



# **Examiners' Report**

## **June 2022**

**GCSE Religious Studies B 1RB0 3C**

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## Introduction

### 1RB0 3C Religion, Philosophy and Social Justice

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 encourages an in-depth study of Islam today. 1RB0 2C consists of two generic sections, Muslim Beliefs and Living the Muslim Life, with two option topics, Philosophy of Religion and Equality.

This is, in effect, the third year of awarding for this Pearson/Edexcel qualification and teaching should be firmly rooted in the demands of the specification.

By comparison with 2019 there was much to commend in the work of many candidates.

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

In c) responses, particularly the use of a source of authority demonstrated significant improvement. Many more candidates gave recognisable quotes or paraphrases of the Qur'an/Hadith rather than a generic 'the Qur'an says...'. However some continued to attribute quotes to the Qur'an rather than the Hadith and did lose a mark.

In d) questions the standard showed limited improvement with few candidates attempting to make some judgement of the quality of the arguments offered. Unfortunately, this was often limited to the conclusion: much remains to be done in terms of judgement, appraisal and evaluation in order for more-able candidates to achieve the highest marks.

Note:

In d) questions in Sections 1 and 3, up to 3 Marks are available for Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar: SPaG.

## Question 1 (a)

Section 1: Muslim Beliefs

Question 1a. Outline **three** purposes of the Five Roots of Usul ad-Din for Shi'a Muslims.

This question is based on Bullet Point 1.2.

In a) questions candidates are expected to give three brief sentences or statements in response to the question. Single-word responses are not acceptable. The points suggested must link clearly to the question. a) questions are point marked, up to a maximum of 3 marks.

Candidates must read the questions carefully, paying particular attention to the command words, in this case 'purpose'. A 'purpose' is not a 'reason' or an 'example'.

1 (a) Outline **three** purposes of the Five Roots of Usul ad-Din for Shi'a Muslims.

(3)

- <sup>Purpose of</sup>  
- The Usul-ad Din <sup>is</sup> helps that Shi'a Muslims know the main beliefs of their religion.
- Another purpose is that it helps them to understand what <sup>berman</sup> is <sup>comes first</sup> important, in Islam.
- The purpose of Usul-ad-Din is to ensure that Shi'a Muslims believe in the key aspects of Islam so that they can worship God in the right way.



This response gains 3 marks for three distinct purposes.

Marks are given as follows:

- Shi'a Muslims know the main beliefs of their religion (1)
- It helps them understand what is important in Islam (1)
- They believe the key aspects so they can worship God in the right way (1)

Some candidates, like this one, choose to consider the Five Roots as a body of belief and suggest purposes that apply to all the Five Roots.

Total: 3 Marks



Check the key word and respond to that

1 (a) Outline **three** purposes of the Five Roots of Usul ad-Din for Shi'a Muslims.

(3)

One purpose for the 5 roots would be nabuwwah  
which is prophets.

Another purpose is that 5 roots are part of a  
Shia muslims life.

Also they believe in these as they're really  
important.



This response is given no marks.

This candidate chooses to consider three of the Five Roots individually.

This is an acceptable approach. However in this case the candidate simply names three Roots and makes no effort to suggest what the purpose may be.

For example, the candidate could have said, 'The Prophets act as role models.' This names a Root but also suggests a purpose and thus answers the question.

Total: 0 Marks



Stick to the point!

## Question 1 (b)

Question 1b. Explain **two** purposes of holy books for Muslims.

This question is based on Bullet Point 1.5.

In b) questions candidates are expected to suggest two developed reasons in response to the question. Development can take the form of additional information, an example or a relevant Source of Authority.

Many candidates had clear ideas concerning the purposes of holy books. Most suggested the idea that the holy books were God's word and the purpose was to guide Muslims. Others suggested that the holy books are a revelation and the purpose was to help Muslims understand the nature of Allah.

Whilst a number of candidates did not attempt to answer the question, many candidates were able to give two clearly developed purposes.

(b) Explain **two** purposes of holy books for Muslims.

(4)

One purpose of the holy books is to teach Muslims about Islam, what they should do and what they shouldn't do in order to get into heaven. This means that Allah sent down his message to lead Muslims to the right path.

Another purpose of the holy books is for Muslims is so that they can apply it to their life and follow in the Prophet's footsteps. This means that if they ever have problems in life, they can read the Quran to teach them how to overcome difficulties and learn lessons.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

This response received 4 marks for two developed purposes.

Marks were awarded as follows:

- One purpose of the holy books is to teach Muslims about Islam (1)  
what they should and should not do to get into heaven (1)
- They can apply it to their life (1) and follow in the Prophet's  
footsteps (1)

Total: 4 Marks



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

Purpose and development is all that is needed



(b) Explain **two** purposes of holy books for Muslims.

(4)

One purpose of holy books for muslims is that they can learn more about their religion and its history. This is important for muslims as by learning about their religion they improve and strengthen their bond with god.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

This response receives 2 marks for one developed purpose.

Marks are given as follows:

- They can learn more about their religion (1), and strengthen their bond with God (1)

Total: 2 Marks



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

Give two purposes/reasons/ways/teachings in b) questions

## Question 1 (c)

Question 1c. Explain **two** ways the angel Jibril is shown in the Qur'an.

