

Examiners' Report
June 2019

GCSE Religious Studies 1RB0 2C

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Introduction

Paper 2: Area of Study 2 – Religion, Peace and Conflict. Islam

This paper contributes 50% of the overall full course award at GCSE. The paper consists of four compulsory questions, each covers a section of the specification, and all candidates are expected to answer all four sub-questions from each section. Details of the assessment content are provided in the specification. Centres are expected to use the Edexcel specification, rather than other published resources, when planning and teaching the course content. The examination is written based on the specification content.

This paper, like its associated short course paper, encourages an in depth study of Islam today. 1RBO 2C consists of two generic sections, Muslim Beliefs and Living the Muslim Life, with two option topics, Crime and Punishment and Peace and Conflict. The associated short course, 3RBO 2C consists of one generic section, Muslim Beliefs and one option topic, Crime and Punishment. This is the second year of awarding for this Pearson/Edexcel qualification and teaching should be firmly rooted in the demands of the specification.

By comparison to last year there was much to commend in the work of many candidates.

In a) questions very few candidates attempted to give a list, so fewer candidates lost marks on straightforward questions.

b) questions continued to be well executed by candidates who grasp the concept of a developed reason.

c) responses, particularly in the use of a source of authority, demonstrated significant improvement. Many more candidates gave recognisable quotes or paraphrases from the Qur'an/Hadith rather than a generic 'the Qur'an says...'.

In d) questions the standard remained much the same as last year with few students able to appraise their own arguments. Some who did attempt appraisal did so at the expense of the development of their arguments. The levels for d marking are firmly rooted in the demands of the higher order thinking skills, so it was pleasing to see that more able candidates were better prepared to take on the challenge, taking the discussion to the next level.

Question 1 (a)

Section 1: Muslim Beliefs.

Question 1a: Outline three teachings about Imamah in Shi'a Islam.

This is based on specification bullet point 1.2.

Given that this belief could be seen as the source of the Shi'a/Sunni divide, a surprising number of candidates had little idea of what Shi'as believe about the concept. Some used the simple idea that Ali was Muhammad's chosen successor and could go no further. Others contented themselves with writing three commonly used Muslim beliefs, presumably in the hope that one would be somehow relevant, whilst others opted for three ways that Shi'a Muslims differed from Sunni Muslims. Those who did know scored highly often using the idea of succession, the variation in belief between the Twelvers and the Seveners and the return of the Twelfth Imam to good effect.

This response was included as representative of those who had scant relevant knowledge, though, in this case, the candidate made a valiant attempt to use what little they knew effectively.

1 (a) Outline three teachings about Imamah in Shi'a Islam. (3)

- They're taught about the successors to Allah.
- They believe Ali was the rightful successors, not Abu Bakr
- Muslims should live their lives like successors to Allah



The candidate was awarded 1 mark.

- They believe Ali was the rightful successor.

The first point was not credited since the Imamah do not succeed Allah, but rather Muhammad. The final point suffered from the same misconception.



Allah is not a person.

This response is included as an example of those candidates who had some grasp of the idea that Imamah is rather different to the local Imam but had some difficulty in articulating the difference.

1 (a) Outline **three** teachings about Imamah in Shi'a Islam.

Imamah is the belief in Imams, who ^{should} guide the Ummah. Imams are appointed by Allah and are approved by him. ~~Imams can be descendants~~ of Khums (20% taxation) should be to Imams and the descendants of Muhammad. (3)



The candidate was awarded 2 marks.

- Imams are appointed by Allah (the idea of God-given authority).
- Khums should be to Imams and the descendants of Muhammad.

A number of candidates, in attempting to answer this question, described the nature and role of the local Imam, rather than the Imamah. This candidate said just enough that was relevant to be credited, however the first teaching offered was a generic belief about Imams, rather than specific to the Imamah.



Be precise.

This response is included to represent the work of those who understood the concept and gave three clear beliefs.

Question 1: Muslim Beliefs

1 (a) Outline **three** teachings about Imamah in Shi'a Islam.

(3)

Firstly one teaching about Imamah is that only they can authorise a Just War.
Secondly another teaching is that there are 12 main imamah and that they are descended from Prophet Muhammed.



The candidate was awarded 3 marks.

- They can authorise a Just War.
- There are 12 main Imamah.
- They are descended from Prophet Muhammad.



Brief and to the point.

Question 1 (b)

Question 1b. Explain two events Muslims believe will happen on the Day of Judgement.

This is taken from specification bullet point 1.8.

The key to this question is the idea of an event, rather than understanding the purpose of the Day of Judgement, candidates were required to explain what Muslims believe will happen on that day. For those who went beyond the Judgement there was much to choose from. Some candidates cleverly separated the Judgement from the going to paradise or hell, others considered the sounding of the horn, the resurrection, the gathering at Arafat or the crossing of the bridge.

Some candidates focussed on the questioning and possible punishment in the grave. This was not credited as this takes place on the death of a person in this life which may occur long before the Day of Judgement.

This response is included to show the work of a candidate who gave one developed reason whilst attempting to generate two paragraphs.

(b) Explain **two** events Muslims believe will happen on the Day of Judgement.

(4)

One event is that we will all get judged based on our deeds and sins. If our deeds are handed in the right hand then they will go to heaven.

If the deeds are handed in the left hand they will go to hell.

Aim for two developed reasons.



The candidate was awarded 2 marks.

One developed reason.

- We will all get judged based on our deeds (1), developed by, if our deeds are handed in the right hand then they will go to heaven (1).

The final sentence, located in a second paragraph, merely completes this idea.



The two events/ways/reasons must be distinctly different.

This response is included to demonstrate how straightforward it could be for many of those achieving 3 marks to convert this to 4 marks.

(b) Explain **two** events Muslims believe will happen on the Day of Judgement.

(4)

One event is that all living creatures and other creations will die when the Day of Judgement comes.

Another event is that all living creatures will then be resurrected and Allah will judge them based on how they lived their life.



The candidate was awarded 3 marks.

One simple and one developed reason.

- All living creatures will die (1).
- All will be resurrected (1), developed by, and Allah will judge them (1).

Had the candidate said 'A horn sounds to signal the Day of Judgement (1), developed by, and all living things die (1) the additional information would have made this two developed reasons.



Construct your answer to demonstrate development.

This is included as an example of a candidate who was well versed in the events to be expected on Judgement Day.

(b) Explain **two** events Muslims believe will happen on the Day of Judgement.

(4)

One event is that ^{an} ~~the~~ angel will blow the trumpet on the Day of Judgement, ^{as the world as we know it disappears,} to signify the coming of the day. This also helps gather ^{all} ~~the~~ people to the plain of Arafat. Another event is that ~~th~~ as the dead are being raised, they are joined with everyone on the earth before Allah to be judged by him. This determines their life after death, as they will either go to heaven or hell based on how they have lived.



The candidate was awarded 4 marks.

Two developed reasons.

- An angel will blow the trumpet on the Day of Judgement (1), developed by, to signify the coming of the day (1).
- As the dead are raised they are joined with everyone on earth for judgement (1). Developed by: This determines their life after death in heaven or hell (1)



There is no need for further development.

Question 1 (c)

Question 1c. Explain two reasons why oneness of Allah is important to Muslims. In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.

This question is based on specification bullet point 1.3, the nature of Allah.

Responses to this question varied widely. Some candidates reinterpreted it to read why it is important to be one with Allah, or as a general question about the nature of Allah. Others were able to clearly explain the significance of the oneness of Allah, often in terms of Islam as a monotheistic faith, well supported by relevant use of a source of wisdom and authority. Many used it as a vehicle to talk about Allah's power or his loving kindness often without the necessary link to oneness.

