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Examiners' Report
June 2011

GCSE Religious Studies 5RS11 01

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Introduction

This is the second year the new specification for Edexcel GCSE Religious Studies has been assessed. It is, however, the first year that it has been the only Edexcel GCSE specification and numbers have greatly increased from last year.

This specification introduced a few new topics and the weighting of the assessment objectives has changed from the legacy specification. This specification continues to be a very popular course as teachers and schools recognise the benefits of an examinable course that both interests and educates young people.

Unit 11 covers the faith aspects of Islam. This unit continues to be popular with both state schools and madrassahs.

In this examination the candidates have achieved a wide range of performance levels as would be expected from an examination with mainly whole cohort entry.

Question 1 (a)

Candidates who clearly understood that Ibadah was more than just prayer or one of the other Five Pillars and used a different wording to the glossary definition were able to get full marks. Just writing 'worship' was not sufficient.

In Q1(a) many candidates only gained 1 mark because they did not link worship with Allah.

write your answer here:

(a) ibadah is an act of worship to obey Allah
(permissible act) to please Allah eg: prayer

(b) Yes I think angels exist because it's one of the
main and fundamental beliefs of being a muslim. It's
one of the 6 beliefs. If we don't believe in them
then we aren't a muslim.



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This is an example of the easiest way for a candidate to gain full marks as it is the glossary definition.



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Always encourage candidates to learn the definition from the glossary on page 125 of the specification

Partially correct answer.

write your answer here:

(a) ibadah means to worship and pray.

(b) I do think that Angels exist because first of all, they are mentioned in the Quran several times. All the different ones that Allah has talked about. He has talked about the angel of death, who is



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Examiner Comments

There needs to be a link between worship and Allah.



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Examiner Tip

Encourage candidates to learn the glossary definition.

Question 1 (b, c, d)

Those candidates who attempted Q2 answered well. Most had a clear understanding of the importance of Risalah and many also understood the meaning of al-Qadr

Candidates who lost marks on this question did so because they did not know the meaning of al-Qadr.

(b) I think angels do exist because Allah created them to watch over and guide humans. They are in constant contact with humans. Allah created angels to do different jobs, for example the angel Mik'ail ~~is~~ which is the angel of death to receive souls, all angels created are created for a purpose. I also believe that angels exist because the Allah sent the angel Jibril down to earth to reveal his message to the prophet Muhammad, and there are other various stories in the Quran that refer to angels.

(c) Risalah is the prophecy and Muslim beliefs about the prophet. It is important for Muslims to believe in this ~~text~~ because Muhammad was Allah's messenger and it was to him that Allah revealed

the Quran by which Muslims use and follow to guide themselves into living a good life and being a good Muslim. Muslims also follow the example of the prophet Muhammad, the hadiths and Sunnah are actions and deeds of the prophet ^{Muhammad} it is important for Muslims to believe in this prophet and all the others. Muhammad was on the right path and was chosen by Allah so Muslims must follow his example in order to be a good Muslim and live a honourable life. Risaalah is important to Muslims, ~~because~~ it was the prophets that the revelations were given to so it is important to believe in them because they revealed Allah's message to humans. Allah chose prophets who lived virtuous lives so his message would be spread and directed clearly. The prophets helped guide Muslims into living good lives that would please Allah, prophet Muhammad spread the message that there was only one God, he included slaves and women who were ignored in society and discouraged bad habits such as idol worship. Belief in Risaalah is important for Muslims because the prophets made the religion easy to follow and prophet Muhammad taught that praying to Allah dawn from fifty times a day to five.

(d) (i) I disagree with the statement Al-Qaader means people are not responsible for their actions. The reason for this being is that although Allah has decided the fate of Muslims it still means they can make moral decisions themselves and can choose between right and wrong actions. Allah does not control what people decide to do with it by Allah controlled all actions of humans and made all decisions for them the testing of Muslims would not be fair as all Muslims would be rightly guided if Allah controlled them they would not have the chance to be tempted by evil. Muslims also believe fatalism is wrong which is the belief that Allah controls everything even Muslim thoughts because humans were put on earth to be tested and so must make their own decisions.

(iii) People may disagree with me because they may say the Al-Qaader means divine destiny and Allah controls future events so this means he has control over the events of people's lives so therefore they cannot be responsible for their actions because it is the will of God. They may also say that if God can control the future events and lives of people then he must be able to control their actions as well. They could also say that their behavior is a reaction to the way their life or any event is turning out and if Allah controls future events then he must be controlling the actions of people.



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- (b) 1 brief reason - 'because Allah created them to watch over and guide humans' and 1 developed reason - 'different jobs' with examples
- (c) 2 reasons and 1 developed reason. The candidate has written more than is necessary
- (d)(i) personal opinion with 2 reasons one of which is developed
- (d)(ii) 1 fully developed reason



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Get candidates to write a basic reason and then add a development especially for (b) items.