This question is based on Bullet Point 1.6.

In c) questions, as in b) questions, candidates are expected to suggest two developed reasons in response to the question. Development can take the form of additional information or an example. In addition, one of the two developed reasons must be further developed by the use of a relevant Source of Authority. The Source of Authority must both answer the question and be directly linked to the reason/way/example required.

The angel Jibril is perhaps best known for the revelation of the Qur'an to prophet Muhammad. He is mentioned on several other occasions in the Qur'an. These suggest Jibril is important to Allah. Many candidates were aware of Jibril's role in bringing the Qur'an but found it difficult to suggest any other ways in which Jibril is shown. As a result, many candidates achieved two marks. A significant proportion also found it difficult to provide a Source of Authority.

(c) Explain **two** ways the angel Jibril is shown in the Qur'an. <sup>?</sup> we are your allies  
 We only descend on your lords command.  
 In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.

edexcel = controversial word ... could mean (5)  
 visual appearance or 'shown' = represented

The angel Jibril is shown to be loyal to Allah. This is evident in the quote 'We only descend at your Lords command'. This means that the angel Jibril has no free will and he ~~is~~ does exactly as Allah tells him to.

Another way the angel Jibril is shown in the Quran is as extremely ~~to~~ large. This is evident as the prophet Muhammad described seeing the size of one of Jibril's wings reaching from the ground to the sky. This shows that ~~Allah~~ is Jibril was very large and he was God's powerful ~~but not~~ creation.

Another way angel Jibril is shown is as the person who passes revelations. This is evident as he appears to Muhammad to reveal the Quran to him.

Q1 a ✓	Q2 a ✓	Q3 a ✓	Q4 a ✓
b ✓	b ✓	b	b ✓
c ✓	c ✓	c ✓	c ✓
d ✓	d ✓	d	d

15 minutes on each 12 marker



This response is given full marks for two developed ways and a Source of Authority.

Marks are given as follows:

- The angel Jibril is shown to be loyal to Allah (1) 'We only descend at your Lord's command.' (1) This means he has no free will (1)
- He is shown as extremely large (1) Prophet Muhammad describes Jibril's wings as reaching from the earth to the sky (1)

Total: 5 Marks



The Qur'an is the only Source of Authority you can use in this question

(c) Explain **two** ways the angel Jibril is shown in the Qur'an.

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

(5)

Jibril, came down to Prophet Muhammad,  
as an order from Allah. Angel Jibril revealed  
the Quran to Prophet Muhammad.

Angel Jibril, came down to Isa's mother  
Maryam and told she was going to have  
a child. Maryam was confused as she never touched  
a man. ~~But~~ Angel Jibril, told her she was going  
to have it, and that Allah sent him down.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

This response receives 4 marks for two developed ways.

Marks are given as follows:

- Jibril came down to Prophet Muhammad as an order from Allah (1)  
Angel Jibril revealed the Qur'an to Prophet Muhammad (1)
- Angel Jibril came down to Isa's mother Maryam (1) and told her she was going to have a child (1)

Total: 4 Marks



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

Learn key Sources of Authority

## Question 1 (d)

Question 1d. 'A person's future is entirely predestined.'

This question is based on Bullet Point 1.7.

In d) questions candidates are expected to fulfil the question rubric. In this case it consists of the following:

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

On Islam papers, unless otherwise specified in the rubric, no credit will be given for non-religious views or the points of view of those of other religions.

Few candidates had problems with this question. Many were able to represent accurately the differing views of both Sunni and Shi'a Muslims, whilst acknowledging that all Muslims believe in predestination.

Of those candidates who gained fewer marks, the issue was not normally one of lack of knowledge, but rather an inability to develop their reasoning and make links with related ideas. Unfortunately, even more-able candidates were sometimes reluctant to attempt to make judgements on the quality of the arguments offered.



\*(d) "A person's future is entirely predestined."

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)

Firstly, I agree with the statement on the basis that Islam teaches that everything is a product of predestination. A Muslim would argue that everything that will happen is already written down and nothing can change that fate. In the Quran it says "لا اله الا الله" "No soul shall ~~not~~ ~~death~~ ~~except~~ die except by Allah's leave the term fixed by writing" which shows that Allah has already willed for everything. ~~Muslims~~ ~~believe~~ Some Muslims ~~believe~~ believe that "the term fixed by writing" is a literal translation meaning there is in fact an actual scripture where everything is already planned and would as a result argue that a person's future is entirely predestined and cannot be changed.

However some Muslims would counter argue this point by ~~interpreting~~ ~~interpreting~~ interpreting this Quranic ayah differently. Since it only mentions death, they believe that big events like deaths, ~~birth~~ and births are predestined by ~~God~~ Allah and minor activities aren't. Muslims ~~believe~~ believe in fitrah and believe they have free will.

So they are sure that ~~every~~ everything else that isn't predestined by Allah ~~is~~ happens as a result of free will. In the Quran it says "Every man and woman has free choice between good and evil" supporting the idea that humans have free will which can depict some aspects of their future. ~~Furthermore~~ Furthermore, these muslims would interpret "the term fixed by writing" metaphorically. Essentially, these muslims would ~~agree to~~ conclude that a person's future isn't entirely predestined and that humans have some control over their own life as a result of ~~predestination~~ free will.

