



# Examiners' Report

## June 2018

### GCSE Religious Studies A 1RA0 2C

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June 2018

Publications Code 1RA0\_2C\_1806\_ER

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# Introduction

GCSE (9-1) Religious Studies

Religious Studies A Paper 2: Area of Study 2 – Study of Second Religion Option 2C – Islam

The paper contributes to 25% of the overall award. The assessment consists of two questions and candidates must answer both 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 awarded for correct spelling, punctuation and grammar – SPaG

## Question 1 (a)

Candidates were assessed on Section One: Beliefs and Teachings – bullet point 1.4, 'Risalah'.

The question asked was:

'Outline three beliefs about the prophets other than Muhammad'.

The beliefs can be about all prophets in general, about specific named prophets and there can be more than one belief about the same prophet.

Candidates are asked to 'Outline' on (a) items. Therefore, lists can 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** beliefs about the prophets other than Muhammad.

(3)

Just Jesus  
Abraham  
Moses  
David  
I think they were chosen by Allah



The candidate answers giving three names in a list.

1 mark



Write in three full sentences to gain full marks.

Moses

Isa

Da'ud

Turah

Zubur

Psalm

Answer ALL questions. Write your answers in the spaces provided.

### Question 1: Beliefs

1 (a) Outline **three** beliefs about the prophets other than Muhammad.

(3)

1. Moses was given the holy book of Tawrat (Torah)

2. David was given the Zubur (Psalms)

3. Isa (Jesus) was given the Injil (Gospel).



The candidate outlines three beliefs in three sentences.

3 marks

1 (a) Outline **three** beliefs about the prophets other than Muhammad.

(3)

Prophets were chosen by God to communicate his word to the world. The prophets were a guide of the perfect Muslim, showing how to live your life. Adam was the first prophet, an ordinary man.



The candidate outlines three beliefs in three sentences.

3 marks

## Question 1 (b)

Candidates were assessed on Section One: Beliefs and Teachings – bullet point 1.2, 'The five roots of Usul-ad-Din in Shi'a Islam (...) the importance of these principles for different Shi'a communities'.

The question asked was:

'Explain two reasons why the five roots of Usul-ad-Din, are important to Shi'a Muslims.'

The question is about the five roots of Usul-ad-Din which are beliefs. A description of the Ten Obligatory Acts, which are practices, was not credited.

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 five roots of 'Usul ad-Din are important to Shi'a Muslims.

(4)

The five roots are important because they help teach Muslims what to do and what will happen after death these are important because it gives Muslims a sense of security because they know that if they act right they will be rewarded after death. This is because of pre-destination.



The candidate gives one developed reason.

Reason one: 'what will happen after death' (1) which is developed by 'sense of security' (1)

2 marks

(b) Explain **two** reasons why the five roots of 'Usul ad-Din are important to Shi'a Muslims.

(4)

They are important because Al-Tawhid is what they have based their entire faith on. It means the oneness of Allah and this also tells them how and who to worship. They are also important because they are one of the things that distinguish the difference between Sunni and Shi'a Muslims. This is because Sunni have six beliefs and the Shi'as have five.



The candidate gives two developed reasons.

Reason one: 'based their entire faith on' (1) developed by 'who to worship' (1)

Reason two: 'difference between Sunni and Shi'a Muslims' (1) developed by 'Shi'as have five' (1)

4 marks



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



## **Question 1 (c)**

Candidates were assessed on Section One: Beliefs and Teachings – bullet point 1.6 ‘Malaikah: the nature and importance of angels for Muslims.’

The question asked was:

‘Explain two reasons why belief in angels is important for 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 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 1:18) 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.

The candidates may paraphrase and use alternative wording and translations.

Exact chapter and verse are not required but if candidates are giving the source as ‘Quran’ or ‘Hadith’ they must not mistake the Quran for Hadith and vice versa.

5 marks

(c) Explain **two** reasons why belief in angels is important for Muslims.