Perhaps the most useful quotation is Surah 7:158 which declares the oneness of Allah and links to the Shahadah. The Shahadah was widely referenced and quoted and this was accepted as a paraphrase of this reference. Some candidates also used Surah 16:36 to good effect.

This response was included as an example of a candidate who perhaps misread, but certainly misunderstood, the question.

(c) Explain **two** reasons why the oneness of Allah is important to Muslims.

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

(5)

One reason why Allah is important to muslims is that he is their God and is who they worship day and night



The candidate was awarded 0 marks.

Whilst it is true that Allah is important because he is the God of Islam it does not suggest anything about his oneness.



Read the question carefully.

This response was included as an example of a mid-range response.

(c) Explain **two** reasons why the oneness of Allah is important to Muslims.

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

(5)

as it is referring to shahada which is the belief of only one god and is the first and most important pillar. There is also another reason why the ~~god~~ oneness in Allah is important, this is because if not believed it is though as not being part of the faith there for casting them out from Jannah (Heaven)



The candidate was awarded 3 marks.

One simple and one developed reason.

- It is referring to the Shahadah which is the belief in only one God (1).
- If it is not believed it is as not being part of the faith (1), developed by, therefore casting them out of heaven (1).

Whilst it is true that the Shahadah is the first Pillar of Islam the fact that this is the case develops the Shahadah rather than the oneness of Allah.



Developments must both link to the reason given **and** answer the question.

This response was included to illustrate the work of a candidate who gained full marks for this question.

(c) Explain **two** reasons why the oneness of Allah is important to Muslims.

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

(5)

One reason why ~~tauhid~~ tauhid is important to Muslims is because that is what influences them to be good Muslims. They're taught 'There is one God and that is Allah. Muhammad is his messenger'. This encourages Muslims to obey by Allah's rules and regulations as God is ~~an~~ omnipotent and therefore it is his ways we should follow. Another reason why the oneness of Allah is important to Muslims is because it provides them with a sense of comfort. It does this because they know there is one person, God, they can always rely on.



The candidate was awarded 5 marks.

Two developed reasons and a relevant source of authority.

- Tawhid encourages them to be good Muslims (1). They are taught 'There is one God, Allah, and Muhammad is his messenger', (Source of authority) (1). Developed by: This encourages them to follow his rules (1).
- It provides them with a source of comfort (1), developed by, because they know there is one God they can always rely on (1).



Embed the source of authority in a developed reason.

Question 1 (d)

Question 1d: 'If everyone followed the Six Beliefs of Islam the world would be a better place.'

Candidates were expected to evaluate the statement with reference to Muslim teaching in order to reach a justified conclusion.

This is based on specification bullet point 1.1.

Some candidates were sidetracked into sharing their knowledge about the content of the Six Beliefs, with specific detail, whilst failing to consider whether it would make the world a better place. Others considered the question in a more general sense suggesting the possible benefits and potential pitfalls of a single common belief system. A number pointed out the differences between the Sunni Six Beliefs and the Shi'a Roots of Usul al-Din and selected on the current disagreements between Sunni and Shi'a Islam.

There remains significant confusion, for some students, between the Six Beliefs and the Five Pillars, with Zakah commonly referenced, in spite of the fact that it is an action rather than a belief.

All examples used in this section were awarded 3 marks for SPaG.

This response was included as an example of what could be expected for a Level 1 candidate.

In this question, 3 of the marks awarded will be for your spelling, punctuation and grammar and your use of specialist terminology.

*(d) "If everyone followed the six Beliefs of Islam the world would be a better place."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Muslim teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

(15)

This statement could be supported as the 6 beliefs are all commands from Allah and Allah is omni-benevolent so if he commands something it must only bring good to the world.

However, this statement could be argued against because some people would have different interpretations of the 6 beliefs which very well could result in conflict and not make the world a better place.

To conclude, in my opinion I don't believe that if everyone followed the 6 beliefs of Islam the world would be a better place because people will naturally disagree with some parts and will definitely cause conflict.

Aim to develop both the breadth and depth of the issues considered.



The candidate was awarded Level 1: 3 marks.

Please consider the assessment criteria for Level 1.

- There are isolated elements of religion and belief
- The major benefit is identified, as is the linked problem.
- The candidate reiterates one of the ideas to generate a conclusion which is not justified by the arguments presented.



The candidate would benefit from developing the arguments perhaps by consideration of the content of the Six Beliefs, and conclusions should conclude based on the evidence rather than state a personal opinion.

This is included as an example of what could be expected from a Level 2 candidate.

In this question, 3 of the marks awarded will be for your spelling, punctuation and grammar and your use of specialist terminology.

*** (d) "If everyone followed the six Beliefs of Islam the world would be a better place."**

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Muslim teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

Faithful,
imamah
mirad
Nubuwwah

A
A
B
M
D
D

(15)

on one hand, ^{sunni} some muslims would agree with the statement that the six beliefs of Islam would make the world a better place if everyone followed them. This is because the 6 beliefs are central to the Islamic faith, and are the basic requirements to be a good muslim so that you can get to Jannah. For example, belief in Allah's Angels' would make the world a better place because then, people would be more conscious of their behaviour and actions because the Malakiah record everything good and bad in a person's life. Our messengers are with them recording' as it says in Surah, in the Quran. If everyone was aware that they were being watched and judged, then maybe people would act like better human.

moreover, some sunni muslims would agree with this statement + because 'Belief in his books' would mean that everyone would follow the teachings of the Quran and Allah's other books, which would result in everyone living in line with the teachings of how to be a good ~~and~~ muslim. therefore, the world would be a better place.

However, some muslims, especially shia muslims would disagree with this statement and say that the 5 ~~for~~ roots of Usul ad-Din were also required. ~~This is because without Tawhid and~~ For shi'a muslims these are the building blocks of their path, although they are ~~very~~ ^{quite} similar.

Furthermore, some people ~~use~~ can misinterpret the words in Allah's books to validate their actions such as violence because this often happens. For example 'fight them until there is no more persecution'. The words of some of

Allah's older books have become corrupted over time, so belief in all of his books is not always reliable.

In conclusion, I agree with the statement because if everybody believed in the ~~oneness~~ of Allah, everyone would strive to be more like his characteristics such as 'merciful and forgiving'.

(Total for Question 1 = 27 marks)



The candidate was awarded Level 2: 6 marks.

Please consider the criteria for the award of Level 2.

- The candidate demonstrates sound understanding of religion and belief. (2+)
- There is evidence of closer examination and deconstruction of some, but not all, key points. (2)
- There is limited evidence of judgement and appraisal leading to a conclusion that is not fully justified. (2-)

Therefore the best fit for this work is the upper end of Level 2. The work of this candidate would be improved by the consideration of the relative value of the various arguments offered, enabling them to justify their conclusion.



Focus on judgement and appraisal.

This response is included to illustrate what could reasonably be expected from a level 3 response.

TA
Nubuw-
Holy Books
a
da

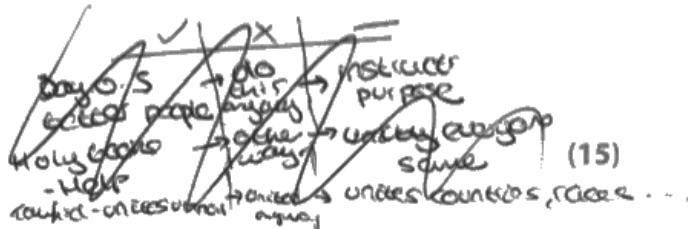
In this question, 3 of the marks awarded will be for your spelling, punctuation and grammar and your use of specialist terminology.

(d) "If everyone followed the six Beliefs of Islam the world would be a better place."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Muslim teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.