Question 2 (a)

For this question many candidates clearly did not know the meaning of the term khalifah.

Any wording of the glossary definition is acceptable so 'looking after the world' for Allah as an explanation of khalifah would be fine

Write your answer here:

(a) Khalifa means a custodian or steward of the world for Allah

(b) yes i do think all holy books should be treated equally because every religion has the freedom to practise their religion. Also all the books contain the



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Although the spelling is not good this is a clear definition of khalifah



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Think of ways of making unusual words accessible for candidates

Partially correct answer.

write your answer here:

(a) **Protector and sustainer of the Earth.**

(b) **I think that all books should not be treated equally. Even though all did emerge from one god, many have been changed and distorted through out the times. Therefore, this discredits the words of God, as they may now be untrue.**



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Examiner Comments

This candidate clearly understands the idea of being a steward but has not linked the role with being a steward for Allah.



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Examiner Tip

It is important that candidates realise that just because they know what they mean, eg 'protecting the earth for Allah', they must not assume that the examiner also knows. So they must write a full answer.

Question 2 (b,c,d)

This was the most popular question in the section although many candidates lost marks in (c) because they did not link the revelation of the Qur'an to Muhammad. Also many candidates repeated the same argument in (d) which did not move their reason from a simple reason to a developed one.

This answer is just not sufficient to get full marks on any section.

(b) I think that all holy books should be treated equally because they are all from God. God has been sending revelations to other prophets as well but only prophet Muhammad could send it properly and just because some words are changed it doesn't mean that it's not holy anymore because it still contains part of the truth.

(c) The revelation of the Qur'an to Muhammad is important for ~~the~~ Muslims because it is the words of God. It tells Muslims how to live their life. It leads them on the right path. The

Qur'an has Morals for us to learn, It tells Muslims about the shari'ah law which has guidelines. The revelation was for the last prophet ~~who~~ who was Muhammad who spread the message correctly.

(d) (i) "Doing good just to get a reward is wrong"
I disagree because I believe you should always think about getting rewards and think about how you would get rewards, you should try doing good things all the time so you get into Heaven.

(ii) Some people may disagree with me because they may believe you should not be ~~rewarded~~ therefore to do a good deed just to get a reward, they may believe you should be good at all times and then at the end send out about the rewards you got.



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- (b) 1 fully developed reason. Can only gain 2 marks as the question asks for 2 reasons
- (c) 2 reasons which could have been developed further
- (d)(i) Personal opinion with just one simple reason
- (d)(ii) One simple reason against



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Remind candidates to think about how many marks are available eg (b) items are worth 4 marks and ask for 2 reasons. However much they write about one reason, they can only get 2 marks

Candidates must remember that in the (b) items they are not being asked for reasons on both sides of the argument. If they start their answer with 'I think' then there must be 2 reasons to support their viewpoint.

and prophet Muhammad.

(b) I think that all holy books should be treated equally. I say this because the 4 holy books teach you what is right and what is wrong. Also the holy books show you the right path in life and the wrong paths in life.

However some people may disagree with this and say that the Quran should be treated with more respect because Muslims believe that the Quran is the direct words of Allah and over the years it has not been changed. Where as the bible has two testaments the new testament and the old testament.

Overall I think that all holy books should be respected because they are holy books in other religions.

(c) The revelation of the Quran to prophet Muhammad is important for all Muslims because when the Quran was revealed to the prophet that night Muslims say that

that is the night of power, this is important to Muslims because it shows us how much Allah loved prophet Muhammad.

Another reason why the revelation of the Quran is important is because if the Quran had not been revealed to the prophet, then Muslims all around the world as a ummah will not know what is right and wrong. Also they will not know what is halal and what is haram.

(d) (i) Doing good just to get a reward is wrong because, that way you are just showing Allah that you are just one minded and you only like to do thing that will get you a reward, this is wrong because you cannot count how much good deeds you do and how much bad deeds you do because this all is up to Allah and Allah decides if you are doing a good deed or if you are doing a bad deed.

(iii) However some people may disagree with this because, if you are doing something good just to get a reward that is showing Allah that you are a person that just wants to do good and please Allah. And when you die you want to go to heaven with good deeds, but if you have done bad deeds then you will go to hell and Allah will punish you.



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- (b) 1 developed reason. The second part of the answer is giving the alternative viewpoint.
- (c) 2 reasons, brief but adequate
- (d)(i) 1 developed reason, a little muddled but understandable
- (d)(ii) 1 reason suggesting that doing good just for a reward is wrong.



