



# Examiners' Report June 2018

## GCSE Religious Studies A 1RA0 1C

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# Introduction

Religious Studies A Paper 1: Area of Study 1 – Study of Religion Option 1C – Islam

This paper contributes to 50% of the overall award. The assessment consists of four questions: candidates must answer all four questions. The details of the assessment content are provided in the specification. Centres are to use this, rather than other published resources when planning the course content.

In some questions, marks are given for correct spelling and grammar, indicated by SPaG.

## Question 1 (a)

Candidates were assessed on Section One: Beliefs and Teachings – bullet point 1.3 ‘the characteristics of Allah as shown in the Qur’an’.

The question asked was ‘Outline three ways Allah is described in the Qur’an’.

Candidates are asked to ‘Outline’ on (a) items. Therefore, lists can only reach a maximum of one mark.

### GENERIC advice for centres to what constitutes a list.

An example:

Outline 3 characteristics of God:

- **God is creator** (1 mark)
- **God is creator**, judge and lawgiver (1 mark for list or sentence)
- **God is creator**, busy and distant. (1 mark for the sentence identifying one correct piece of information)
- Busy, distant and **God is creator**, (1 mark for the sentence identifying one correct piece of information)
- Creator, judge, lawgiver (1 mark for list)
- Creator, busy, distant (0 Marks) (all three elements need to be correct for 1 mark)
- Creator, judge, distant (0 marks)

1 (a) Outline **three** ways Allah is described in the Qur’an.

(3)

Allah is ~~being~~ omnipotent  
Allah is All-seeing  
Allah is Merciful



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

This candidate outlines three ways in three sentences.

3 marks



Candidates should write in three full sentences to gain full marks

1 (a) Outline **three** ways Allah is described in the Qur'an.

(3)

Allah is described a powerful  
Allah is described as merciful  
Allah is described as all knowing



The candidate outlines three ways in three sentences.

3 marks

1 (a) Outline **three** ways Allah is described in the Qur'an.

(3)

- All Merciful
- The Creator
- The King of Kings
- The Forgiving one



This candidate answers giving three ways, in a list  
1 mark



Candidates should write in three full sentences to gain full marks.

1 (a) Outline **three** ways Allah is described in the Qur'an.

(3)

Allah is described as:  
- Benevolent  
- Omniscient  
- Omnipotent



This candidate outlines one way and then goes on to list another two ways, which cannot be awarded further marks.

1 mark

## Question 1 (b)

Candidates were assessed on Section One: Beliefs and Teachings – bullet point 1.7 'al-Qadr: the nature and importance of Predestination for Muslims'.

The question asked was 'Explain two reasons why the belief in al-Qadr is important for Muslims'.

Candidates are asked to 'Explain two' on (b) items. Therefore, two reasons are required, and both need to be developed for 4 marks. Development consists of a piece of extra information, a reference to a source of wisdom, quotes, or examples. The development must be of the reason given and to the question asked.

The question was about the key belief al-Qadr. Descriptions of the night of power, Laylat-ul qadr, were not credited.

(b) Explain **two** reasons why the belief in al-Qadr is important for Muslims.

(4)

Belief in al-Qadar is important for Muslims as it lets them realise that Allah is in control of everything. This lets them have trust in Allah. Another reason is that belief in al-Qadar lets Muslims feel ~~sa~~ relaxed and they are not worried as Allah has already written how their life will go. They know Allah is powerful and wants the best for them.



This candidate gives two developed reasons.

Reason 1: 'Allah is in control' (1) is developed by 'have trust' (1)

Reason 2: 'Allah has already written' (1) is developed by 'wants the best for them' (1)

4 marks



Candidates should separate their reasons, as in this example: it makes clear that two reasons are given

(b) Explain **two** reasons why the belief in al-Qadr is important for Muslims.

(4)

~~It gives a purpose of life & life for muslims~~  
What God has planned for everyone is best and is written. ~~It gives purpose of life for muslims~~  
Helps ~~the~~ muslims understand the power and want from God.



The candidate gives two reasons, both of which are not developed.

Reason 1: 'planned for everyone is best' (1)

Reason 2: 'Muslims understand the power' (1)

2 marks



Reasons must be developed with extra information, quotes, or examples relating to the reason, for additional marks



(b) Explain **two** reasons why the belief in al-Qadr is important for Muslims.

(4)

The belief in Al-Qadr is important because all Muslims believe all good and bad is from Allah so they leave everything to him. Also, Muslims believe that Allah has knowledge of the future and that they are not able to change it. This is important because Muslims should know that we should make our own decisions so Qadr is also the six beliefs of Islam which makes a person believe in it as it completes one's iman.



The candidate gives two developed reasons.

Reason 1: 'all good and bad is from Allah' (1) is developed by 'leave everything to him' (1)

Reason 2: 'the six beliefs of Islam' (1) is developed by 'completes one's iman' (1)

4 marks

## Question 1 (c)

Candidates were assessed on Section One: Beliefs and Teachings – bullet point 1.5 ‘Muslim holy books (...) significance and purpose of Muslim holy books.’

The question asked was ‘Explain two reasons why Islamic holy books are important for Muslims.’

Candidates are asked to ‘Explain two’ on (c) items. Therefore, two reasons are required, and both need to be developed for 4 marks. Development consists of a piece of extra information, a reference to a source of wisdom, a quote or examples. The development must be of the reason given and to the question asked.

The reasons then should be supported with a ‘reference to a source of wisdom’, this must support the reason given and cannot be awarded twice. Therefore, if it is used as development it does not gain a second mark for the source.

The question is about revealed holy books. A description of hadith books was not credited. The specification 1.5 lists the names of revealed holy books as Quran, Tawrat (Torah), Zabur (Psalms), Injil (Gospel), and Sahifah (Scrolls).