Moreover, ~~these~~ <sup>some</sup> muslims would interpret "the term fixed by writing" differently ~~and resulting~~ resulting ~~in them~~ disagreeing with the statement. They would interpret it metaphorically and argue that God has predestined everything but to an extent. They believe in the strength of dua and that it is able to alter predestination and change a ~~person's~~ person's fate. Muslims are encouraged to make dua often to help themselves during times of suffering which also ~~shows~~ shows that dua can alter fate and hence a person's future is not entirely predestined.

In conclusion, based on divergent muslim beliefs I think that Allah did ~~in fact~~ ~~pre-~~ ~~plan~~ ~~already~~ plan everything but it doesn't mean a person's future ~~isn't~~ cannot be altered due to free will and dua.

(Total for Question 1 = 27 marks)





The candidate gives well-developed responses on alternate views of predestination within the Muslim community, considering both total and partial predestination.

Rather than achieving Level 3 on the basis of attempting to judge the value of the arguments offered, as most Level 3 candidates do, they are awarded Level 3 for the deconstruction of religious information, leading to coherent and logical chains of reasoning, considering alternative viewpoints.

In this case the candidate considers both total and partial predestination.

The response would be improved by the candidate, having generated the chains of reasoning, going on to offer judgements of the relative strengths of the two views.

Level 3

Response: 7 Marks

SPaG: 3 Marks

Total: 10 Marks



Reach a considered conclusion based on evidence

\*(d) "A person's future is entirely predestined."

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 they believe ~~every~~ everything has already been decided by God. Evidence for this is, 'everything has been written'. This shows how everything has already been approved by Allah for it to happen.

Some Muslims may disagree with the statement and say dua can change your destiny. Evidence for this is, 'when a caller calls I will answer'. This shows how Allah will answer your supplication even if that means about your future. This shows a person's future isn't entirely predestined.



The candidate offers essentially the same ideas but in a much simpler and less developed way.

On one hand, Allah has written everything. On the other, you can change your destiny through dua.

The second idea is developed by how this may be achieved through dua. It is this simple development, strengthened by a relevant Source of Authority, that lifts this response to Level 2.

Level 2

Response: 4 Marks

SPaG: 3 Marks

Total: 7 Marks



Development is key for higher marks

## Question 2 (a)

### Section 2: Philosophy of Religion

Question 2a. Outline **three** ways religious experiences may increase a person's belief in Allah.

This question is based on Bullet Point 2.4.

As in Q1a, almost one third of candidates either did not attempt the question or received no marks. Of those who did attempt the question, the majority gained 3 marks.

Responses often suggested that religious experiences would convince someone that Allah was real. Many candidates gave examples using a specific religious experience. For example, 'Miracles break the laws of science and convince a person that Allah is all powerful'.

Some less-able candidates continued to suggest that events like going to church were religious experiences and these were not given marks.

2 (a) Outline **three** ways religious experiences may increase a person's belief in Allah.

(3)

One way religious experiences may increase a person's belief in Allah is they prove that He exists through a sign.

Another way is the religious experience leave them in awe of His Almighty.

A third way religious experience increase ~~their~~ belief is they are beyond human - a powerful presence indicate Allah.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

This response receives 3 marks for three ways.

Marks are given as follows:

- They prove he exists through a sign (1)
- It leaves them in awe of his might (1)
- They are beyond human understanding, a powerful presence indicates Allah (1)

Total: 3 Marks



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

No development required

2 (a) Outline **three** ways religious experiences may increase a person's belief in Allah.

(3)

One way religious experiences may increase  
a person's belief is because of how  
un-natural they are. Only something powerful can  
create something like a religious experience.



This response receives 1 mark as one valid way.

The mark was given as follows:

- They are un-natural, only something powerful could create them (1)

Total: 1 Mark



Always suggest three points

## Question 2 (b)

Question 2b. Explain **two** reasons why Muslims regard the Qur'an as a miracle.

This question is based on Bullet Point 2.1.

The majority of candidates who attempted this question gained 4 marks for two developed reasons.

Many different ideas were suggested. Of these, the most frequent was the idea that the Qur'an was delivered to Muhammad by the angel Jibril. Muhammad himself was illiterate, therefore could not have written it, and the claim that it has remained perfectly preserved and unaltered for fourteen hundred years.



(b) Explain **two** reasons why Muslims regard the Qur'an as a miracle.

(4)

one reason why muslims regard the quran as a miracle is because it is all uncorrupted. This means that muslims regard it as a miracle because it has managed to stay unchanged, whereas other, ~~for~~ older, books have been corrupted.

Another reason why muslims regard the quran as a miracle is because it was sent by Allah ~~surah~~ by surah to the prophet (saw). This means that muslims will regard it as a miracle because it is an event caused by God that breaks the laws of nature.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

This response receives 4 marks for two developed reasons.

Marks are given as follows:

- It is uncorrupted (1) Other older books have been corrupted (1)
- It was sent by Allah to Prophet Muhammad (1) It is an event caused by God that breaks the laws of nature (1)

Total: 4 Marks



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

Do not over-complicate explanations



(b) Explain **two** reasons why Muslims regard the Qur'an as a miracle.