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

(5)

Belief in angels are important for Muslims because with guardian angels\* and recording angels\* watching over Muslims they believe that the Angels are the intermediaries between Allah and the prophets and so they are Allah's presence on Earth which emphasises He is involved in Muslim's lives. <sup>Another</sup> ~~the~~ reason why ~~they~~ believe in Angels is important is because of kitab Al-Iman i.e. where the six beliefs are stated and a verse in a holy book like this ~~the~~ naturally ~~knows~~ makes the belief in Angels a core belief of All Muslims whether Sunni, Shia or Sufi.

\* The statement of the six beliefs are in this verse

↳ Holy books, Allah, His messengers (Rasul), Angels, Day of Judgement, ~~life after death~~  
life after death

\* These Angels watch over earth and therefore believe in these angels are important because Muslims ~~know~~ know Allah is watching so want to submit to him and end up in paradise after death



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

Reason 1: 'watching over Muslims' (1) this is developed by 'Allah is watching so they submit to him' (1)

Reason 2: the source of wisdom 'kitab al-Iman where the six beliefs are stated' (1) developed by the quote from the source of wisdom (1) developed further by 'core belief of all Muslims' (1)

The source of wisdom is given as the reason and developed correctly, twice.

5 marks

(c) Explain **two** reasons why belief in angels is important for Muslims.

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

(5)

FOR MUSLIMS angels are important as it is an article of faith for them to believe in. In Surah 17 it talks about how Angels are spoken to by Allah to then pass that information on to humans. This is important as Angels carry Allah's word which ~~for~~ will ~~Muslims~~ make some Muslims see Angels as something they have to believe in.



The candidate gives one reason and one developed reason.

Reason 1: 'article of faith' (1)

Reason 2: 'Angels carry Allah's word' (1) this is reverse-developed by the reference to a source of wisdom 'In Surah 17' (1)

The source of wisdom is given as the development. The reference to the source of wisdom is accurate.

3 marks



When marking practice questions, teachers are advised to check for the accuracy of unfamiliar sources of wisdom.

(c) Explain **two** reasons why belief in angels is important for Muslims.

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

(5)

Belief in angels is important for Muslims, as it shows Allah's omnipotence and transcendence - as He is too mighty to relay ~~the~~<sup>His</sup> message to humans, needing angels to give the messages for Him. Also, the angels are important, as without their messages given to the prophets, we would not understand Allah's messages and teachings like we do with the Qur'an today, therefore bringing us closer to Allah, for example teachings like to be kind to others in the Qur'an is something we wouldn't know about.



The candidate gives two developed reasons.

Reason 1: 'show Allah's omnipotence and transcendence' (1)  
developed by 'needing angels to give the message' (1)

Reason 2: 'we would not understand Allah's message' (1)  
developed by 'bringing us closer to Allah' (1)

The reference to the Quran teaching about kindness does not relate directly to the question on angels, so cannot be credited as a source of wisdom.

4 marks



Sources of wisdom and authority must relate to the question being asked.

## 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.

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 One: Beliefs and Teachings - bullet point 1.5 'Muslim holy books...significance and purpose of Muslim holy books.

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:

'The Qur'an is the only holy book necessary to live a good Muslim life.'

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Muslim teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.



\*d) "The Qur'an is the only holy book necessary to live a good Muslim life."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Muslim teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

(15)

Most Muslims would agree with the statement because they believe the Qur'an is God's final revelation ~~stating~~ God's Word. ~~it is the word of God.~~ Since it is God's Word, Muslims believe that it is protected from corruption. This is supported by the Qur'an as ~~it~~ it says that Prophet Muhammad was illiterate so the Qur'an could and cannot be changed. Also, the Qur'an has supreme authority in guiding Muslims to live a ~~so~~ good life. The holy book contains guidance ~~and~~ on issues that ~~effect~~ affect ~~in~~ all Muslims. Examples include marriage, family problems and death. This argument is ~~a~~ very convincing because ~~the Qur'an~~ Muslims believe the Qur'an has answers to all problems ~~and~~ so is the only holy book necessary to live a ~~so~~ good Muslim life.


However, some Muslims may disagree ~~to~~ with the statement because the other holy books were also revelations from Allah. They believe that these should be studied so Muslims can further understand the nature of God and the way they should live. The <sup>other</sup> holy books come from respected Prophets in Islam ~~and~~ such as Prophet Isa (Jesus) and Prophet Musa (Moses). Muslims believe that they ~~were~~ also Muslims ~~so~~ preached Islam so their holy books are also necessary to live a good Muslim faith.