*GENERIC advice for centres to what constitutes a source of wisdom*

- *The candidates do not have to reference a quote or quote it word for word.*
- *If the candidate states that it is in Qur'an 2:18 and then states another verse from Surah 2– then this can be awarded. We are not holding candidate to ‘verses’ but it must be the correct book.*
- *If the candidate gives the paraphrase and then puts (Qur'an 2:18) in brackets the paraphrase can have the mark and the bracketed reference is ignored.*
- *If a candidate quotes Qur'an and it was hadith or vice versa; and the quote is not accredited to them, it is not awarded.*

(c) Explain **two** reasons why Islamic holy books are important for Muslims.

In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.

(5)

Holy books <sup>of Islam,</sup> are important for Muslims because the Quran, being one of them is a guideline of how Muslims should live their lives and is considered, Al Quran, Al Kareem, making it hold a major place in Muslim's lives

Islamic holy books such as hadith books are important because they explain in more detail of how people should \*apply Islam to their daily lives and as a way of life.

Example being that the Quran commands people to pray but is obscure of how you should pray and therefore the hadith is used to explain further actions of prayer.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

The candidate gives one reason.

Reason 1: 'is a guideline.' (1)

Reason 2: (0)

The candidate's response does not relate to the question. Hadith books are not credited because the question relates to specification bullet 1.5, on the revealed holy books.

1 mark

(c) Explain **two** reasons why Islamic holy books are important for Muslims.

In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.

(5)

All holy books are important for Muslims because they still hold some truths and they originate from the same place, from Allah,

In addition to this, Allah mentions in the Quran, other holy books. Allah says "And to Dawood, We gave the Zaboor". This ayah shows the importance of all holy books as they have been mentioned in the Quran.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

This candidate gives one developed reason, and one reason developed with reference to a source of wisdom.

Reason 1: 'hold some truth' (1) this is developed by 'from the same source' (1)

Reason 2: 'Allah mentions in the Quran other holy books' (1) this is developed by the reference to a source of wisdom 'and to Dawood we gave' (1)

The source of wisdom is given as the development.

4 marks



There must be further development of the source of wisdom for additional marks

(c) Explain **two** reasons why Islamic holy books are important for Muslims.

In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.

(5)

Islamic Holy books are important for muslims because it is a source of guidance for them, without it mankind will be lost. Also if the quran never existed then the religion islam would not exist and there won't be a route to paradise. In the Quran Surah 2:2 "This is a book which in it is guidance"



The candidate gives two developed reasons, with reference to a source of wisdom

Reason 1: 'source of guidance' (1) this is developed by 'will be lost' (1)

Reason 2: 'Islam would not exist' (1) developed by 'won't be a route to paradise' (1) this is developed further by the reference to a source of wisdom (1)

5 marks

## **Question 1 (d)**

The focus of the marking changes from AO1 to AO2 on the (d) items. The candidates are being assessed on AO2: Analyse and evaluate aspects of religion and belief. This constitutes 50% of the overall mark.

The question is '**Evaluate**': this statement requires **considering the arguments for and against** and reaching a **justified conclusion**. There must be some consideration of the arguments: appraise the arguments to reach the higher levels in the mark scheme.

This type of question is marked from a levels-based mark scheme: marks are awarded according to levels descriptors.

\* (d) "Beliefs are more important than actions."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Muslim teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

(15)

In Islam the first pillar is to have belief and faith in Allah and his messenger. The basis, the last day, his angels. To order to become and be a muslim you must first have belief and faith in Allah.

Yes, belief is very important but you must, in order to prove you have belief, you should show it through your actions. The other pillar of Islam is that you should pray your salah. If you don't show that you pray your salah, you aren't following the pillar of Islam. It's like building a house, first you need a ground (the shahadah), then you need to build the 4 walls around, and then a roof on top. If one of those things are missing, your house isn't completed.



Therefore, In conclusion ~~beliefs~~ I agree with  
the statement "Beliefs are more important  
than actions" to a certain distance, because  
you must show your belief through  
your actions.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

This candidate reaches Level 2 because:

- the candidate uses an accurate understanding of religion and belief to develop reasoning that addresses the issues raised by the statement
- this is presented in an accurate and coherent manner
- the candidate is starting to make judgements, but these are not supported by any appraisal of the evidence and so the conclusion lacks justification
- the candidate meets the demands of the Level 2 descriptor but does not meet the Level 3 requirements and is therefore awarded a mark at the top of the Level 2 mark range

SPaG was awarded 3 marks in this example because the candidate:

- spells and punctuates with considerable accuracy
- uses rules of grammar with general control of meaning overall
- uses a good range of specialist terms appropriately

Response: 6 marks

SPaG: 3 marks

Total: 9 marks





Do not argue that the statement is true or false:  
say why the reasons given 'for' can be disputed by  
the alternative opinion

Why does one group of Muslims say one thing and  
the other group says their argument is incorrect,  
or is weak?

## Question 2 (a)

Candidates were assessed on Section Two: Practices – bullet point 2.1 'Ten Obligatory Acts of Shi'a Islam.

The question asked was 'Outline three of the Obligatory Acts of Shi'a Islam'.

Candidates are asked to 'Outline' on (a) items. Therefore, lists can only reach a maximum of one mark.

### GENERIC advice for centres to what constitutes a list.

An example:

Outline 3 characteristics of God:

- **God is creator** (1 mark)
- **God is creator**, judge and lawgiver (1 mark for list or sentence)
- **God is creator**, busy and distant. (1 mark for the sentence identifying one correct piece of information)
- Busy, distant and **God is creator**, (1 mark for the sentence identifying one correct piece of information)
- Creator, judge, lawgiver (1 mark for list)
- Creator, busy, distant (0 Marks) (all three elements need to be correct for 1 mark)
- Creator, judge, distant (0 marks)

2 (a) Outline **three** of the Obligatory Acts of Shi'a Islam.

(3)

One of the obligatory acts is ~~at~~ salah, where they pray 5 times a day  
Another obligatory act is khums, where they give one fifth  
of their belongings to the people in need.  
The third of obligatory is Hajj where they go and do  
pilgrimage.



The candidate writes three sentences outlining three Acts.

3 marks



Write three separate sentences to outline three ways/reasons/Acts

2 (a) Outline **three** of the Obligatory Acts of Shi'a Islam.