I agree with this statement because the belief on the day of judgement means people will live their lives trying to do good, therefore making the world a better place. Muslims believe that on the day of judgement, Allah will decide where your soul will go depending on how well you lived your life, therefore if everyone believed this, they would live better and make the world better. But some may argue that people live as best as they can already and this belief won't change that. However that's a weak argument because this belief instructs people on how to live as well as gives them a purpose to be a better person, which the world hasn't got at the moment.

Despite that, I agree with this statement because the belief in the authority of the holy books can help a person if they need guidance and advice, as well as instruct them on how to live how Allah intended. This makes the world a better place as everyone will be aware of how to live better and make the world a better place. But some may argue that there's plenty of other ways we can seek help and guidance, rather than holy books,

Therefore they're not really needed. But this isn't a strong argument because if everyone believes in the same holy book and follows the same teachings we don't need any other way of seeking help as everyone's got the same things.

Finally the belief in tawhid unites the ummah. The sense of community would improve the world because everyone together and ~~as~~ as they have a shared belief and are living how Allah intended. However some may argue that ^{people are} the world is already united and all believing in tawhid wouldn't have any change on the world so wouldn't improve it. But this is a weak argument as the belief in tawhid doesn't only unite people but unites countries, races, genders... which helps make the world less racist and more equal, therefore improving it.

To conclude, I agree with the statement because it will help people live their lives better and instruct them on how, so would help them get to al-jannah, but it should be considered that the world may already be united and belief in everyone follows the six beliefs the world wouldn't change much.



The candidate was awarded Level 3:9marks.

Please consider the Level 3 mark descriptors.

- The candidate demonstrates accurate understanding of the Six Beliefs, their content and how they could be expected to effect the world.
- There is an attempt to deconstruct the arguments though some of the suggestions as alternatives are weak and poorly supported.
- There are reasoned judgements of many of the arguments though many of these lack rigour.
- The conclusion could be considered more as a summary of the evidence rather than a conclusion, however it is consistent with the sustained argument throughout, and therefore partially justified.



Focus on the quality of the arguments especially those you aim to discredit.

Question 2 (a)

Section 2: Crime and Punishment.

Question 2a: Outline three Muslim beliefs towards the use of punishment for protection.

The question links to specification bullet point 2.5, the aims of punishment.

Some candidates suffered here because they failed to read the question carefully, and therefore, rather than a focus on punishment as a means of protection, offered generic Muslim beliefs about punishment, often with a focus on the importance of justice.

This response was included as an example of the work of a candidate who failed to realise that the question specifically concerned protection.

It also reveals one of the issues with the work of candidates who leave lines between the reasons and then run out of space. In this case it was possible (just) to read the final few words however such items often had to be referred for the attention of a senior examiner. Please encourage candidates to stay within the allocated space. Those candidates who finished their responses on the blank pages at the back of the booklet were a particular issue, please discourage this. If a candidate requires extra space they should continue in an extra answer booklet.

Question 2: Crime and Punishment

2 (a) Outline **three** Muslim beliefs towards the use of punishment for protection.

(3)

one belief is punishment should be used to protect the religion.

another belief is that punishment should only be used if a serious crime has been committed

the final belief is that punishment should be given to the person who committed a crime by the means of the law.



The candidate was awarded 1 mark.

- Punishment should be used to protect the religion.

The remainder of the response concerned aspects of punishment which were not linked to the aim of protection.



Focus brief responses on the key words from the question.

This response was included to illustrate the work of a mid-range candidate.

Question 2: Crime and Punishment

2 (a) Outline **three** Muslim beliefs towards the use of punishment for protection.

(3)

Punishment can protect society from evil

Punishment can promote retribution

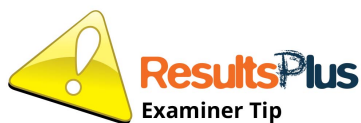
Punishment can protect criminals from being tortured for revenge



The candidate was awarded 2 marks.

- Punishment can protect society from evil
- Punishment can protect the criminal from revenge.

The middle belief did not clearly link to protection and indeed served as an introduction to the final point suggested by the candidate.



Stay within the lines, it is possible.

This response is included as typical of those that achieved full marks.

Question 2: Crime and Punishment

2 (a) Outline **three** Muslim beliefs towards the use of punishment for protection.

(3)

firstly, protection ensures that society is safe from the criminal

secondly, prison is an example of protection

thirdly, protection could also reform a criminal to a better person



The candidate was awarded 3 marks.

- Protection ensures society is safe from the criminal.
- Prison is an example of protection.
- Protection could reform a criminal into a better person.

The final point was accepted as it can be assumed that a reformed criminal will no longer commit crime, thereby protecting society.



Stay focused.

Question 2 (b)

Question 2b: Outline two reasons why justice is important for Muslims.

This is from specification bullet point 2.1.

Some candidates approached this from the perspective of divine justice and the significance of the final judgement, others focussed their attention on the justice system, both were acceptable.

This response is included as an example of a developed reason in a very long sentence.

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

(4)

Justice is important for muslims
Since they beleve that for evry person
hurt there should be a punishment, also
in muslim beleves action have
conciqunses and getting Justice
for wrong doings is highhughted
through out the Quran



The candidate was awarded 2 marks.

One developed reason.

- Actions have consequences (1), developed by, getting justice for wrongdoings is highlighted throughout the Qur'an (1).

This could equally well have been read as two simple reasons. In either case the candidate has failed to convincingly address why getting justice, as highlighted in the Qur'an, is so important.



Stick to the point.

This is included as a rather vague, but nevertheless creditworthy response. This would have benefitted from further explanation.

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

(4)

First One reason why justice is important to Muslims is because it gives them another chance and Allah is forgiving.

- Another reason why justice is important is because it truly shows how Muslims should treat each other.



The candidate was awarded 3 marks.

One developed and one simple reason.

- Justice gives them another chance (1), developed by, and Allah is merciful (1).
- It shows how Muslims should treat each other (1).



Make sure the examiner knows what you mean.

This response was included as representative of the work of a candidate who gained full marks.

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

(4)

One reason why justice is important for Muslims is because justice is doing what is right and fair based on the law and so being vicegerents of Allah's creation we should be just.

Another reason why justice is important for Muslims is because one of Allah's 99 names is 'the just' therefore we must also be just to follow his example.



The candidate was awarded 4 marks.

Two developed reasons.

- Justice is doing what is right and fair (1), developed by, and as vicegerents of Allah's creation we should be just (1).
- One of Allah's 99 names is the Just (1), developed by, therefore we must be just to follow his example (1).



This is enough detail for 4 marks.

Question 2 (c)

Question 2c: Explain two reasons why some Muslims support the use of capital punishment.

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

This is taken from specification bullet point 2.8. although it is specific to Muslim attitudes.

Whilst the majority of candidates understood the concept of Capital Punishment there were a significant minority who equated Capital Punishment with corporal punishment, citing examples such as Muhammad threatening to cut off the hand of his daughter if she were found to be a thief. Whilst this is an example of a hadud punishment from Shari'ah Law, it is not a form of Capital Punishment. Most candidates used 'An eye for an eye' as the source of authority, though others used 'If anyone kills a man, except for retribution and the law, it will be as if he has killed the whole of mankind'.

This is included as an example of a candidate who appeared not to know what Capital Punishment is.

(c) Explain **two** reasons why some Muslims support the use of capital punishment.

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

(5)

One reason why some Muslims support the use of capital punishment is so the Muslims don't have to worry about the punishment if it's nothing to do with them. This means there ~~will~~ will be less people wondering how this person is ~~at~~ and how they ~~are~~ are going to get punished. Therefore there will be more happier Muslims walking around the place.