To conclude, I think the ~~he~~ Qur'an is the only holy book necessary to live a good Muslim life because it is the only one that has not been changed or distorted therefore the only one that contains true guidance.

For

- Final revelation - true word of God - protected from corruption (In Qur'an, it says the Prophet was illiterate - could not be changed).
- Used by Muslims to live a faithful Muslim life - gives guidance on issues such as marriage, family and death ~~in this~~

Against

- Other books are also revealed books - studied to further understand the nature of God and Islam.
- Other books from Prophets before Muhammad 



The candidate gains Level 3 because:

- the candidate has 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. Judgements are supported by limited appraisal of evidence, some of which may be superficial, leading to a partially-justified conclusion.

SPaG

The candidate is awarded 3 marks because they:

- spell and punctuate with consistent accuracy
- use rules of grammar with effective control of meaning overall
- use a wide range of specialist terms appropriately

Response = 7 marks

Level 3

SPaG = 3 marks

Total = 10 marks



Appraisal does not have to be in the conclusion

It can appear earlier in the response, as in this example

\* (d) "The Qur'an is the only holy book necessary to live a good Muslim life."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Muslim teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

(15)

Some Muslims would agree with this statement because the Qur'an was revealed to the last prophet Muhammad. This means that the things in this book were the last time that Muslims had direct contact with Allah and so everything in it is right and should be followed. They would also agree because the Qur'an tells Muslims both what to believe and how to show that they are dutiful Muslims. In this sense, they would say that this is all Muslims need to <sup>know how to,</sup> live a good Muslim life. They may also agree with this statement because they feel that the other holy books are not relevant. Because these other holy books were revealed a long time ago, they feel that they could have been distorted and so no longer contain the word of Allah and so are not as useful as the Qur'an.

On the other hand, some Muslims may say that anything revealed to the prophets from Allah is important and so ~~is~~ the collection of all the holy books is more important than just the Qur'an. They may also say that there are some things in other holy books that

support what is said in the Qur'an and this proves that these other holy books are also important. People may also argue that living a good Muslim life has more to do with actually actions than the holy book. For example, taking part in hajj or ~~sa~~ salah may be seen as more important in terms of being a good Muslim.

In conclusion I believe that this statement is not true because there are other, more important, things that Muslims should do to prove they are good Muslims, like following the five pillars.

(Total for Question 1 = 27 marks)



The candidate gains Level 2 because:

- connections are made among many, but not all, of the elements in the question
- the candidate provides evidence suggesting the highest mark of the level
- judgements are supported by an attempt to appraise evidence, much of which is superficial

SPaG

The candidate is awarded 3 marks because they:

- spell and punctuate with consistent accuracy
- use rules of grammar with effective control of meaning overall
- use a wide range of specialist terms appropriately

Response = 6 marks

Level 2

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?

\*d) "The Qur'an is the only holy book necessary to live a good Muslim life."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Muslim teachings
- reach a justified conclusion

(15)

Muslims are taught that the only holy book that they should read ~~because~~ is the ~~Qur'an~~ Qur'an because all other holy books are Muslim and other religions. My conclusion is that it should be a choice if they want to read what the bible says ~~etc~~ or any other religion book.



The candidate achieves Level 1 because there are isolated elements of understanding, with superficial connections.

SPaG

The candidate is awarded 2 marks because they:

- spell and punctuate with considerable accuracy
- use rules of grammar with general control of meaning overall

Response: 1 mark

Level 1

SPaG: 2 marks

Total: 3 marks



## **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 Ten Obligatory Acts of Shi'a Islam'.

Candidates are asked to 'Outline' on (a) items. Therefore, lists can 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 Ten Obligatory Acts of Shi'a Islam.

(3)

Sawm <sup>which</sup> is fasting during the month of Ramadan

Jihad which is to strive ~~and~~ or struggle

Hajj which is a Pilgrimage that almost Muslims make to Mecca.



The candidate answers outlining three Acts in sentences.