(3)

khums, salah, sawm  
\* khums to pay a certain percentage of their wealth to the imams, salah such to pray daily to Allah and sawm to fast in the month of ah ramadhan.



The candidate at first lists three Acts, which would have achieved 1 mark.

However, the candidate then goes on to outline the Acts in three sentences and so achieves 3 marks.

3 marks

2 (a) Outline **three** of the Obligatory Acts of Shi'a Islam.

(3)

Khums

Salah

Zakah Haji



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

The answers are given in a list so the candidate achieves a maximum of 1 mark.

1 mark

## Question 2 (b)

Candidates were assessed on Section Two: Practices – bullet point 2.5 'why Zakah is important'.

The question asked was 'Explain two reasons why Zakah is important for Muslims'.

Candidates are asked to 'Explain two' on (b) items. Therefore, two reasons are required, and both need to be developed for 4 marks. Development consists of a piece of extra information, a reference to a source of wisdom, quotes, or examples. The development must be of the reason given and for the question asked.

(b) Explain **two** reasons why Zakah is important for Muslims.

(4)

Zakah is one of the obligatory acts in Islam, both sunni and shing so its compulsory to pay it. Also they believe we are all equal and want to help the poor and those who need it, "those who eat and drink whilst their neighbour is hungry is not one of us", its gives them an understanding on creation and the priviledge they have and effect they can have. To get closer to god



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

This candidate gives two developed reasons.

Reason 1: 'one of the obligatory acts' (1) this is developed by 'compulsory to pay it' (1)

Reason 2: 'we are all equal' (1) this is developed by 'those who eat and drink...' (1)

4 marks



Develop reasons – gain additional marks

(b) Explain **two** reasons why Zakah is important for Muslims.

(4)

Zakat is very important to muslims for any reasons but the main one is because it is one of there five pillars of islam and it is a compulsory for muslims to pay. Zakat is also important because muslims are giving back to there ummah to show they are grateful for what they have been given from Allah. ~~Alah.~~



The candidate gives two developed reasons.

Reason 1 'it is one of there five pillars' (1)  
developed by 'it is compulsory' (1)

Reason 2 'giving back to there ummah' (1)  
developed by 'grateful for what they have' (1)

4 marks

## Question 2 (c)

Candidates were assessed on Section Two: Practices – bullet point 2.4 'significance and purpose of fasting'.

The question asked was 'Explain two reasons why fasting is important to Muslims.'  
In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.

Candidates are asked to 'Explain two' on (c) items. Therefore, two reasons are required, and both need to be developed for 4 marks. Development consists of a piece of extra information, a reference to a source of wisdom, quotes, or examples. The development must be of the reason given and for the question asked.

The reasons should be supported with a 'reference to a source of wisdom'. This must support the reason given and cannot be awarded twice. Therefore, if it is used as development it does not gain a second mark for the source.

*GENERIC advice for centres to what constitutes a source of wisdom*

- *The candidates do not have to reference a quote or quote it word for word.*
- *If the candidate states that it is in Qur'an 2:18 and then states another verse from Surah 2- then this can be awarded. We are not holding candidate to 'verses' but it must be the correct book.*
- *If the candidate gives the paraphrase and then puts (Qur'an 2:18) in brackets the paraphrase can have the mark and the bracketed reference is ignored.*
- *If a candidate quotes Qur'an and it was hadith or vice versa; and the quote is not accredited to them, it is not awarded.*

(c) Explain **two** reasons why fasting is important to Muslims.

In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.

(5)

it is important because it is one of the five pillars in islam  
the prophet peace be upon you fasted and it was an example  
for the muslims  
Allah ordered the muslims to fast in quran "we have  
prescribed for you as it was prescribed to those before you many  
learn pity and righteousness" [2,183]



This candidate gives one developed reason and one reason developed with reference to a source of wisdom.

Reason 1: 'the prophet fasted' (1) this is developed by 'it was an example for Muslims' (1)

Reason 2: 'Allah ordered Muslims to fast' (1) this is developed by the reference to a source of wisdom 'we have prescribed for you' (1)

The source of wisdom is given as the development.

The source of wisdom is accurate – chapter and verse numbers are not needed.

4 marks



Develop sources of wisdom for full marks



(c) Explain **two** reasons why fasting is important to Muslims.

In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.

(5)

Fasting is important to Muslims because it is an order from Allah. "Fasting has been prescribed for you as it was for those before you, so that you may learn self-restraint" (Al-Quran) (to the nearest effect). This emphasises to Muslims that fasting is compulsory and not fasting would cross a *sin*. This is something Allah can punish on the Day of judgement.

Fasting is also important to Muslims because it allows them to empathise with the less fortunate and it was an act which the prophet Muhammad used to do Monday and Thursday. This is significant because the greatest role model for Muslims used to do it voluntarily emphasising its importance and not just in Ramadan. Fasting can also help one in becoming successful if done with the correct intention because empathising with the less fortunate makes one love Allah more, and therefore love from him more too.

The candidate gives one developed reason with reference to a source of wisdom, and another developed reason.

Reason 1: 'order from Allah' (1) this is developed by the reference to a source of wisdom (1), further developed by 'classed as a sin' (1)

The reference to a source of wisdom is accurate

Reason 2: 'prophet Muhammad used to do' (1) this is developed by 'greatest role model for Muslims used to do it' (1)

5 marks

(c) Explain **two** reasons why fasting is important to Muslims.

In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.

(5)

Fasting is important to Muslims because it is one of the five pillars of Islam. Being one of the five pillars, one must complete his fast or else his imaan would collapse

Another reason why fasting is important is because it is seen as a form of jihad. ~~Atta~~ While a person fasts, he is struggling to get closer to Allah. Allah says in the Quran 'the breath of a fasting person is more sweet than musk'.

The candidate is awarded 4 marks.



The candidate gives two developed reasons.

Reason 1 'one of the five pillars' (1) this is developed by 'imaan would collapse' (1)

Reason 2 'a form of jihad' (1) this is developed by 'struggling to get closer to Allah' (1)

The reference to source of wisdom is inaccurate. This is a hadith, not Quran.



