will blow a horn and everyone will wake up from death, to be judged and sent to heaven or hell.

Commentary

Sound knowledge and understanding. There are a number of points, but no development or analysis which would have raised it to level 4.

(3 marks)

- (d) 'Prolonging someone's life with medical treatment is always the right thing to do.'

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)

No response given.

Commentary

No response given.

(0 marks)

Script 2

PART A

A1 Lifestyle

- (a) Give **two** reasons why some Muslims do not drink alcohol. (2 marks)

No response given.

Commentary

No response given.

(0 marks)

- (b) 'No Muslim should take drugs.'

What do you think? Explain your opinion. (3 marks)

It's against their religion, no one should ever take drugs because it can effect your mind and other things and its addicting.

Commentary

There are just about three different points here but there is some inaccuracy. Islam is not opposed to the taking of all drugs, and not all drugs are addictive. The answer is better than level 1 but cannot be awarded full marks, level 2 given.

(2 marks)

- (c) Explain Muslim attitudes to gambling. (4 marks)

Muslims think that its wrong to gamble for money because they should work for money not get it for free.

Commentary

One reason is given.

(1 mark)

- (d) 'All Muslim children should be educated in Islamic schools.'

What do you think? Explain your opinion. (3 marks)

Because there could be other religions in other schools who would make fun of them, and they will learn about things they don't need to know if they went to normal school.

Commentary

There are two different points here – but note that the candidate has not actually said what s/he thinks.

(2 marks)

A2 The Environment

- (a) Explain **two** ways in which humans contribute to pollution. (4 marks)

1. Litter

2. Toxic tumes.

Commentary

Two points stated. It is important for candidates to look at the number of marks a question is worth, because it looks as though this candidate thought each answer was only worth one mark.

(2 marks)

- (b) What is khilafah (stewardship)? (2 marks)

No response given.

Commentary

No response given.

(0 marks)

- (c) 'It is acceptable to experiment on animals.'

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)

No I don't agree because animals are just the same as humans. Just because they are a bit different doesn't mean that we can test things on them. I am sure lots of other people agree with me and have the same view.

Commentary

There is no reference to Islam in this answer. The candidate gives one, slightly developed, reason why animals should not be used. The final point adds nothing to the argument.

(2 marks)

A3 Wealth and Poverty

(a) Give **two** causes of poverty. (2 marks)

1. *Not a good government.*

2. *A poor country.*

Commentary

The first reason is valid.

(1 mark)

(b) Describe the work of Muslim Aid. (4 marks)

To help poor Muslim people around the world.

Commentary

One point made.

(1 mark)

(c) 'Muslims should keep only the money they need to live.'

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

I don't agree because if they work every day for money and work hard for it they should be able to treat themselves to nice new things.

Commentary

A clearly stated point of view with one slightly developed reason.

(2 marks)

A4 Crime and Punishment

- (a) Give **two** aims of punishment. (2 marks)

1. *Murder*

2. *Robbery*

Commentary

0 marks.

(0 marks)

- (b) Explain Muslim teaching on forgiveness. (4 marks)

No response given.

Commentary

No response given.

(0 marks)

- (c) 'Corporal punishment stops people committing crime.'

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)

No response given.

Commentary

No response given.

(0 marks)

PART B

B6 Life and Death

(a)(i) Explain what is meant by the 'sanctity of life'. (2 marks)

No response given.

Commentary
No response given. (0 marks)

(a)(ii) 'A Muslim would never agree to have an abortion.'

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

Don't agree because if they want an abortion let them, yes its killing but its their own choose.

Commentary
One clear point made in support of a point of view, but there is also a clear sign that the candidate knows about another side to the argument - the idea that abortion is killing. (2 marks)

(b) Explain Muslim attitudes to contraception. (4 marks)

Muslim attitudes to contraception is that if your going to have sex you should make a baby not just for plesser.

Commentary
Some Muslims would agree with the point made. (1 mark)

(c) Describe Muslim beliefs about resurrection. (6 marks)

No response given.

Commentary
No response given. (0 marks)

- (d) 'Prolonging someone's life with medical treatment is always the right thing to do.'

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)

I do agree because if they are very young and they are going to die I think they should. Because they still have their whole life to live. But if they are 70 and older I don't think they should because they have lived their life.

Commentary

There is no reference to Islam in the answer. Two simple reasons are stated.

(2 marks)