3 marks

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

(3)

~~Salah~~ Salah  
tawhid  
hajj



The candidate states two Acts and one Root in a list.

0 marks



In a list, all three answers must be correct for 1 mark

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

(3)

One could be Jihad - it means to strive or struggle.  
another could be Adl which means divine justice  
and another could <sup>be</sup> Hajj which means to go on a  
pilgrimage.



The candidate outlines two Acts in sentence form.

Outline of Adl, which is one of the five Roots, is not credited.

2 marks



Be able to differentiate between the ten Acts and the five Roots

## Question 2 (b)

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

The question asked was 'Explain two reasons why fasting during Ramadan 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 fasting during Ramadan is important for Muslims.

(4)

This is done so that muslims can feel the suffering of the poor and less fortunate, this allows them to feel sorry for the poor and feel more obligated to help them.

This also cleanses muslims of their sins and therefore brings them closer to Allah, ~~following them to~~ ~~also allows muslims to~~ show their commitment to Allah.



The candidate gives two developed reasons.

Reason 1: 'feel the suffering of the poor' (1) reverse-developed by 'obligated to help them' (1)

Reason 2: 'cleanses muslims of their sins' (1) this is developed by 'closer to Allah' (1)

4 marks

In this response, there are further reasons that cannot be credited because they are not developed.

Candidates need to be taught the various ways answers can be developed, eg extra information that adds to the answer, quotes, examples.

(b) Explain **two** reasons why fasting during Ramadan is important for Muslims.

(4)

Fasting during ramadan is important for muslims because it is the third pillar of Islam. It keeps you away from all the sins and make you closer to allah. This is the month when the whole quran was revealed. It ~~makes~~ you reminds o you of the poor ~~who deserve to get food~~



The candidate gives one reason and one developed reason.

Reason 1: 'the third pillar of Islam' (1)

Reason 2: 'keeps you away from all the sins' (1) this is developed by 'makes you closer to allah' (1)

3 marks

## **Question 2 (c)**

Candidates were assessed on Section Two: Practices – bullet point 2.5, ‘significance and purpose of Zakah.’

The question asked was :

‘Explain two reasons why giving Zakah is important for Sunni 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/person.
- If the candidate gives the paraphrase and then puts (Qur'an 1:18) 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.

The candidates may paraphrase and use alternative wording and translations.

Exact chapter and verse are not required but if candidates are giving the source as ‘Qur'an’ or Hadith they must not mistake the Qur'an for Hadith, and vice versa.

(c) Explain **two** reasons why giving Zakah is important to Sunni Muslims.

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

(5)

Zakah is a way of purifying an individual's wealth ~~income~~. As an obligatory act and one of the five pillars, Allah will recognise <sup>Zakah</sup> ~~them~~ and reward <sup>a muslim</sup> ~~them~~ in their afterlife. Muslims strive to be the best Muslims possible and zakah is a way of doing this. Secondly, the Qur'an comments on zakah as 'for the needy, the poor, the less fortunate.' It is important for Muslims to help their community and follow the orders of Allah.



The candidate gives two developed reasons and a source of wisdom.

Reason 1: 'one of the five pillars' (1) this is developed by 'reward a Muslim in the afterlife' (1)

Reason 2: is the source of wisdom and authority (1) this is developed by 'to help their community' (1) and further developed by 'follow the orders of Allah' (1)

There is a number of references in the Quran to Zakah for the poor and the needy.

5 marks



(c) Explain **two** reasons why giving Zakah is important to Sunni Muslims.

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

(5)

Giving Zakah is important to Muslims as it means donating money to charity, it is one of the ten obligatory acts and means that people in need will be supported by charities due to donating a fraction of your money to charity.



The candidate gives one developed reason.

Reason 1: 'donating money to charity' (1) this is developed by 'people in need will be supported' (1)

'Ten Obligatory acts' cannot be credited because the question is about Sunni Muslims, who do not follow them.

2 marks

(c) Explain **two** reasons why giving Zakah is important to Sunni Muslims.