Sources of wisdom need to be accredited to the correct source eg Qur'an or hadith, however exact chapter and verse are not required.

## Question 2 (d)

The question is '**Evaluate**': this statement requires **considering the arguments for and against** and reaching a **justified conclusion**. There must be some consideration of the arguments: appraise the arguments to reach the higher levels in the mark scheme.

This type of question is marked from a levels-based mark scheme: marks are awarded according to levels descriptors.

Many candidates provided excellent answers giving reasons for and against, but then did not analyse or evaluate them. Formulas and writing frames restricted the flow of the arguments and thereby limited candidates' progression to the higher levels.

Candidates were assessed on Section Two: Practices – bullet point 2.3 'significance and purpose of Salah'.

Please note that, neither in the bullet point, nor on the question, are candidates required to give a non-religious response.

The question asked was:

"Salah is the most important of the Five Pillars."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Muslim teachings
- reach a justified conclusion

(d) "Salah is the most important of the Five Pillars."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Muslim teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

(12)

Some <sup>Muslims</sup> ~~people~~ may agree with the statement as they believe that this life is a test, and in order to reach heaven, we must worship God. In the Quran, it states "I have not created man or jinn except to worship me." Through Salah, you are continuously and physically ~~with~~ worshipping God, thus showing its importance.

Other Muslims also agree with the statement as they find Salah a way to directly communicate with God, and therefore develop a closer relationship with God, which according to the Quran, is the very reason humans were created. Salah is also a way for Muslims to repent and ask for forgiveness, so they may enter heaven.

Other Muslims may disagree with the statement as they may believe Shahada is the most important. This is because Shahada is the foundation of Islam and it is what makes you a Muslim. Shahada is the first pillar, so it comes before all other pillars, and without it, the other pillars cannot be done. In the Quran, it states "He is God, who is one" - showing the importance of the Shahada.

Other Muslims may also disagree with statement as they may believe that Zakan is the most important pillar. This is because Muslims believe it is their duty and responsibility as Khalifah's

to help the less fortunate ALSO, giving Zakah is rewarding, as in the hadith, it states "the upper hand is better than the lower hand", showing it is more rewarding if you're the one giving Zakah.

To conclude, the strongest side of the argument is against the statement, as the belief that Shahada is the most important pillar is given with sources of authority which strengthen the Ulema. Also, the fact that it is the first pillar shows it comes before all others.



The candidate gains Level 3 because:

- the candidate uses an accurate understanding of religion and belief to develop reasoning, which addresses the issues raised by the statement
- this is presented in an accurate and coherent way. Logical chains of reasoning are identifiable on both sides of the argument
- the candidate is starting to make judgements supported by some appraisal of the evidence and the arguments given

The candidate meets all the demands of the Level 2 descriptor but does not meet the Level 3 requirements fully, and is therefore awarded a mark at the lower end of the mark-range.

7 marks



(d) "Salah is the most important of the Five Pillars."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Muslim teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

(12)

Some muslims would agree with this statement because 'Salah is a gift from Allah.' This agrees with the statement because without salah muslims cannot talk to a Allah <sup>and ask</sup> him as salah is a means of communication with him.

Another reason why some would agree is because without salah one cannot enter Paradise and also because salah is an obligatory act, a fardh. This makes salah really important because it shows submission to Allah.

On the otherhand some ~~ma~~ will disagree mainly because shahadah is also a pillar. In fact it is the first pillar. without shahadah a person cannot be a muslim because believing in one god is the essential and key for a muslim as said in Surah 112 and 3: 18.

Another reason why some will ~~se~~ disagree is because there are other factors to consider such as paying zakaat, fasting and going for Hajj. These pillars are also very important as they have to be practiced upon.

However one may say that these things are only done sometimes where as salah is prayed everyday 5 times ~~aday~~ in a day. Therefore it is most important. one more reason why some would agree

is because the Shahadah is also said in the Aqaan and the Salch. This makes Salah really important.

on evaluation, the argument for this statement are stronger because Salah is expressed at all times and the other pillars are also very important but Salah is the most important because it contains shahadah which is also a pillar and is a means of communicating with Allah.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

This candidate reaches Level 3 because:

- they use an accurate understanding of religion and belief to develop reasoning, which addresses the issues raised by the statement
- this is presented in an accurate and coherent way. Logical chains of reasoning are identifiable on both sides of the argument
- the candidate is starting to make judgements supported by some appraisal of the evidence and the arguments given

The candidate meets all the demands of the Level 2 descriptor but does not fully meet the Level 3 requirements and is therefore awarded at the lower end of the mark-range.

7 marks





Answers do not have to be long

They need to 'consider the arguments', and say if the statement holds any truth or value, in a justified conclusion

(d) "Salah is the most important of the Five Pillars."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Muslim teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

(12)

Salah is the ~~way~~ ~~a~~ communication between a muslim person and Allah. It is the second pillar of the five beliefs of Islam. Without salah a muslim person is not connected with Allah. ~~It~~ Establishes in regular prayers at the sun declines till the darkness of the night and the recital of the Quran for the recital of the Quran at dawn is witnessed" Surah (17:78). In this statement ~~a muslim~~ for considering salah is important a Muslim believe that praying helps a person to get closer Allah.

- In contrast of this is one maybe a non-muslim who might not know nothing about it.

In my conclusion to this statement is it is true that a muslim salah is an important thing to them.



This candidate reaches Level 1 because:

- they make superficial connections using a limited range of the elements
- they do not give a fully-justified conclusion

The candidate demonstrates isolated understanding of religion. The non-Muslim views are not credited because this answer requires different Muslim views.

The candidate provides evidence suggesting the highest mark because they fulfil all the descriptors of this level, but do not fulfil descriptors relating to the next level.

3 marks

### Question 3 (a)

Candidates were assessed on Section Three: Sources of Wisdom and Authority – bullet point 3.6 'Shariah Law: how it is agreed upon'

The question asked candidates to 'Outline three of the sources of Shari'ah law'.