Another reason why some Muslims support the use of capital punishment is so the Muslims can make sure he is ~~an~~ enough support. ~~for the~~ This will mean the capital punishment will be easier to be in. Therefore the Muslims will be happier with ~~the~~ the capital punishment to be supported.



The candidate was awarded 0 marks.

This candidate managed to write a lot without ever really saying very much. It is hard, for example, how having support in place would mean it was 'easier to be in capital punishment'.



If you really don't know use your time elsewhere.

This response is included to demonstrate the work of a mid-level candidate.

(c) Explain **two** reasons why some Muslims support the use of capital punishment. ^{supported in the Qur'an} • Muhammad

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

(5)

Some Muslims support the use of capital punishment because ~~the~~ the Qur'an states that Allah condones death in the name of law. They may also support it because in the ~~Qur'an~~ ^{Qur'an} there are accounts of ~~Muhammad~~ Muhammad killing people through capital punishment and Muslims wish to follow Muhammad's example.



The candidate was awarded 3 marks.

One simple and one developed reason, no source of authority.

- The Qur'an allows death in the name of law (1).
- There are accounts of Muhammad killing people through capital punishment (1), developed by, and Muslims wish to follow in Muhammad's footsteps (1).



The simple reason could have been easily developed with 'An eye for an eye'.

This response is included as representative of a candidate gaining full marks.

(c) Explain **two** reasons why some Muslims support the use of capital punishment.

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

(5)

Some muslims support the use of capital punishment as it creates a great fear and may prevent crimes as they know it may end their lives. Although the journey of life is extremely important, some muslims believe that if a person is so evil and can take or damage another's life they don't deserve their own. At some muslims believe in this because it is extremely mentioned upon by Allah in the Quran to take away another's life, however muslims believe that "an eye for an eye" means if they end a life with murder capital punishment should be supported.



The candidate was awarded 5 marks.

Two developed reasons and a source of authority.

- It creates fear (1), developed by, and may prevent crimes (1).
- It is frowned upon by Allah to take away another's life (1).
Developed by: However Muslims believe that 'An eye for an eye' (Source of authority) (1), means that if they end a life by murder capital punishment can be supported (1).

Whilst it is rather convoluted in terms of how it is expressed there are two clear developed reasons with a source of authority.



Aim for short clear sentences that say exactly what you mean.

Question 2 (d)

Question 2d: 'Suffering makes people better Muslims.'

The question requires candidates to evaluate the statement using Muslim teachings to reach a justified conclusion.

Candidates generally, and perhaps predictably, tended to contrast the view that patience in the face of suffering encouraged one to turn to Allah, grow closer to him and thereby become a better Muslim with the idea that suffering could challenge the strength of a person's faith. This was often linked to the concept of life as a test with the eternal reward at the end for those who persist in faith. Some, but not many, candidates referenced Ayyub (Job) as an example. It did generate a wide range of responses with Level 1 amply represented, however there were also some very strong responses showing the candidates concerned had considered the question in order to reach a conclusion.

This is included as an example of a mid-level 2 response.

(d) "Suffering makes people better Muslims."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Muslim teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

(12)

I am going to argue against the statement that suffering makes people better Muslims.

A reason against the statement is that ~~the~~ suffering may make Muslims lose faith in Allah as they will not understand why their God would make them suffer if he loves Muslims and is omnipotent and so can control the suffering. This is a ~~very~~ strong argument as they may not understand if Allah is loving then why is he causing suffering.

In contrast a reason for the statement is that suffering can be seen by ~~the~~ Muslims as a test of faith, which actually makes them better Muslims. This is because they believe in Al-Qadr, or predestination, meaning Allah has a ~~the~~ divine plan for the world and so ^{temporary} suffering must be part of Allah's wider plan. This argument is weak as it can also have ~~the~~ the opposite effect and make them worse Muslims as explained previously.

Another reason against the statement is because natural suffering ~~is~~ such as earthquakes are

caused by Allah, or he at least has power to stop it, and these affect third world countries where Muslims may find their home collapsed or flooded, etc. This is a strong argument as the Muslims nearly could have died or have lost loved ones, and how could their 'loving' Allah kill innocent people when they couldn't defend themselves, meaning they are angry at Allah ~~which~~ so they lose faith.

Another reason for it is because suffering may be on them by Allah if they have committed Islam wrongdoings e.g. being unkind, as they are reminded 'we are all brothers and sisters' and so should love each other. The suffering reminds them that they need to correct their behaviour which makes them better Muslims, but is a weak point as they should have known not to do wrongdoings anyway.

In conclusion, suffering ~~is~~ can only make people better Muslims to a small extent and ~~majorly~~ mainly just makes them lose hope and faith in Allah for hurting them instead of loving them.



The candidate was awarded Level 2: 5 marks.

Please consider the Level 2 mark descriptors.

- The candidate demonstrates limited understanding of religion and belief. (Level 2)
- There is an attempt to deconstruct the information but this is all based on the idea that a loving God shouldn't make you suffer. (Level 2-)
- The candidate has attempted to make judgements of the evidence but there is little to support the idea that it might make you a better Muslim, these are dismissed as weak arguments.
- The weak conclusion is supported by the selectively presented information but is not fully justified (Level 2)

As a consequence this is a Level 2 script but has not reached the top of level 2.



Just because you don't agree doesn't mean it is a weak argument.

This response is included as a much more effective example of the use of judgement and appraisal.

(d) "Suffering makes people better Muslims."

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 the statement because they believe in the ten obligatory acts, but in particular, ~~in that~~ they believe that Muslims struggle, and suffer and so suffer and persevere on their path to becoming a perfect Muslim. This is a strong argument because Muslims believe that this struggle and suffering will allow them to obtain true happiness and will be rewarded on the Day of Judgement with a place in Heaven. Another argument is that Muslims believe that life is a test and that we will be tested according to our actions to what is thrown at us in life. This is a persuasive argument because God ~~has~~ is a transcendent, ~~and is~~ omnipotent and omniscient being, so as humans we would never understand why God does the things He does.

However, this raises the questions of what about the poor? Why do they suffer? And why do things like natural disasters exist? This brings doubts in the people's minds about God and how if He were an omnipotent being ~~why~~ why would he not just get rid of suffering? The answer is only known by God and as ^{humans} ~~we~~ won't understand why He does the things He does, but ~~we~~ we should believe in His master plan.

and follow him. This is a logical argument because
Muslims will become closer to God through the suffering,
and it will make them better Muslims.

In conclusion, I agree with the statement because
the suffering will help Muslims become better Muslims and
obtain true happiness. Although, the suffering brings doubts
to people's minds about God like if he was
omnipotent wouldn't he not want to end suffering? And
we don't know the answer, but we must believe in Allah's
Master plan and if we do we will be able to enter
Heaven.



The candidate was awarded Level 3: 8 marks.

Please consider the marking guidelines for Level 3.

- The candidate demonstrates accurate understanding of religion and belief.
- There is evidence of logical chains of reasoning that consider different viewpoints. The opposing view is relatively weak. (Level 3-)
- There are coherent and reasoned judgements supported by basic appraisal of the evidence leading to a partly justified conclusion.

The best fit mark for this response is therefore a mid-range Level 3.



Don't neglect the argument you disagree with.

This is included as an example of the work of a Level 4 candidate. Level 4 marks were rare but it is pleasing to see that some more able students are able to consider the question at a higher level than a straight recall of relevant facts.