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

(5)

Zakah is important to ~~Muslims~~ Sunni Muslims because it is one of the five pillars and it is the giving of money to the poor it was written in the Quran and the five pillars are very sacred to Sunni Muslims and must be done as it says in Salah 5:17-23. Giving Zakah is important because it is the giving of money to the poor which will help because the Sunni Muslims are an Ummah which means community so everyone deserves to have the same as everyone else.



The candidate gives two developed reasons.

Reason 1: 'one of the five pillars' (1) developed by 'written in the Quran' (1)

Reason 2: 'giving of money to the poor' (1) developed by 'they are an Ummah' (1)

The reference to source of wisdom is inaccurate.

4 marks

## Question 2 (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 Two: Practices – bullet point 2.2, 'Shahadah as one of the Five Pillars'.

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:

"Shahada 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) "Shahadah 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)

Majority of Muslims believe Shahadah is the most important pillar because it is the first pillar of Islam and is the <sup>Muslim</sup> declaration of faith. To become a Muslim, a person needs <sup>to</sup> bear witness that 'there is no God but Allah and Muhammad is his Messenger'. Shahadah is important because without it you are not considered a Muslim. ~~It is~~ There are many ways in which Muslims repeat the Shahadah such as in the form example, in the five obligatory prayers and at the time of burial. Furthermore, belief in Shahadah confirms that the person believes in one God therefore, does not commit shirk, ~~one of~~ the worst sins a Muslim can commit. This argument is convincing because Shahadah is central to Islam and its beliefs.

However, other Muslims would argue that the pillars should be balanced for a Muslim's faith to be balanced. If Shahadah is given the most importance, then the foundation of ~~Muslim~~ Islam is weak as some pillars are given less recognition. Also, Shahadah is not listed in ~~Shi'a~~ the Ten Obligatory Acts of Shi'a Islam yet they practise monotheism and ~~pray~~ ~~that~~ read Shahadah in their prayer. This argument suggests the statement is not very convincing.

To conclude, I think that Shahadah is an important pillar but not the most important because without the others, a Muslim's faith is weak.

For

- First pillar - declaration of faith - fulfills Tawhid + Prophethood
- To become Muslim, repeated in prayers, at time of death
- 'I believe that there is no God but Allah and Muhammad is his final messenger'
- Shirk - 'worship God and shun false Gods'

Against

- Hajj more important - following footsteps of prophets - cleans all sins
- ↳ Pillars balanced - if one is given importance over others - kippah
- Not in Shia belief - ten acts



The candidate achieves Level 3 because:

- the candidate has 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 because judgements are supported by limited appraisal of evidence, some of which may be superficial, leading to a partially-justified conclusion.

There are no SPaG marks on Question 2.

7 marks

Level 3



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?

(d) "Shahadah 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.

Agree  
Declaration  
of Faith

Disagree  
Salah - Prayer  
Community/Unity  
Sawm - better  
self control  
Haji furthered (12)

I disagree that Shahadah is the most important of the five pillars as there are many other pillars that are equally important. For instance Salah is how Muslims pray - they pray 5 times a day facing Mecca and this creates a sense of unity and community between Muslims. In addition, sawm is the fasting during the 1st month of Ramadan and allows Muslims to gain better self control. It enables Muslims to appreciate Allah's gifts and how powerful and loving he is.

However, other Muslims may disagree with me as Shahadah is the declaration of faith and some may argue the ultimate meaning behind ~~that~~ all Muslim practices and beliefs.

Shahadah expresses our love towards Allah and how we act towards him in ~~our~~ <sup>their</sup> Faith.

However, I would argue that there isn't a pillar that is most important if all practices are for Allah. How can one be more important

if they all express a love and respect for Allah?  
In addition the Hajj is a pilgrimage that allows Muslims to connect with Allah. This highlights that my argument is stronger as all of the five Pillars are for Allah - they all convey the same message. I believe all pillars highlight how Muslims connect and worship Allah - not any is more important than the <sup>other</sup>.



The candidate gains Level 3 because:

- the candidate has 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 because judgements are supported by limited appraisal of evidence, some of which may be superficial, leading to a partially-justified conclusion.

7 marks

Level 3



## 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 Section One and Section Two candidates need to know the clear difference between the five roots of Usul-ad-Din and the Ten Obligatory Acts
- 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 ask 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 form part 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>