Candidates are asked to 'Outline' on (a) items. Therefore, lists can only reach a maximum of one mark.

#### GENERIC advice for centres to what constitutes a list.

An example:

Outline 3 characteristics of God:

- **God is creator** (1 mark)
- **God is creator**, judge and lawgiver (1 mark for list or sentence)
- **God is creator**, busy and distant. (1 mark for the sentence identifying one correct piece of information)
- Busy, distant and **God is creator**, (1 mark for the sentence identifying one correct piece of information)
- Creator, judge, lawgiver (1 mark for list)
- Creator, busy, distant (0 Marks) (all three elements need to be correct for 1 mark)
- Creator, judge, distant (0 marks)

**3 (a) Outline three of the sources of Shari'ah law.**

**(3)**

One source is the qur'aan  
Another is the hadeeth  
Another is Sunnah.



The candidate answers using two sources in two sentences (2).

The third sentence cannot be credited: Sunnah and hadith cannot be credited as two separate sources.

2 marks

3 (a) Outline **three** of the sources of Shari'ah law.

(3)

- Quran
- Sunnah
- Ijma



The candidate outlines three sources in a list (1).

1 mark

3 (a) Outline **three** of the sources of Shari'ah law.

(3)

The sharia law has been taken and used as a law throughout Islam. A source is the Quran, where rulings are taken from. Another source is the hadiths which have been stated by the prophet Muhammed (Pbuh). A third source is suni imams which are followed by Shia.



The candidate outlines three sources in three sentences (3).

The third source, 'imams followed by shias', is credited as an alternative Shi'a approach.

3 marks

3 (a) Outline **three** of the sources of Shari'ah law.

(3)

One source is the Quran which is the direct words of Allah containing his commands. Another source is the Hadith of the prophet Muhammad which are his sayings. Lastly, there are the Shar'ee laws which are created after Ijma (consensus from a group of scholars).



The candidate outlines three sources in three sentences (3).

3 marks

### Question 3 (b)

Candidates were assessed on Section Three: Sources of Wisdom and Authority – bullet point 3.7 'the significance of the imam for different forms of Shi'a Islam'

The question asked was 'Explain two reasons why the Imam is important in Shi'a Islam.'

Candidates are asked to 'Explain two' on (b) items. Therefore, two reasons are required, and both need to be developed for 4 marks. Development consists of a piece of extra information, a reference to a source of wisdom, quotes, or examples. The development must be of the reason given and for the question asked.

(b) Explain **two** reasons why the Imam is important in Shi'a Islam.

(4)  
One reason is that the Imams are direct descendants of the prophet Muhammad (saw) and are known to have prophetic features for example being sinless.

Another reason is that they are sent down by God just like prophets were. Imams also tend to get receive ~~not~~ revelation from Allah through dreams.



The candidate gives two developed reasons.

Reason 1: 'direct descendants of the prophet' (1)  
this is developed by 'prophetic features' (1)

Reason 2: 'sent by God like prophets' (1) this is developed by 'recieve revelation from Allah through dreams' (1)

4 marks



Here, two different reasons given clearly  
This is good practice

(b) Explain **two** reasons why the Imam is important in Shi'a Islam.

(4)

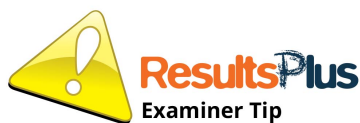
The Imam is important in Shi'a Islam because they have ~~most~~ knowledge about the laws and they have studied them in detail. Another reason is that the Imam is where people go to ask when they have a problem in family or ~~eg.~~ life



The question concerns Shia Imams, specification reference 3.7.

This response is a description of imams in Sunni Islam as a source of religious guidance etc.

0 marks



Candidates must be taught the differences between the Shi'a concept of Imam (link to Imamate) and the Sunni imam



## Question 3 (c)

Candidates were assessed on Section Three: Sources of Wisdom and Authority – bullet point 3.2 'the significance of (...) the Prophet Muhammad for Muslims.'

The question asked was 'Explain two reasons why the Prophet Muhammad is important to Muslims'.

Candidates are asked to 'Explain two' on (c) items. Therefore, two reasons are required, and both need to be developed for 4 marks. Development consists of a piece of extra information, a reference to a source of wisdom, a quote or examples. The development must be of the reason given and to the question asked.

The reasons then should be supported with a 'reference to a source of wisdom', this must support the reason given and cannot be awarded twice. Therefore, if it is used as development it does not gain a second mark for the source.

*GENERIC advice for centres to what constitutes a source of wisdom*

- *The candidates do not have to reference a quote or quote it word for word.*
- *If the candidate states that it is in Qur'an 2:18 and then states another verse from Surah 2– then this can be awarded. We are not holding candidate to 'verses' but it must be the correct book/person.*
- *If the candidate gives the paraphrase and then puts (Qur'an 2:18) in brackets the paraphrase can have the mark and the bracketed reference is ignored.*
- *If a candidate quotes Qur'an and it was hadith or vice versa; and the quote is not accredited to them, it is not awarded.*

(c) Explain **two** reasons why the Prophet Muhammad is important to Muslims.

In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.

(5)

A reason why the prophet Muhammad is important for Muslims is because he is the last and final prophet after all the prophets which have been sent down. He is known as 'the seal of the prophets' which shows that all the prophets came for the upcoming of the Prophet Muhammad.

Another reason he is very important is because in the Qur'an it mentions, "and we have sent you with excellent character" This shows that the prophet should be seen as a role model and Muslims should follow him and his actions. If we want the same characteristics and as the prophet. It also says 'sent as a warner' which conveys that his purpose was to spread the message of Islam so a Muslim should accept him and keep in mind the warnings he gave to Muslims.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

The candidate gives one developed reason, and another developed reason with reference to a source of wisdom.

Reason 1: 'last and final prophet' (1) this is developed by 'he is known as the seal' (1)

Reason 2: this is not credited. The reference to the source of wisdom is inaccurate, whereas Reason 3 is developed and has an accurate reference.