(4)

Muslims regard the Qur'an as a miracle because it was given to prophet Muhammad (Sw) ~~from~~ thru Jibril, by Allah. The Qur'an contains everything Muslims should do to be good Muslims, its given us by Allah and Muslims must follow it. The Qur'an is the last ~~one~~ written holy book.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

This response gains 2 marks for two simple reasons.

Marks are given as follows:

- It was given to Muhammad through Jibril (1)
- It contains everything Muslims should do to be good Muslims (1)

Total: 2 Marks



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

How could this easily be developed?

## Question 2 (c)

Question 2c. Explain **two** reasons why suffering may raise issues for some Muslims about the nature of Allah.

This question is based on Bullet Point 2.7.

Many candidates demonstrated a very secure understanding of the principle of the Inconsistent Triad in explaining why suffering raises issues for an omnipotent and all-loving God.

The most frequent mark achieved was 4, suggesting that some candidates found it difficult to support the developed reason with a valid Source of Authority.

(c) Explain **two** reasons why suffering may raise issues for Muslims about the nature of Allah.

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

(5)

Muslims question why suffering exists if Allah is omnipotent as the Quran claims, "He has power over all things." They wonder why He does not put an end to evil if He is able to, making them question if He really is all-powerful or not. He is also described as omnibenevolent. Muslims wonder why an all-loving God would allow His creation to suffer, making them question if He really exists, ~~or if it is even~~ If God cannot be both omnibenevolent and omnipotent, they wonder if they would even want to worship such a God.



This response was given full marks for two developed reasons and a Source of Authority.

Marks were given as follows:

- The Qur'an claims Allah is omnipotent (1) 'He has power over all things' (1) They wonder why he does not put an end to evil (1)
- He is also described as omnibenevolent (1) Muslims wonder why an all-loving God would allow his creation to suffer (1)

Total: 5 Marks



A versatile quote, useful in many situations

(c) Explain **two** reasons why suffering may raise issues for Muslims about the nature of Allah.

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

(5)  
Suffering's may raise issues for Muslims about Allah's nature as they may think that he is not merciful or caring, because he is causing suffering for his ummah and if he really cares for us then he wouldn't put us through suffering in the first place.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

This response achieved 2 marks for one developed reason.

- Maybe Allah is not loving (1) If he really cares for us he wouldn't put us through suffering in the first place (1)

Total: 2 Marks



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

Point followed by development

## Question 2 (d)

Question 2d. 'The cosmological argument is the best way to show that Allah exists'.

This question is based on Bullet Point 2.6.

The cosmological, or causation, argument states that, logically, if everything in existence has a cause then the universe, since it exists, must also have a cause. The argument goes on to infer the existence of God as the 'uncaused cause' or 'prime mover', and the only being who could create everything in existence from nothing.

In essence, it remains a belief that requires faith, particularly in the light of scientific discoveries, such as the Big Bang theory. Many candidates gave a developed defence of the statement, although many less-able candidates gave no response.

This may reflect the fact that the Advance Information did not apply to the option topics, Section 2 and Section 4. It did lead to a situation where zero was the most usual mark. Some of this was due to candidates offering no answer and some to the candidates who confused the causation argument and the design argument.

Of those candidates who did achieve higher marks, they were able to give an account of the causation argument and suggest an alternative perspective. This usually consisted of suggesting something other than causation as the best way to show Allah exists. Examples included the design argument, the Qur'an and religious experiences.



(d) "The cosmological argument is the best way to show that Allah exists."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Muslim teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

(12)

Some Muslims may agree with this statement. The cosmological argument shows that everything that begins to exist has a cause, the universe began to exist so must have a cause and that cause itself should be 'uncaused' cause which must be Allah so Allah exists. These Muslims would say that cosmological argument shows that Allah is transcendent and omnipotent and proves His existence too so, it is the best way to show Allah exists because it proves some of nature of Allah's beliefs as well right. In Quran: "Allah is the originator of heavens and earth"

Other Muslims may disagree. They might find it difficult to reconcile the idea of universe began to exist with Quran. These Muslims might say that there's so many other ways which can prove Allah's existence for example "religious experiences". The vision shown to Maryam: angel visited her to

tell her that she'll have a 'gift of pure son' who is Jesus and Jesus was born so this shows that Allah exists. ~~miracles~~ They might say miracles such as Musa parting Red Sea and Muhammad (PBUH) splitting moon into two can't be explained by science so there must be a divinely power that did it so that proves existence of God. So, these Muslims might think other ways are better to understand Allah and show His existence.

In conclusion I disagree with the statement as I think other ways such as revelations and design argument can provide better proof for Allah's existence.

In Quran: "You will not see any disparity in what your Lord of Mercy has created"  
I think Quran is a big miracle which proves Allah's existence.





This response achieves Level 2, 6 marks.

In many ways this response epitomises a top Level 2 response. The candidate fulfils the following aspects of the Level 2 mark scheme:

- It demonstrates understanding of religion and belief by giving developed reasons from both sides of the issue
- It makes an attempt to deconstruct the religious information, pointing out flaws in the argument
- It makes a superficial judgement of the quality of the arguments in the conclusion, which remains a personal opinion, to reach a conclusion which is not fully justified

There is no evidence of the judgements and appraisal that may have lifted it into Level 3. It therefore justifies the mark of 6 at the top of Level 2.