(d) "Suffering makes people better Muslims."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Muslim teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

(12)

Some people disagree with that statement. This is because as a result of suffering some turn to violence. As a result, they turn out to be worse Muslims. A teaching to support this is the sword verse 'kill the pagans.' This teaching explicitly tells Muslims it's okay to turn to violence. This is not convincing due to the fact that there is more evidence such as the sanctity of life and further on in that passage it says 'unless they repent and beg for Mercy under Allah... they should be let free.' To disprove this theory. As a result suffering does make people better Muslims due to the fact that if they strive above this and not murder then they have practised self-discipline and already are a step closer to a God.

~~Some agree~~ Furthermore, some may also agree to this statement due to greater Jihad. ^{achieve} Jihad refers to 'striving against in struggle' for God. To ^{achieve} this Muslims must overcome suffering to achieve greater Jihad within themselves. As a result once accomplished, they are able to achieve inner peace which ultimately makes them a better Muslim. This is convincing as Jihad or achieving Jihad is one of the ~~the~~ utmost important things to do. ~~By~~ ~~achieving~~ through self-discipline and moral acts Muslims are able to achieve Jihad and

be better versions of themselves.

However, some Muslims may disagree. Bismillah means 'In the name of Allah, the most Loving and Merciful.'

It is said in almost every surah and said at the beginning of prayer - exemplifying its importance.

As a result if God is omnibenevolent, suffering shouldn't exist in the first place and Muslims shouldn't be benefiting from negativity. As this is convincing due to the fact that it is said repeatedly by almost every Muslim.

However, it can be argued that because Allah is the most 'Merciful' he would never give anybody too much suffering they can't handle. As a result, it could be argued that because life is a test Muslims must ultimately prove their worth through things like suffering. This is even more convincing as in the end suffering teaches things like self-discipline and control which ultimately makes people better Muslims.

Finally, suffering does make better Muslims. 'Those who sit and eat while a brother starves is not a brother.' surah.

This quote teaches ummah and shows that suffering of others can help bring the world together. This is convincing as it's from the Qur'an - word of God → highest authority.

In conclusion, suffering does make a better Muslim as it not only achieves inner peace, purification of soul - become closer to God but also reveals in the idea of unity within the ummah.

(Total for Question 2 = 24 marks)



This candidate was awarded Level 4: 10 marks.

Please consider the Level 3 and Level marking criteria.

- The candidate demonstrates sustained, accurate and thorough understanding of religion and belief, bringing together a number of strands of Muslim thought in a persuasive whole. (Level 4)
- There is evidence of the deconstruction of the arguments with logical chains of reasoning that consider different viewpoints (Level 3).
- There are coherent and reasoned judgements of a variety of elements in the question (Level 3+).
- The conclusion could more accurately be described as a summary of the discussion. It is consistent with the evidence presented and is partially justified. (Level 3-)

Therefore the best fit for this work is the bottom of Level 4. For this candidate the skill of constructing a reasoned conclusion is key to further progress.



Don't neglect the conclusion, it is a requirement of the question rubric.

Question 3 (a)

Section 3: Living the Muslim Life.

Question 3a: Outline three purposes of giving Zakah.

This is based on specification bullet point 3.5.

Since Zakah is one of the Five Pillars this question produced the full range of the possible answers with many candidates achieving full marks. The most common answers involved helping the poor, supporting the ummah, purifying one's wealth and that it fulfils one of the Five Pillars. Candidates who simply stated that it is one of the Five Pillars were not credited since that is a fact rather than a purpose.

This response is included as an example of a limited response to the question.

Question 3: Living the Muslim Life

3 (a) Outline **three** purposes of giving Zakah.

(3)

firstly, Giving zakah means giving 2.5% of your wages to charity

Secondly, Your helping others in the community.



The candidate was awarded 1 mark.

- You are helping others in the community.

Giving a rather inaccurate definition of Zakah is not a purpose.



Don't waste time defining key words - it doesn't help.

This response is included as an example of a mid-range response.

3 (a) Outline **three** purposes of giving Zakah.

(3)

Zakah is given to help the poor and desperate within a Muslim community. Zakah also allows Muslims to become closer to Allah by following his teachings and giving to charity.



The candidate was awarded 2 marks.

- It helps the poor within a Muslim community.
- It allows Muslims to become closer to Allah by following his teachings.



Brief phrases are adequate.

This response is included as an example of a candidate who achieved full marks by giving a variety of simple statements.

3 (a) Outline **three** purposes of giving Zakah.

(3)

To help those who need it
To show the fruits of a good Muslim
To fulfill one of the 5 pillars
To purify yourself, as wealth can be evil
To show love to other Muslims



The candidate was awarded 3 marks.

- To help those who need it.
- To fulfil one of the Five Pillars.
- To purify yourself, as wealth can be evil.



There is no need for development in outline questions.

Question 3 (b)

Question 3b: Explain two reasons why Salah is important to Muslims.

This is from specification bullet point 3.3.

Since this is also one of the Five Pillars it was also generally well understood with candidates giving a variety of valid reasons. The most common response pointed out that it is one of the Five Pillars, developed by the idea that it was therefore compulsory if you want to go to Paradise. Other popular reasons were that it strengthens the relationship with Allah and that it strengthens the ummah when Muslims pray together. The only exceptions to the good level of knowledge was provided by those who confused Salah with one of the other Pillars, most commonly Shahadah.

This is included to illustrate the cost of not knowing the key words.

(b) Explain **two** reasons why Salah is important to Muslims.

(4)

Salah is important to Muslims because it is the giving of 20% of your money to the poor. It is important because Muslims believe that everything they have comes from Allah. Giving 20% is showing love.

Muslims also believe that Salah is important because in the Qur'an, Muhammad was told to share everything he had to the poor therefore Muslims should follow the example.



The candidate was awarded 0 marks.

The entire answer revolves around Zakah or possibly Khums.



Learn the key Islamic words well.

This response is included as an example of a mid-level response.

(b) Explain **two** reasons why Salah is important to Muslims.

As it shows their dedication to Allah ⁽⁴⁾ god. As they pray 5 times a day. Waking up early in the morning to pray. It also fulfills the ten beliefs of Islam. Which is needed in order to become a perfect Muslim.



The candidate was awarded 2 marks.

- It shows their dedication to Allah (1), developed by, as they pray five times a day (1).

The candidate confused beliefs and acts, so this was not credited.



Know the difference between the Five Pillars and the Ten Obligatory Acts. They are both things you do rather than beliefs.

This is included as an example showing a full mark response.

(b) Explain **two** reasons why Salah is important to Muslims.

(4)

Salah means praying five times a day.

One reason salah is important is that it helps to build a healthy relationship with Allah. This means you can seek comfort from him if you need it.

A second reason is that it is one of the ten obligatory acts. This means that Muslims have to do it and is shown in the quote "keep up regular prayer for prayer is obligatory ~~for~~ for believers".



The candidate was awarded 4 marks.

Two developed reasons.

- It helps to build a healthy relationship with Allah (1).
Developed by: This means you can seek comfort from him if you need it (1).
- It is one of the Ten Obligatory Acts (1), developed by 'Keep up regular prayer' (A paraphrase of Surah 20:14) (1)



Quotations are a useful form of development.

Question 3 (c)

Question 3c. Explain two reasons why Shi'a Muslims celebrate Id-ul-Ghadeer.

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

This was based on specification bullet point 3.8.

There was little to celebrate in the responses to this question. Many candidates left it out entirely and, of those who did attempt it, many wrote about other celebrations most notably Id-ul-Fitr and Id-ul-Adha though some also wrote about Ashura.

This response is included to illustrate the efforts of those who tried valiantly, but ultimately failed.

(c) Explain **two** reasons why Shi'a Muslims celebrate Id-ul-Ghadeer.

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

(5)

One reason Shi'a Muslims celebrate Id-ul-Ghadeer is to show that they have faith in Allah and his actions. They do this to experience what previous Muslims may have had to, to show their faith making them better more brought full Muslims.