Reason 3: this is the reference to a source of wisdom 'sent as a warner' (1) this is developed by 'his purpose' (1) further developed by 'keep in mind his warnings' (1)

The candidate gains full marks by using Reason 3.

5 marks

(c) Explain **two** reasons why the Prophet Muhammad is important to Muslims.

In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.

(5)

Muhammad is referred to as "the seal of the prophets," he is the last messenger, no one came after him. Muslims have a lot of love and respect for him since he is mentioned in the shahadah, "There is no god but Allah and Muhammad is his messenger," this is very important as it's the essential belief in Islam. ~~To the current in~~ He <sup>received the</sup> ~~was revealed~~ revelation of the Quran which is the holy book Muslims mainly use for wisdom, "All nations were sent messengers yet I was sent to <sup>the whole</sup> of mankind," so he is the leader of the greatest muslim ummah

~~"All were sent to us"~~

All nations were sent messengers yet I was sent to the whole of mankind

Seal of the prophets.



This candidate gives one developed reason and another developed reason with reference to a source of wisdom.

Reason 1: the source of wisdom 'seal of the prophets' (1) this is developed by 'he is the last messenger' (1)

Reason 2: 'he is mentioned in the Shahadah' (1) this is developed by the source of wisdom (1) which is further developed by 'essential belief in Islam' (1)

5 marks



For full marks on (c) questions, a source of wisdom must be developed twice, as in the second reason in this candidate's response

## Question 3 (d)

The focus of the marking changes from AO1 to AO2 on the (d) items. The candidates are being assessed on AO2: Analyse and evaluate aspects of religion and belief. This constitutes 50% of the overall mark.

The question is '**Evaluate**': this statement requires **considering the arguments for and against** and reaching a **justified conclusion**. There must be some consideration of the arguments: appraise the arguments to reach the higher levels in the mark scheme.

This type of question is marked from a levels-based mark scheme: marks are awarded according to levels descriptors.

Candidates were assessed on Section Three: Sources of Wisdom and Authority. Bullet point 3.1 'The Qur'an...as a source of teaching and guidance.'

Candidates are required to give two different Muslim points of view in order to cover all the elements of the question. The specification bullet points indicate which questions might require different Muslim points of view – in this bullet point, the specification says, 'divergent ways in which the Qur'an is used in the daily life of a Muslim.'

The question asked was:

"The Qur'an is the only true source of teaching and guidance."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Muslim teachings
- refer to different Muslim points of view
- reach a justified conclusion

\*(d) "The Qur'an is the only true source of teaching and guidance."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Muslim teachings
- refer to different Muslim points of view
- reach a justified conclusion.

(15)

Some Muslims agree with the statement because Allah says in the Quran: 'The Quran was sent down as a revelation to him.' This quote supports that Allah had sent the Quran to humans as a revelation on how to live their lives. The book was appointed by the authority of Allah, therefore showing that as this is the case, there is no need for external sources of guidance - the Quran has it all.

On the other hand, some Muslims may disagree because the Prophet said in his last sermon: 'I leave behind two things: the Book of Allah and the Sunnah.' The last sermon was important as the Prophet re-integrated some key points of Islam. This point made here shows that the Quran is not the only source, the Sunnah is too, by following this concept, Muslims are ultimately following Allah's commandments or referring to the Sunnah of the Prophet as well as the Quran.

However, some Muslims may argue that the Quran is the Word of Allah; it is the only form of guidance needed in the life of a Muslim. This book contains everything and provides relief. The word of Allah is considered to be sacred and holy, therefore surely the only true source of guidance and teaching is from Allah Himself through the Quran.



The candidate reaches Level 3 because:

- they deconstruct religious information/issues
- this is underpinned by an accurate understanding of religion and belief
- connections are made among many, but not all, of the elements in the question
- they provide evidence suggesting the lowest mark of the level
- there is appraisal of the arguments at the end of the response, some of which may be superficial, leading to a partially-justified conclusion

SPaG was awarded 3 marks because the candidate:

- spells and punctuates with consistent accuracy
- uses rules of grammar with effective control of meaning overall
- uses a wide range of specialist terms appropriately

Response: 7 marks

SPaG: 3 marks

Total: 10 marks



\*(d) "The Qur'an is the only true source of teaching and guidance."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Muslim teachings
- refer to different Muslim points of view
- reach a justified conclusion.

(15)

Some Muslims would agree with this statement because the Qur'an is the word of Allah which was directly sent to Prophet Muhammad. This agrees with the statement because Allah sent the Qur'an to guide mankind on the right path and to teach them the religion.

Another reason why some would agree is because the Qur'an was sent to cancel all other previous books and that the Qur'an is the complete form of guidance. This shows that the Qur'an is the true book because it is the final book revealed by Allah.

However, some may say that the Hadith of the prophet can also be used as a source of teaching. This disagrees with the statement because the words of the prophet Muhammad are also true and give guidance and teachings.

Another reason why some disagree is because the Sunnah is also a true source of guidance and teaching. Muhammad was the perfect role model for Muslims and everyone should use <sup>his</sup> actions to learn and act upon.



On evaluation, I believe that the argument for the statement is stronger because the Qur'an is the word of Allah. Although the hadith and Sunnah also teach and guide they <sup>mainly</sup> ~~also~~ help understand the Qur'an. The hadith and Sunnah show Muslims the Qur'an and explain its ~~quality~~ qualities. For this reason the argument for is stronger and the argument against is weaker which means I agree with the statement.



This candidate reaches Level 3 because:

- they deconstruct religious information/issues
- this is underpinned by an accurate understanding of religion and belief
- connections are made among many, but not all, of the elements in the question
- they provide evidence suggesting the lowest mark of the level because there is appraisal of the arguments at the end of the response, some of which may be superficial, leading to a partially justified conclusion

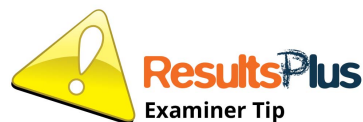
SPaG was awarded 3 marks because the candidate:

- spells and punctuates with consistent accuracy
- uses rules of grammar with effective control of meaning overall
- uses a wide range of specialist terms appropriately

Response: 7 marks

SPaG: 3 marks

Total:10 marks



Appraise the arguments: move the answer into Level 3

## Question 4 (a)

Candidates were assessed on Section Four: Forms of Expression and Ways of life' – bullet point 4.2 'the design and different features of mosques'.