Total: 6 Marks



You have decided which argument is best: explain why

(d) "The cosmological argument is the best way to show that Allah exists."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Muslim teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

(12)

I do think that the cosmological argue is the best way to show Allah exists because it tells you everything you need to know about Allah's existence.

One reason why you may use the cosmological argument is because it shows you how Allah passed messages to his Angel Jibril. It's also important because the world is too good to just be created with a big bang. For an example you've got something like our dna is too good to just to be made with a big bang.

People may disagree ~~because~~ because ~~Allah~~ people are suffering now our days which means that Allah is not looking out for us. This could be a strong statement because if people are suffering Muslims would look to Allah for help but if people think he doesn't exist then this suffering will just carry on in the future.

In conclusion I think Allah does exist

because he has helped people in the past and he has things ~~to~~ like Quran and mecca to back up his existence.



This response reaches Level 1, with a mark for an isolated element of knowledge.

This provides an example of a candidate who applies a 'scatter-gun' approach to the question.

The candidate has no clear idea of what the cosmological argument is and tries to cover as many bases as possible.

In the end, this response is given 1 mark for the single relevant sentence 'The world is too good to just be created by a Big Bang'. It is quite a lot of effort for a single mark.

The rule of thumb used is that if an isolated statement or paragraph would have been given a mark if that had been all the candidate wrote, then it should be given a mark in spite of the irrelevant information surrounding it.

Total: 1 Mark



Learn the key words

### Question 3 (a)

Section : Living the Muslim Life

Question 3a. Outline **three** similarities between the Ten Obligatory Acts and the Five Pillars.

This question is based on Bullet Point 3.1.

The similarities were well-understood by a large majority of candidates. More than half of all candidates achieved full marks. This question saw the introduction of a new requirement, namely similarities. Candidates approached this with confidence.

There are four requirements shared by both sets of principles: prayer, charity, fasting and pilgrimage. Some candidates chose to consider the two groups in their entirety, whilst others suggested three specific common elements. Both approaches, or a mixture of the two, were accepted.

3 (a) Outline **three** similarities between the Ten Obligatory Acts and the Five Pillars.

(3)

The Ten Obligatory Acts and the Five Pillars are all worship and will bring you closer to Allah.

The Ten obligatory Acts and the Five Pillars both contain Salaah, Hajj, Sawm, Zakaah.

The Ten Obligatory Acts and the Five Pillars are both extremely fundamental to one's faith and a person is not classed as a proper Muslim without them.



This response achieves three marks for three similarities.

Marks are given as follows:

- They are all worship (1)
- Both contain Salah, Hajj, Sawm and Zakah (1)
- They are fundamental to faith (1)

This candidate gives three similarities that applied to both sets of practices.

Total: 3 Marks



Do not write more than you need

3 (a) Outline **three** similarities between the Ten Obligatory Acts and the Five Pillars.

(3)

- Both have belief in Salah
- Both have belief in Hajj
- Both have belief in Zakah



This response gains full marks for three similarities.

The marks are given as follows:

- Both have belief in Salah (1)
- Both have belief in Hajj (1)
- Both have belief in Zakah (1)

This candidate considers three of the four possible specific similarities.

The candidate avoids the temptation simply to provide a list. The three brief statements enable the candidate to gain full marks.

Total: 3 Marks



Avoid single-word responses

### Question 3 (b)

Question 3b. Explain **two** ways Shi'a Muslims celebrate Id-ul-Ghadeer.

This question is based on Bullet Point 3.8.

Shi'a muslims celebrate this festival to celebrate the day they believe Muhammad nominated Ali as his successor at the Pool of Khumm.

It is typically a happy day celebrated by the giving and receiving of gifts and celebratory meals. Many also take ritual baths and attend the mosque to pray a special Id prayer, giving thanks for Ali and the infallible Imams.

Inevitably, there was some confusion amongst the candidates between the festivals, with some confusing Id-ul-Ghadeer with Id-ul-Adha and some with Ashura. Those practices which are common to festivals and apply in this case, were given marks.

(b) Explain **two** ways Shi'a Muslims celebrate Id-ul-Ghadeer.

(4)

They read the quran and read prayers to remember and cherish the moment Ali become the next leader.

They give to charity to help other remember this day



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

This response receives 4 marks for two developed ways.

Marks are given as follows:

- They read the Qur'an (1) and read prayers to remember and cherish the moment Ali became the next leader (1)
- They give to charity (1), to help others remember this day (1)

Total: 4 Marks



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

More is not always better



(b) Explain **two** ways Shi'a Muslims celebrate Id-ul-Ghadeer.

(4)

One way shia muslims celebrate Eid is they ~~remember~~ have a big feast to remember the victories they have  
Another way is they may also mourn to remember the death of the martyred



This response achieves a mark as one simple way.

The mark is given as follows:

- They have a big feast (1)

The attempted development is not credited because the appointment of Ali as successor was not hailed as a victory.

The second point is not credited because it refers to Ashura.

Total: 1 Mark



Learn the differences between festivals

### Question 3 (c)

Question 3c. Explain **two** reasons why Zakah is significant to Muslims.

This question is based on Bullet Point 3.5.

Questions concerning the Five Pillars often elicit very good responses from candidates. This was no exception, with the majority of candidates gaining 4 or 5 marks.