A second reason they celebrate Id-ul-Ghadeer is to respect Abraham for following ^{Allah's} ~~God's~~ words. This is done because without him doing that, Allah may have given up on humanity.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

The candidate was awarded 0 marks.

This was typical of many responses, a generic attempt to explain why a Shi'a Muslim might celebrate and then a stab at the wrong celebration, none of which was creditworthy.



There is no substitute for thorough revision.

This response was included to illustrate the work of a candidate who used limited knowledge to good effect.

(c) Explain **two** reasons why Shi'a Muslims celebrate Id-ul-Ghadeer.

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

(5)

One reason why Shi'a Muslims celebrate Id-ul-Ghadeer is because one of their five roots is the belief in the bloodline. This is because ~~all~~ all Shi'a Muslims must follow their five roots to be a Muslim.

Another reason why Shi'a Muslims celebrate Id-ul-Ghadeer is because they believe that Ali should lead after Mohammad rather than the next greatest Muslim. ~~A quote to support this is~~ Shi'a Muslim Scripture teaches that "Ali should lead after Mohammad".



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

The candidate was awarded 3 marks.

One developed and one simple reason.

- One of the Five Roots is belief in the bloodline (1), developed by, Shi'a Muslims must follow the Five Roots in order to be a Muslim (1).
- They believe Ali should have led after Muhammad (1).

The attempted use of a source of authority was not credited.



Learn the relevant quotations.

This was included to illustrate the work of those candidates who achieved full marks.

(c) Explain **two** reasons why Shi'a Muslims celebrate Id-ul-Ghadeer.

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

(5)

One reason why Shi'a Muslims celebrate Id-ul-Ghadeer is to commemorate a speech Muhammad made after his final Hajj, where he said that Ali would be next Muslim leader after his death: "Today I have perfected your religion for you" (Quran). Therefore Shi'a Muslims revere Ali and celebrate the festival as the day he became the leader of Islam.

A second reason why Shi'a Muslims celebrate ~~Id-ul-Ghadeer~~ Id-ul-Ghadeer is because it ~~states~~ relates closely to Imamah. This is important because Imamah is one of the Five Roots of 'Usul ad-Din, and so is core to their religion.



The candidate was awarded 5 marks.

Two developed reasons and a source of authority.

- To commemorate a speech Muhammad made after his final Hajj (1), developed by, when he said that Ali would be leader after his death (1). 'To-day I have perfected your religion for you'. (Source of authority) (1).
- Imamah is one of the Five Roots of Usul-Al-Din (1), developed by, and so is core to their religion (1).



Two clearly developed reasons and a relevant source of authority = 5.

Question 3 (d)

Question 3d: 'Lesser Jihad is the most important form of Jihad.'

Candidates are required to evaluate the statement with reference to Muslim teachings and different Muslim points of view in order to reach a justified conclusion.

This is based on specification bullet point 3.7.

The quality of the responses offered in this question varied widely. Some candidates confused Lesser and Greater Jihad, yet others seemed reluctant to consider the concept of Lesser Jihad in terms of physically fighting to defend Islam, even though this definition is made clear by the relevant specification references. For those who did understand the concept many seized the opportunity to demonstrate their understanding without allying themselves with it. Those who were most successful often did so with historical, rather than contemporary, references.

All candidates whose work is used in these exemplars achieved Level 3 for SPaG.

This response is included to indicate the importance for candidates in knowing the definitions of key terms. In this case Greater Jihad is described as Lesser Jihad, rendering the response wrong throughout.

In this question, 3 of the marks awarded will be for your spelling, punctuation and grammar and your use of specialist terminology.

***(d) "Lesser Jihad is the most important form of Jihad."**

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 may believe that Lesser Jihad, an inner struggle for Allah is the most important form of Jihad. This is because it does not take away life given by Allah. A Lesser Jihad could be a struggle to wear headscarf (khimar) but wearing it for the sake of Allah. Muslims believe that life was created by Allah and only He can take it away. Also, they believe that death and war is not always the answer to problems. Lesser Jihad is struggling but doing something for the sake of Allah that does not include war. It could be something that allows a Muslim to enter Heaven.

However, other Muslims may believe may believe that the only important form of Jihad is dying in war for the sake of Allah because that is the way most of the sahabah or companions of the Prophet Muhammad (saw) died in war, which allowed them to go to the highest level of Heaven. Because dying for the sake of Allah is an inner struggle.

I believe that in the past, dying for the sake of Allah was the most important form of Jihad, but now Lesser Jihad is more important because in today's world, war should not happen. So that Muslims can go to Heaven.



The candidate was awarded 0 marks.

As a result of scoring 0 marks for the religious content the candidate also lost 3 SPaG marks.



Learn your key word definitions.

This is included as an example of a candidate achieving Level 2.

In this question, 3 of the marks awarded will be for your spelling, punctuation and grammar and your use of specialist terminology.

* (d) "Lesser Jihad is the most important form of Jihad."

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 argue for this statement because muslims are taught to "strive for the cause of God" stated in the Quran. Because "God Command Justice" said in the Quran. This is a weak argument because some muslims would interpreted 'God's Cause' as either ^{through} ~~for~~ peace or ~~for~~ through conflict (which is lesser jihad). This therefore means that muslims would either feel as though lesser jihad is the most important jihad or greater jihad is the most important. Lesser jihad is striving for ~~peace~~ your religion and to fight for the words and belief of Allah. Greater jihad is to ~~for~~ strive for inwards ~~peace~~ peace.

Organisations such as ISIS would argue that lesser jihad is more important because they are fighting to establish the faith of Islam and that because of this they would be ~~if~~ rewarded because

the Quran teaches that anyone who fights for God's cause or in a Holy war will be rewarded and sent to paradise. This is however a weak argument as it goes against the rules of just and Holy wars set by Al-Bakhar for example do not harm innocent people and destroy trees and animals. Due to this Muslims would argue that if Greater Jihad was done first it would show you the right way of doing lesser Jihad therefore some Muslims would argue that greater Jihad is more important.

Greater Jihad begins in with Salah (prayer) and because of this it "restrains outrageous behaviour" stated in the Quran. This is a strong argument because it shows that Greater Jihad connects you with the other teachings of Islam for example the 5 pillars which allows you to develop as a Muslim and build your faith in Allah which then his cause will be revealed to you.

To conclude Greater Jihad is the most important Jihad as makes Muslims strive for peace within themselves which then they can then fight for God's cause. without Greater Jihad the lesser Jihad will be missed used and corruption is spread amongst the land. (Total for Question 3 = 27 marks)



The candidate was awarded Level 2: 5 marks.

Please consider the marking criteria for Level 2.

- The candidate demonstrates understanding of religion and belief.
- Issues are identified and superficial connections are made between elements in the question
- There is a limited attempt at judgement, which is often superficial leading to a conclusion that is not fully justified.

The work of this candidate would have been improved by a more rigorous exploration of the value of Greater Jihad.



The application of religious knowledge is key.

This is included to illustrate the work of a candidate achieving Level 4.

In this question, 3 of the marks awarded will be for your spelling, punctuation and grammar and your use of specialist terminology.

***(d)** "Lesser Jihad is the most important form of Jihad."

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 may agree with the statement because lesser jihad was carried out by the Prophet Muhammad during the Battle of Badr, in order to defend Islam. Therefore, Muslims can more practically follow his example by carrying out lesser jihad. It is more important as it is more prominent in the life of Prophet Muhammad, who should be taken as a role model by all Muslims. This is a weak argument because circumstances during Muhammad's time were different, Islam was under threat, ~~but~~ in modern society lesser jihad is not necessary as there is no need to defend Islam and so some may believe that it is less important.