The question asked was 'Outline three features of a mosque'.

Candidates are asked to 'Outline' on (a) items. Therefore, lists can only reach a maximum of one mark.

GENERIC advice for centres to what constitutes a list.

An example:

Outline 3 characteristics of God:

- **God is creator** (1 mark)
- **God is creator**, judge and lawgiver (1 mark for list or sentence)
- **God is creator**, busy and distant. (1 mark for the sentence identifying one correct piece of information)
- Busy, distant and **God is creator**, (1 mark for the sentence identifying one correct piece of information)
- Creator, judge, lawgiver (1 mark for list)
- Creator, busy, distant (0 Marks) (all three elements need to be correct for 1 mark)
- Creator, judge, distant (0 marks)

**4 (a) Outline three features of a mosque.**

**(3)**

— People pray their five daily prayers.

— It is the Muslims sacred place of worship.

— Only Muslims are permitted to enter it.

It is holy, prayers are answered and the Adhan is given



The candidate outlines no correct features (0).

The information does not answer the question about features of a mosque.

0 marks

4 (a) Outline **three** features of a mosque.

(3)



Dome: Symbolises the Universe. Results in the imams voice being portrayed as louder due to shape

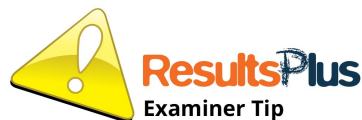
Minaret: Azan is called out from these in muslim countries.

Shoe rack: Muslims to place their shoes in these to keep the masjid clean.



The candidate outlines three features in three sentences (3).

3 marks



Practice writing responses in sentences

## Question 4 (b)

Candidates were assessed on Section Four: Forms of Expression and Ways of life' – bullet point 4.6 'The role and significance of a Sheikh/teacher in Sufism'.

The question asked was 'Explain two reasons why the teacher is important in Sufi Islam'.

Candidates are asked to 'Explain two' on (b) items. Therefore, two reasons are required, and both need to be developed for 4 marks. Development consists of a piece of extra information, a reference to a source of wisdom, quotes, or examples. The development must be of the reason given and for the question asked.

Many candidates did not answer why a teacher is important in Sufi Islam but wrote generally about the role of teachers in Islam.

*to keep the masjid clean.*  
(b) Explain **two** reasons why the teacher is important in Sufi Islam.

(4)

The teacher in Sufi Islam mentors them towards ihsan by encouraging them to do good actions eg zikir, nafil salah.

The teacher in Sufi Islam is like a doctor. He tries his utmost to make the murid to stop following his nafs and to focus towards his creator.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

This candidate gives two developed reasons.

Reason 1: 'mentors them towards ihsan' (1)  
developed by 'encouraging them to do good actions' (1)

Reason 2: 'stop following his nafs' (1) developed by  
'focus towards his creator' (1)

4 marks

(b) Explain **two** reasons why the teacher is important in Sufi Islam.

(4)

The teacher for Sufi Islam is important as it allows him to guide the Sufis in their worship. The teacher teaches them the way of 'Dhikr' and 'Rumi poetry' and how it affects their lifestyle. A teacher for Sufis demonstrate that he is the friend of Allah and therefore following the teacher allows them to gain that connection through him. Al-Ghazali, for example, for Sufis allowed him to illustrate the Shariah laws with their faith. The teacher would demonstrate dances and lead the dance for Sufis so that they accurately present it in front of their Lord.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

This candidate gives two developed reasons.

Reason 1: 'guide the Sufis in their worship' (1)  
developed by 'teaches them the way of dhikr' (1)

Reason 2: 'demonstrates that he is the friend of Allah' (1)  
developed by 'gain that connection' (1)

4 marks

## Question 4 (c)

Candidates were assessed on Section Four: Forms of Expression and Ways of life' – bullet point 4.1 'significance of the laws of halal and haram'.

The question asked was 'Explain two reasons why the laws of halal and haram are important for Muslims.'

Candidates are asked to 'Explain two' on (c) items. Therefore, two reasons are required, and both need to be developed for 4 marks. Development consists of a piece of extra information, a reference to a source of wisdom, quotes, or examples. The development must be of the reason given and for the question asked.

The reasons should be supported with a 'reference to a source of wisdom': this must support the reason given and cannot be awarded twice. Therefore, if it is used as development it does not gain a second mark for the source.

*GENERIC advice for centres to what constitutes a source of wisdom*

- *The candidates do not have to reference a quote or quote it word for word.*
- *If the candidate states that it is in Qur'an 2:18 and then states another verse from Surah 2– then this can be awarded. We are not holding candidate to 'verses' but it must be the correct book/person.*
- *If the candidate gives the paraphrase and then puts (Qur'an 2:18) in brackets the paraphrase can have the mark and the bracketed reference is ignored.*
- *If a candidate quotes Qur'an and it was hadith or vice versa; and the quote is not accredited to them, it is not awarded.*

(c) Explain **two** reasons why the laws of halal and haram are important for Muslims.

In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.

(5)

One reason why the laws of Halal and Haram are important for Muslim is that they set down the boundaries of what a Muslim can and cannot do. For a person to get to heaven, they must stay within the boundaries of Islam.

Another reason why Halal and Haram is important for Muslims is that it tells a Muslim what they can and can't eat. For example, the Prophet Muhammad said: "every intoxicant is haram" (Tirmidhi). This lays down the boundaries for what a person can and can't eat/drink wherever they are, whether at home or at a restaurant.



This candidate gives one developed reason, and another reason is developed with reference to a source of wisdom.

Reason 1: 'they set down the boundaries' (1) this is developed by 'to get to heaven' (1)

Reason 2: 'tell a Muslim what they can and cannot eat' (1) this is developed by the reference to a source of wisdom 'every intoxicant is haram' (1)

The next point is a rewording of the reason and so cannot be credited again.