The most commonly, but not the only, Source of Authority employed was 'Establish prayer and pay Zakah...' (Surah 24:56). Most candidates suggested reasons such as it fulfils one of the Five Pillars or it benefits both those who give it and those who receive it.

Inevitably, there were some candidates who confused Zakah with one of the other Pillars, such as Salah.

(c) Explain **two** reasons why Zakah is significant to Muslims.

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

(5)

Zakah is significant to Muslims because it is compulsory. It is one of the 5 pillars of Islam, and so Muslims will give '2.5%' of their wealth a year to charity.

Zakah teaches Muslims equality. This is because by giving <sup>and 'pay due to alms'</sup> charity to 'the poor, the needy and the travelling alien', they are sharing wealth so ~~that~~ everyone can live a good life.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

This response receives full marks for two developed reasons and a Source of Authority.

Marks are given as follows:

- It is compulsory (1), it is one of the Five Pillars of Islam (1)
- Zakah teaches Muslims equality (1) By giving charity to 'the poor, the needy and the travelling alien' (Surah 2:215) (1), they are sharing wealth so everyone can have a good life (1)

Total: 5 Marks



All linked to the key requirement

(c) Explain **two** reasons why Zakah is significant to Muslims.

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

Zakah is important to Muslims because <sup>Muhammad</sup> ~~the prophet~~ gave Zakah. The idea of Zakah is to help those in need and Muslims were encouraged to give Zakah by the prophet Muhammad. He told us that "the upper hand is better than the lower hand" which means it's better to give than receive. It's better to give to charity than to keep money to yourself. If you are in a position to give, you must do so.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

This response is given 3 marks for one developed reason with a Source of Authority.

Marks are given as follows:

- Muhammad gave zakah (1) Muhammad told us 'The upper hand is better than the lower hand' (1) It is better to give charity than keep money to yourself (1)

Total: 3 Marks



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

Nothing more to say? Five Pillars?

### Question 3 (d)

Question 3d. 'The Night of Power is the most important event in Islam'.

This question is based on Bullet Point 3.4.

The Night of Power is regarded as Islam's holiest night. It commemorates the angel Jibril revealing the first verses of the Qur'an to Prophet Muhammad. Muslims believe that on this night Allah gives the annual decree to the angels who carry it to earth. On this night, Muslims believe their prayers will be answered and their destiny may be changed. Many Muslims spend the night in prayer.

Many candidates included 'The Night of Power is better than a thousand months' as the Source of Authority. This was often misquoted.

\*(d) "The Night of Power is the most important event in Islam."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Muslim teachings
  - reach a justified conclusion.
- agree, Quran revealed  
disagree ramadan as it helps you to be thankful what you have (15)

Some Muslims would agree with this statement as during the Night of Power, angel Jibril revealed the holy Quran to prophet Muhammed. This is significant as the holy Quran provides guidance and knowledge ~~in order to~~ which helps <sup>you to</sup> ~~you~~ outline a good Muslim. In the Quran, it states "It is from the Lord of the Worlds." This suggests the holy Quran is the perfect, literal word of God that's remained unaltered for a whole nation to live by.

On the other hand, some Muslims would disagree with statement ~~and say that~~ as Ramadan is the most important event that takes place. Ramadan is significant as it helps Muslims to be thankful for what they have and be able to have self discipline and to be less greedy as they are fasting from dusk to dawn.

In conclusion, I agree with this statement as without the holy Quran no one will get to heaven as they would not know anything from or about God. ~~with the~~ As the holy Quran has been revealed, it allows Muslims to get to heaven easily as they ~~can~~ Muslims would know which actions are sins and what are not.



and they would be forgiven by God if they repent.



This response achieves Level 2, 5 marks and full marks for SPaG.

The first paragraph is well-developed and considers why the revelation of the Qur'an is of such significance in Islam. It considers this via a number of elements largely concerning the importance of the Qur'an.

The second paragraph is less well-rounded, particularly because it begins with a misconception when it introduces Ramadan as an alternative for the most important event.

This creates an issue, since the Night of Power is celebrated during Ramadan. It is therefore difficult to celebrate the two. The conclusion is a personal opinion and reiterates the importance of the Qur'an, in enabling Muslims to do what is required to get to heaven.

By comparison to the 6 mark response considered in 1d) it lacks some of the breadth and depth required to reach the highest mark in Level 2.

Level 2

Response: 5 Marks

SPaG: 3 Marks

Total: 8 Marks



Both breadth and depth are needed

\*(d) "The Night of Power is the most important event in Islam."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Muslim teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

(15)

Some Muslim agree with this statement because they believe that the night of power is a gift for Muslim. Because this is the night of forgiveness. And then believe that if you ask Allah Allah for forgiveness, He will forgive your all sins.

This is a strongest point to agree with this statement because if it tell and refer the teaching of Muslims.

Some Muslim disagree with this statement. Because they believe that there is no special night. Which is true. And these nights are not the most important event in Islam.

In my conclusion to agree with this ~~state ment~~ statement is the strongest point. Because they believe that there the right of power is the most important event in Islam.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

This response achieves Level 1.

The candidate gives a simple point to agree, a simple point to disagree and suggests that the strongest reason was to agree.