Furthermore, some Muslims may agree that lesser Jihad is the most important form of Jihad because it was outlined in the Qur'an several times. The Qur'an mentions: 'The believers are those who fight for a just cause'. In this case, the just cause is in defence of Islam for the sake of Allah. This is a strong argument because lesser jihad does what greater jihad does not; defend Islam from external aggressors and preserve it until the next generation. By following ^{the} teachings, Muslims are defending their faith, without it there'd be no Islam. ←
Qur'anic

On the other hand some Muslims may argue that greater Jihad is the most important form of Jihad as ~~it was~~ an emphasis was placed on it by Prophet Muhammad. In the Qur'an, it records how he said 'the believers are those who strive for God's cause'. This is referring to the inward struggle to become better Muslims, and is exemplified in Muhammad's life when he helped the poor and forgave those who wronged him. This is a strong argument as many Muslims follow Muhammad's example on trying to ~~become~~ become a better Muslims, showing how greater Jihad takes more importance in the lives of Muslims today, making lesser Jihad the least important form.

Moreover, some Muslims may argue that greater Jihad is more important than lesser Jihad as by striving to please God through regular worship and repentance, Muslims can come to a deeper love for their religion. In contrast, a lesser Jihad ~~can't~~ doesn't bring Muslims closer to God and instead can make them more violent and turn them away from Allah, making it much less important. This is a strong argument because Muslims who take lesser Jihad to be the most important form neglect their core Islamic beliefs and commit acts of terror in the name of a religion they ~~are~~ don't understand.

Overall, I disagree with the statement as the argument for disagree is stronger. There is simply not a need for lesser Jihad in today's society making it less important than **(Total for Question 3 = 27 marks)** greater Jihad which is a timeless struggle.



The candidate was awarded Level 4: 10 marks.

Please consider the marking criteria for Level 3 and Level 4.

- There is sustained and accurate understanding of religion and belief (Level 4)
- The issues are deconstructed leading to logical chains of reasoning that consider different viewpoints (Level 3)
- There are reasoned judgements of the elements in the question supported by a limited attempt at appraisal (Level 3+)
- The conclusion therefore is partially justified (Level 3).

The best fit mark for this response is therefore Level 4: 10 marks.



Focus on the conclusion.

Question 4 (a)

Section 4: Peace and Conflict.

Question 4a: Outline three Muslim beliefs about the use of weapons of mass destruction.

This is derived from specification bullet point 4.7.

Some candidates generalised this and answered as though the question asked about the use of weapons, rather than the specific use of weapons of mass destruction. Those who focused on the question that was asked gave suggestions such as the killing of innocents, the destruction of the environment created by Allah and some usefully referenced mutually assured destruction as a reason for possessing such weapons though they should not be used.

This response is included as an example of the work of a candidate who struggled to suggest beliefs appropriate to weapons of mass destruction.

Question 4: Peace and Conflict

4 (a) Outline **three** Muslim beliefs about the use of weapons of mass destruction.

(3)

Three beliefs about weapons of mass destruction
are they should be a last resort,



The candidate was awarded 1 mark.

- They should be a last resort.



Clear simple statements are adequate.

This response was included as an example of a mid-range answer.

Question 4: Peace and Conflict

4 (a) Outline **three** Muslim beliefs about the use of weapons of mass destruction.

(3)

one muslim belief is that it is unjust in war

a second belief is that they should be used as a deterrent from other countries



The candidate was awarded 2 marks.

- It is unjust in war.
- They should be used as a deterrent from other countries.



Consider wider Islamic teachings e.g. Sanctity of Life.

This response was included to exemplify the work of a candidate achieving full marks.

Question 4: Peace and Conflict

4 (a) Outline **three** Muslim beliefs about the use of weapons of mass destruction.

(3)

Firstly, they end a war quickly.

Secondly, they are unjust as they kill masses of innocent people.

Thirdly, they are to act as a deterrent.



The candidate was awarded 3 marks.

- They end a war quickly.
- They are unjust as they kill innocent people.
- They are to act as a deterrent.



There is no need to develop ideas in outline responses.

Question 4 (b)

Question 4b: Explain two Muslim beliefs about the importance of peace.

The question originates in specification bullet point 1.1.

A number of candidates rather missed the point of this question, and wrote about peace in terms of the meaning of Islam or the greeting by which Muslims greet each other, rather than a focus on why it is important. Many presented Muhammad as a paradigm of peace whilst subsequently stating his fight to establish Islam. There is ample evidence from the life of the Prophet to show that having established Islam securely he did not respond violently to threats and sought peace, however this was rarely used by candidates to illustrate why that should make peace important.

This response is included as an example of a candidate who struggled to link the importance of peace to Muslim life or indeed the Muslim faith.

(b) Explain **two** Muslim beliefs about the importance of peace.

(4)

Muslims believe that peace is so important because ~~may say say say~~ ~~that~~ ~~that~~ is some muslims say that Allah wanted peace so that is what they should have. Some muslims believe that it is important because they think that all muslims should stick together and be there for one another.



The candidate was awarded 1 mark.

One simple reason.

- Allah wanted peace (1).

This could have been easily developed by suggesting what the Ummah could achieve if the world was peaceful.



Why is life better when it is peaceful?

This response is included to illustrate the futility of repetition instead of development.

(b) Explain **two** Muslim beliefs about the importance of peace.

(4)

One Muslim belief about the importance of ~~peace~~ peace is that Allah intended that humans live in a peaceful society. This means Muslims believe peace is important as it is what Allah intended.

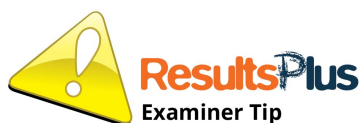
Another belief about the importance of peace in Islam is that it protects the Ummah. This means if there is peace then the Ummah will be protected which is important to Muslims.



The candidate was awarded 2 marks.

Two simple reasons.

- Allah intended Muslims to have a peaceful society (1). (Followed by the tautological 'It is important because it is what Allah intended'.)
- It protects the ummah (1). (Followed by the tautological 'This means the ummah will be protected'.)



There is no benefit in saying the same thing twice.

This response is included as an example of a candidate who was clearly focussed on the importance of peace.

(b) Explain **two** Muslim beliefs about the importance of peace.

(4)

Firstly, Muslims believe that peace is important as Allah intended for the Ummah to live in peace. This means that Muslims will always try to bring peace in whatever way they can, for example supporting the Muslim peace fellowship.

Secondly, peace is important because it follows the prophet Muhammad's example. He taught to always strive for peace and only resort to conflict as a last resort therefore Muslims should follow this.



The candidate was awarded 4 marks.

Two developed reasons.

- Allah intended for the ummah to live in peace (1), Developed by: Muslims will try to bring peace in whatever way they can (1).
- It follows the Prophet Muhammad's example (1). Developed by: He taught to always strive for peace and only resort to conflict as a last resort (1).



No need for further development.

Question 4 (c)

Question 4c. Explain two Muslim responses to the problems conflict causes in society.

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

This is based on specification bullet point 4.3.

A significant minority of candidates gave descriptions of the effects of conflict rather than explanations of how Muslims may respond to it.

This response was included as an example of a candidate who, whilst understanding the question and what was required, struggled to provide Muslim responses to the issues.

(c) Explain **two** Muslim responses to the problems conflict causes in society.

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

(5)

One response is to give to charity to help
with poverty



The candidate was awarded 1 mark.

One simple reason.

- Give to charity to help with poverty (1).



What else could a Muslim do?

This is included as an example of a candidate who gave one valid response supported by a relevant source of authority. In this case conflict is taken to be the result of criminal activity rather than war.