4 marks



When marking practice questions, teachers should check unfamiliar quotes before dismissing them



(c) Explain **two** reasons why the laws of halal and haram are important for Muslims.

In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.

(5)

One reason why the laws of halal and haram is important for Muslims is because they provide guidelines in society. In 'surah Baqarah' it outlines what is forbidden and what isn't. Without these guidelines, society would plunge into chaos. Another reason why the laws of halal and haram are important for Muslims is because it provides a way to keep yourself healthy. Concerning alcohol is haram in Islam, this is because of its health risks such as liver failure.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

This candidate gives one developed reason, and another reason developed with reference to a source of wisdom.

Reason 1: 'they provide guidelines in society' (1) this is developed by the reference to Surah Baqarah the source of wisdom (1), which is further developed by 'would plunge into chaos' (1)

Reason 2: 'a way to keep yourself healthy' (1) this is developed by 'health risks such as liver failure' (1)

5 marks

## Question 4 (d)

The focus of the marking changes from AO1 to AO2 on the (d) items. The candidates are being assessed on AO2: Analyse and evaluate aspects of religion and belief. This constitutes 50% of the overall mark.

The question is '**Evaluate**': this statement requires **considering the arguments for and against** and reaching a **justified conclusion**. There must be some consideration of the arguments: appraise the arguments to reach the higher levels in the mark scheme.

This type of question is marked from a levels-based mark scheme: marks are awarded according to levels descriptors.

Many candidates provided excellent answers giving reasons for and against, but then did not analyse or evaluate them. Formulas and writing frames restricted the flow of the arguments and thereby limited candidates' progression to the higher levels.

Candidates were assessed on Section Three: Sources of Wisdom and Authority – bullet point 4.3: 'The divergent understandings of the use, significance...of calligraphy in Islam.'

The question asked was

"All forms of decoration in the mosque help Muslims to worship Allah."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Muslim teachings
- reach a justified conclusion

(d) "All forms of decoration in the mosque help Muslims to worship Allah."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Muslim teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

(12)

Calligraphy is the highest form of art, it is an art which includes the words of Allah, thus help Muslims focus on the ~~best~~ beauty of the words of Allah. Also calligraphy is the only halal form of art as image of living things are forbidden in Islam.

However, too much extravagance of decoration is forbidden, as the extravagance of money spent could've been used to help the poor and needy instead.

Foremore, too much decoration ~~ext~~ distract the people from worship, as this will cause disripe from Allah as ~~the~~ the worshippers getting distracted are turning away from him.

All other forms of art like statues are not allowed in Islam, as this is also extravagant. The decorations are not needed as simplicity is the ~~best thing~~ most liked thing in Islam as this follows the sunnah of the Prophet. The Prophet or the Quran does not say to decorate the mosques, as this will only cause the Muslims to come for decoration and not for worshipping.

In conclusion, <sup>believe in</sup> ~~that~~ the strongest argument against the statement as there are not ~~so~~ many sources of wisdom to emphasise in decorating the mosque but the words ~~within~~,

"beautify my words..." which may perhaps suggest by beautifying it with ones own voice.



The candidate reaches Level 3 because:

- they deconstruct religious information/issues
- this is underpinned by an accurate understanding of religion and belief
- connections are made among many, but not all, of the elements in the question
- they provide evidence suggesting the lowest mark of the level. There is appraisal of evidence, some of which may be superficial, leading to a partially-justified conclusion

7 marks

(d) "All forms of decoration in the mosque help Muslims to worship Allah."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Muslim teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

(12)

Some muslims would agree with this statement because some decorations in the mosque are calligraphy. This allows the Quran to be expressed in beautiful design and expresses the Quran which helps muslims worship Allah as it creates an environment of worship and prayer.

Another reason some would agree is because geometry ~~is expressed~~ expressed the nature of the world which Allah has created and helps to understand Allah. This helps a muslim pray to Allah as they are constantly reminded of the qualities of Allah and how he created the world.

on the contrary, some muslims would say that decorations in the mosque may be a distraction whilst praying. As when praying full devotion should be towards Allah and everyone should be committed.

Another reason why some may disagree is because not all decoration are there to help ~~the~~ worshipers Allah. Most are there to increase the beauty of the masjid and that most people do not understand calligraphy and geometry.

one more reason why some disagree is because not all mosque's have decoration many are kept plain so the the

worshiper can fully focus on praying and not be distracted.

On evaluation, the argument against the statement is stronger because although some decoration help ~~the~~ <sup>worship</sup> Allah not all decorations do, as some may be a distraction. ~~end~~



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

The candidate reaches Level 3 because:

- they deconstruct religious information/ issues
- this is underpinned by an accurate understanding of religion and belief
- connections are made among many, but not all, of the elements in the question
- the candidate provides evidence suggesting the lowest mark of the level. There is appraisal of evidence, some of which may be superficial, leading to a partially justified conclusion

7 marks

## Paper Summary

Based on their performance on this paper, candidates are offered the following advice:

- Avoid attaching extra sheets to your examination paper. If possible continue writing on the blank spaces within the scannable pages
- For Sections One and Two, candidates need to know the clear difference between the Ten Obligatory Acts and the five roots of Usul-ad Din
- For Section Three, candidates need to know the clear difference between the Shi'a Imam and the Sunni imam
- When answering the (a) items write three full sentences
- The source of wisdom offered to support answers in (c) items must be relevant to the question and support the reason given. Exact verse numbers are not required but the source/person must be referenced correctly
- The (d) items asks for evaluation, after considering the evidence. The higher grades are achieved if the evidence/reasons (knowledge and understanding) given is appraised for its value as part of deciding the evaluation. This does not necessarily have to be in the conclusion
- On (d) items the bullet points indicate the viewpoints that can be awarded in the answer
- Candidates should read the questions carefully, and answer the question asked, fully

## Grade Boundaries

Grade boundaries for this, and all other papers, can be found on the website on this link:

<http://www.edexcel.com/iwantto/Pages/grade-boundaries.aspx>