This fulfils the most basic criteria for Level 1 and it is given 3 marks.

Level 1

Response: 3 Marks

SPaG: 3 Marks

Total: 6 Marks



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

Judgement helps even weaker responses

## Question 4 (a)

### Section 4: Equality

Question 4a. Outline **three** problems human rights laws may cause for Muslims.

This question is based on Bullet Point 4.1.

Somewhat surprisingly, this proved to be the most difficult of the a) questions for the candidates. Relatively few achieved full marks. There are some aspects of human rights laws that may be disapproved by some Muslims. Examples include the right to freedom of religion, which may lead to people choosing to leave Islam, or the right to freedom of expression, which may result in others criticising Islam.

One of the most commonly-offered ideas was that they were pointless because the only laws that matter are Allah's laws and, where they differ, Allah's law will always be more important. There was no need to give specific examples in order to gain marks, although some candidates used this technique very effectively.

4 (a) Outline **three** problems human rights laws may cause for some Muslims.

(3)

One problem is that they conflict with Shariah Law. Another problem is ~~that~~ that they ~~prevent~~ <sup>allow</sup> ~~correcting~~ homosexuality which is forbidden. A third is that it allows Muslims to change religion which is also forbidden.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

This response gains full marks for three problems.

Marks are given as follows:

- They conflict with Shariah Law (1)
- They allow homosexuality (1)
- It allows Muslims to change religion (1)

Total: 3 Marks



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

Clear issues for Muslims, no ambiguity

4 (a) Outline **three** problems human rights laws may cause for some Muslims.

(3)

One problem human right laws cause for Muslims is that they may deal with racism or prejudice. Another problem is that they may not be able to practice their religion. Another problem is that attitudes towards Muslims may change.



This response gains no marks. There are no valid problems.

This candidate offers problems that human rights laws seek to solve, rather than cause. These issues would include racism and not being able to practice Islam, both forbidden by human rights laws.

This would suggest these are problems that should be solved by human rights laws, rather than problems caused by human rights laws.

The final suggestion, that of attitudes to Muslims changing, is too ambiguous to gain a mark. There are many who would see changing attitudes to Islam as something that would benefit Muslims, rather than cause a problem.

Total: 0 Marks



Make sure you understand the question



## Question 4 (b)

Question 4b. Explain **two** Muslim beliefs about the causes of poverty in the UK.

This question is based on Bullet Point 4.8.

This proved to be one of the more challenging b) questions on the paper. Given that the other was Q2b it is difficult to know if this is an effect of Advance Information because it did not apply to Sections 2 and 4. Similarly, it may be an end-of-paper effect for those candidates who were beginning to run out of time.

Those candidates who responded well to the question offered a variety of possible beliefs, sometimes employing quite sophisticated ideas. These included failure to pay Zakah and increasing selfishness and greed in society.

Those who found it more of a challenge found it difficult to suggest a cause and were more comfortable with the effects of poverty on individuals.

(b) Explain **two** Muslim beliefs about the causes of poverty in the UK.

(4)

one muslim belief about the causes of poverty within the uk is greed. This can be seen as people only care about themselves and not others. This allows an unequal society developing over time.

Another muslim belief about the causes of poverty in the uk is being materialistic. This can be seen by how being materialistic only boosts ones self satisfaction but not others who struggle to survive which puts more people in poverty.





This response gains 4 marks for two developed beliefs.

Marks are given as follows:

- One belief is greed (1) People only care about themselves leading to an unequal society (1)
- Another is being materialistic (1) Materialism only boosts ones self satisfaction but not others who struggle to survive (1)

Total: 4 Marks



Clear belief, clear development

(b) Explain **two** Muslim beliefs about the causes of poverty in the UK.

(4)

Muslims believe that poverty is caused in the UK because ~~some~~ it can be sent down as a punishment from Allah. Allah may send down punishments to remind Muslims that ~~let~~ they may be sinning too much or forgetting to remember Allah.

Another way is that Muslims ~~believe~~ ~~do~~ believe



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

This response is given 2 marks for one developed reason.

Marks are given as follows:

- It can be sent down as a punishment from Allah (1), to remind Muslims they may be forgetting to remember Allah (1)

This is one of the less-common approaches but serves this candidate well.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

Think of the causes of inequality in society

## Question 4 (c)

Question 4c. Explain **two** Muslim attitudes to religious freedom.

This question is based on Bullet Point 4.3.

In keeping with the general pattern in Section 4 this question had the lowest mark for all four c) questions. Again, it remains difficult to determine if this is an effect of the Advance Information, the fatigue factor or whether a completely different factor is influencing candidate achievement. For example, this could be the pressure on schools in an interrupted year to teach the whole Specification as thoroughly as they may have planned.

Those candidates who gained full marks successfully had a clear idea of what religious freedom entails and how it applies to Islam. They gave two developed attitudes and linked one of them to a Source of Authority. The source of authority most commonly used was 'There is no compulsion in religion...' (Surah 2:256).

(c) Explain **two** Muslim attitudes to religious freedom.

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

(5)

One muslim attitude towards religious freedom is that everyone has the choice to choose what they want to believe. This is evident in the Quran quote "there is no compulsion in religion" or "you have your religion and I have mine". This means that nobody should be forced into any belief because we have the rights to make our own decision.