(c) Explain **two** Muslim responses to the problems conflict causes in society.

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

(5)

Forgiveness is key and prove the real trust within Islam. "If the thief amends his conduct, Allah shall turn to him in forgiveness". This implies that even Allah shall give criminals "second chances".



The candidate was awarded 3 marks.

One developed reason and a relevant source of authority.

- Forgiveness is key and proves the real trust within Islam (1), 'If the thief amends his conduct Allah will turn to him in forgiveness', (Source of authority, Surah 5:39) (1). Developed by: This implies that even Allah gives criminals a second chance (1).



Embed the quote firmly in a developed reason.

This is included as an example of a candidate whose response was clearly focussed on the possible responses.

(c) Explain **two** Muslim responses to the problems conflict causes in society.

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

(5)

One muslim response to the problems conflict causes in society is to give charity, this would be people ~~are~~ one cause of conflict can be the economy a resource. Muslims would give money to prevent conflict.

Another muslim response would be to promote peace to prevent any conflict. In the hadith, it says 'do not destroy an inhabited home' and 'do not harm any child, women the sick or elderly persons'. This ensure that the people in society do not harm each other or inflict pain on others.

Muslim responses often include charitable programs, giving charity and promoting peace

'Do not destroy a inhabited place'

'Do not harm the innocent (child, women, sick or elderly)'



The candidate was awarded 5 marks.

Two developed reasons and a relevant source of authority.

- One cause of conflict can be the economy or resources (1). Muslims give money (charity) to prevent conflict (1).
- Another would be to promote peace to prevent conflict (1). The hadith says 'Do not destroy an inhabited home' and 'do not harm a child, woman sick or elderly' (Source of authority) (1). This ensures that the people in society do not harm each other or inflict pain (1).



Many common quotes could have been employed eg 'Wish for your brother what you wish for yourself' (Muhammad).

Question 4 (d)

Question 4d: 'Muslims should always avoid violence.'

The candidates were required to evaluate the statement with reference to Muslim teachings to reach a justified conclusion.

This was based on specification bullet point 4.4.

The premature attempts of some students to appraise the value of their arguments before effectively explaining them limited some students. Others used the quotation 'If you raise your hand against me, I will not raise my hand against you', to good effect. Others struggled to make sense of the example of Muhammad both as a warrior defending Islam and as a pacifist.

This response is included to represent the work of a candidate who struggled to give coherent Muslim reasoning in response to the statement.

(d) "Muslims should always avoid violence."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Muslim teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

(12)

Muslims have always said their religion is peace. They believe that there should be peace in the world.

Violence bring more conflict to the world and people of different religions have many disagreements.

However ~~but~~ some muslims believe that the only time it is okay to use violence is when Allah has given his permission and said it is okay. This gives muslims a free pass to be violent and use weapons to put people in harms ~~way~~.

To conclude I think that muslims should never use violence in any situation because they should not be the one to have the responsibility to take someones life.

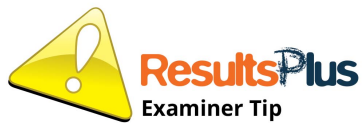
* However I do understand that if muslims ~~disobey~~ do not listen to what Allah has commaned them to do they may feel as if on judgement day he will not forgive them and think that they are not good muslims.



The candidate was awarded Level 1: 1 mark.

Please consider the assessment criteria for Level 1.

- There were simple isolated elements of belief.
- A single issue was superficially proposed.
- There was a very simple conclusion.



It's not how much you say but the value of the content.

The work of this candidate is included as representative of a basic Level 2 response.

(d) "Muslims should always avoid violence."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Muslim teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

(12)

Muslims should avoid violence as it may not be needed in every case. ~~To follow Allah's path~~ it may be a test of faith and character if you are willing to suffer for Allah. Violence will only harm other people for example young children ~~or~~ could be killed etc. This should mean that Muslims should always stay away from violence if they want to protect Allah's creation.

However Muslims may have to turn to violence if it is the last resort. ~~Quran~~ In the Qur'an it teaches that you can fight back. If the religion is under attack you may fight back using violence to protect.

Another reason is that Muhammad used violence sometimes to defend Allah. This means that Muslims should follow his ~~own~~ example to become better Muslims and to get closer with a God.

In my opinion violence is needed sometimes if it is the only way to protect others. If a war will mean that less attacks will happen in the

future it may have to be used. therefore I believe violence is needed in some cases.



The candidate was awarded Level 2: 4 marks.

Please consider the marking criteria for Level 2.

- There is limited understanding of religion and belief.
- Issues are identified and there are superficial connections between a limited range of elements. (Level 1).
- The conclusion is a personal opinion rather than a summary or ideally a conclusion!

The best fit is therefore a low level 2. The work of this candidate could have been improved by adding more depth to the points that were raised, perhaps supporting them with relevant quotations.



Include as much AO1 information as you can, then appraise.

This response was included as an example of a much stronger Level 2 response.

(d) "Muslims should always avoid violence."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Muslim teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

for
Muhammed
teaches that
do to others what
you want on yourselves'

against
In Qu'ran says fight
back not turn the
cheek
(12)
Muhammed fought
in just wars.

I am going to argue against this statement and that muslims can use violence.

Some muslims would believe that violence should be avoided at all costs. Muhammed taught muslims to 'do to others what you want done on yourself', showing that muslims should not be violent as they ^{don't} want violence targeted towards them. Also in the Qu'ran it says that 'all means of peace' should be accounted for before violence. However, this argument is weak because there are many teaching in the Qu'ran that say that peace is most important, but violence is still permitted.

Many muslims believe that violence is acceptable because it says to 'fight back and defend islam' showing that in certain circumstances violence is acceptable and that it should only be used when ~~now~~ it is a last

resort and that it is only used to defend, protect Islam or other Muslims. This argument is strong as Muslims have been commanded by Allah to fight for Islam when necessary.

Adding to this in Muslim teachings it states that the final prophet Muhammad fought in just wars to defend the authority of Islam and to protect Muslims. Some Muslims might say that he only fought because of the circumstances, that Islam was a new religion and challenged by many.

However, my argument is strong because Muhammad led a perfect Muslim life led by Allah which means that violence must be acceptable.

All in all, I disagree with the statement due to the evidence showing that Muslims are allowed to use violence and are commanded to do so in the name of Islam. It is stronger than the other arguments because, even though peace should be strived for, violence is acceptable in certain times.



The candidate was awarded Level 2: 6 marks.

Please consider the Level 2 marking criteria.

- There is limited understanding of religion and belief.
- There is evidence that religious information is identified and challenged and linked to other teachings.
- Judgements of a range of elements are made with an attempt to appraise the evidence.
- This led to a conclusion that is not fully justified.

The candidate therefore fulfilled the requirements for Level 2. Many of the quotes are not accurate quotes from the Qur'an or Hadith and would be better without the speech marks.



Be accurate if you quote. A summary is not a quotation.

Paper Summary

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

- In a) questions many candidates gave too much information. There is no requirement for developed responses.
- In c) questions candidates should avoid using 'The Qur'an supports this in Surah 4' for example. It is advisable to tell the examiner what the Qur'an says on the issue.
- In d) questions some attention should be paid to the purpose of the conclusion, a question requirement. The conclusion of an evaluation should not be a statement of a personal opinion but should be firmly rooted in the evaluation.
- In d) questions the range of possible elements should also be considered. It is difficult to access higher level marks by consideration of one basic idea.
- Throughout the paper candidates need to read carefully and take care that they understand what the question is asking for, reasons are different from beliefs or ways.
- Please discourage candidates from continuing their answers on the blank pages at the end of the script, ask for extra paper.

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>