Another muslim attitude towards religious freedom is that Islam is the only true religion so you must push it upon others in order for more people to get into heaven. Extremists believe one who doesn't accept Islam should be killed. This means that Islam believes in religious freedom to an extent but overall, Islam is the only right answer.



This response achieves full marks for two developed attitudes and a Source of Authority.

Marks are given as follows:

- Everyone can choose what they want to believe (1) This is evident in the Qur'an quote 'There is no compulsion in religion' (1) This means nobody should be forced into any belief (1)
- Islam is the only true religion (1), so you must push it upon others in order for more people to get into heaven (1)

Total: 5 Marks



'Attitudes' are not reasons, beliefs or examples! Know the difference

(c) Explain **two** Muslim attitudes to religious freedom.

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

(5)

One Muslim attitude is that all people must have religious freedom. This is because in the Quran it says "There is no compulsion in religion." This means that nobody should be forced to join a religion and ~~must~~ must be free to choose if they want.

Another Muslim attitude could be that everyone should be Muslim. They may believe this as they may think Islam is the only righteous religion.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

This response achieves full marks for two developed attitudes and a Source of Authority.

Marks are given as follows:

- All people must have religious freedom (1) It says in the Qur'an 'There is no compulsion in religion' (1) Nobody should be forced to join a religion (1)
- Everyone should be Muslim (1) They may think Islam is the only righteous religion (1)

Total: 5 Marks



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

Look at attitudes at the two extremes



## Question 4 (d)

Question 4d. 'Living in a multi-ethnic society benefits Muslims'.

This question is based on Bullet Point 4.5.

Some candidates continue to confuse multi-ethnic with multi-faith. Clearly the two bring very different challenges and rewards and are not interchangeable concepts.

Those candidates who restricted their response to a discussion about multi-ethnic society often had very clear ideas about the benefits and potential pitfalls of such societies. They were able to avoid the descent into a discussion of faith.

It is fair to say that none of the major faiths, and certainly not Islam, are exclusive to one racial group. The benefits suggested included such things as a reduction of prejudice and discrimination because people have friends of other ethnicities, and improved education and employment opportunities for those from minority groups in society.

The issues often included increased racial tension and, as a consequence, increased prejudice and discrimination. This gave the question the potential for some interesting judgement and analysis. Sadly, few candidate seized the opportunity.

(d) "Living in a multi-ethnic society benefits Muslims."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Muslim teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

(12)

I agree with this statement because it lets Muslims experience seeing other religions practice and lets them see the similarities and differences in their religion and in other religions. It can also help them accept other people for their religion and let them be for which religion they want to choose. It also gives them opportunities to ask questions and find out things they want to about that religion.

I disagree with this statement because because many might think that it will confuse Muslims and Muslims might want to follow something else instead of doing their own religion and this could be an issue as they might go in the wrong path by some other religion telling them something else.

To conclude, I agree with this statement because it would help Muslims debate and grow stronger in their belief by being next to other beliefs. It might also help them to love their religion more.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

This response achieves no marks.

This is an example entirely focussed on the benefits or otherwise of a multi-faith community.

As such it made reference exclusively to religion, with nothing pertaining to race. It did not answer the question and could not be given any marks.

Total: 0 Marks



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

Know the difference between faith and race





stand firm for justice" ~~or~~. This means that injustice should be fought against, but having mixed ethnics could cause it to increase which is wrong in the Quran/prohibited in Islam.

Another reason to disagree is because the Quran states some form of injustice may be required. This is evident in the quote "If you judge between people, do so with justice" this promotes some form of unfairness to those who don't deserve it.

In conclusion it is ~~not~~ good to get along with all people without judging as ~~the~~ the Quran claims we should fight for justice, but in some cases judging is required to be more aware but god says to do so fairly. So I believe it would benefit society because it encourages peace and equality as well as learning new things about different people and creating new friendships.



This response reaches Level 2, 6 marks.

The candidate gives a well-developed account of reasons why it would benefit Muslims to live in a multi-ethnic society. This is well-supported by relevant quotations from the Qur'an.

The disagree view is weaker, proposing that it may cause injustice and conflict. The response rather loses its way and is side-tracked into a consideration of the place of justice in Muslim society.

The candidate brings the response back to the point of the question with a conclusion that is, at least, partly justified.

The response contains sound knowledge and understanding of religion that indicates Level 3 performance.

The content as a whole reflects Level 2 performance because it does lose the point and the conclusion remains weak, given the quality of some of the arguments employed by the candidate.

By consideration of the mark scheme levels, the 'best fit' is the top of Level 2.

Level 2

Total: 6 Marks



Do not wander too far from the point



## Paper Summary

Based on their performance in this year's examination, candidates are offered the following advice:

- In a) questions many candidates continue to give too much information. There is no requirement for developed responses
- In c) questions candidates should be careful to attribute the Source of Authority to the right source. The Qur'an and the Hadith are not interchangeable
- In d) questions there was very little evidence of judgement or appraisal other than briefly in the conclusion. This is a vital skill in order to reach higher levels
- 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'
- Candidates should time the paper carefully, leaving time for Question 4 responses
- Learn key word definitions

## **Grade boundaries**

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

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/support/support-topics/results-certification/grade-boundaries.html>