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Examiner Tip

In (b) questions there must be 2 reasons supporting the opinion unless the candidate says 'I am not sure'.

Question 3 (a)

In this section both question (a) were answered equally well. In Q3(a) many candidates lost marks by referring simply to the actions or deeds of the Prophet rather than the sayings.

Clear definition from glossary

Write your answer here:

- (a) Hadiths are teachings and saying of the prophet Muhammad (saw) as recorded by his family and friends.
- (b) I think that a Muslim community does need a mosque because having ~~other~~ a place of worship to share between other Muslims helps to strengthen the deen. It means they have access



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Examiner Comments

The candidate has learnt the definition and gained full marks.



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Examiner Tip

Candidates need to differentiate between key words that have similar meanings

Partially correct

Write your answer here:

- (a) Hadiths are sayings of the prophets and gives you knowledge about Islam. ~~Hadiths are~~ An example of a Hadith is Al-Bukhari.
- (b) Yes I do think a Muslim community needs a mosque, because there should be a mosque for Jum'ah prayers and tarawih prayers. Muslim should stick as one ummah and pray together. Praying in a Mosque together.



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This has been credited with 1 mark as it does use the word 'sayings' which is the important part of the hadith. The incorrect information, ie the prophets, has been ignored.



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Examiner Tip

Candidates must know the difference between hadith and sunnah

Question 3 (b,c,d)

Candidates who attempted this question answered (b) and (c) well and were able to identify four features in a mosque and give a reason for them. Very few simply described the features. In the (d) question there was some confusion about what was meant by the word 'respect'.

This is an example of a candidate who writes very little but just manages to fulfill the assessment criteria on each item.

each:

(b) I think that the Muslim community needs a mosque. This is because it is better to pray together with your muslim brothers rather than praying at home.

I also think that the Muslim community needs a mosque, is because at Friday, Muslims gather at the mosque to pray Jummah.

(c) A mosque has certain features such as a dome on top, Qiblah, minaret and more. It has these certain features because the dome helps get the voice of the imam around the mosque so everyone can hear. The minaret sounds the ~~Adhan~~ Adhan so

that ^{Muslims} people can gather at the mosque to pray. And the Qiblah shows which direction to pray to head for Mecca.

(d)(i) I agree, this is because by choosing not to follow its teachings, you are choosing to disobey Allah and ~~may~~ ignore his words. Also, you cannot truly respect something if you do not listen to them.

(ii) Some people may disagree because they might not be Muslims and not care about the Qur'an. Or, ^{Muslims} they could show respects to the Qur'an and choose to lead a life of their own.



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Examiner Comments

- (b) 2 straightforward reasons with no development
- (c) This is very brief but to the point.
- (d)(i) 1 developed reason
- (d)(ii) 1 developed reason



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Examiner Tip

Encourage candidates to link each description with a reason.

This is a full mark answer. This candidate is able to give sufficient information for full marks in the space provided. Many candidates include unnecessary information.

...minimises the presence of the... and unity

(b) I think a muslim community does need a mosque. The reason for this is that mosques are a place of worship and muslims need somewhere to congregates so they can teach others about Islam. A mosque also creates a feeling of belonging for local muslims and having a feeling of belonging is important for muslims to encourage them to face up to the difficulties of living in a secular society.

(c) Mosques have many features. The dome of the mosque is the roof this feature symbolises space and the universe. Another feature includes a Mihrab, this is a wall in a mosque which shows muslims the qiblah or

the direction of prayer. Another feature includes is the minaret which is a tall tower where Muslims are called to prayer, this feature reminds Muslims their duty to Allah and that they are being summoned in front of Allah to worship him. The minbar is a platform where the leader or imam stands to give sermons and give fatwa and talks. This reminds Muslims of their duty to Allah and the willingness and submission they should show towards him. These features all help Muslims in their worship of Allah and is a constant reminder that they should show respect and worship towards him.

(d) (i) I agree with the statement that true respect for the Quran can be shown by following its teachings because ~~left~~ looking after the Quran in all the required ways may be good in showing care and respect to the word of God. ~~but~~ Not following the teachings is disrespectful because it is the word of God which is holy and sacred and should not be ignored. If a person does not follow teachings of the Quran it shows disrespect to the religion also, respecting the Quran involves taking care to read it properly and believing what it teaches because Allah has commanded Muslims to do so. Correct treatment of the Quran is equally as important as following the teachings of it.

(ii) People may disagree with me because they may say that as long as you follow the requirements of keeping the Quran safe such as; keeping it in a special covering, putting it on the highest shelf etc then you are showing respect. They could say you are showing that you appreciate its greatness by looking after it but it does not need to be followed so closely to show respect. They could say if a person is not a Muslim they cannot follow the teachings but can still show respect by treating it the right way. ~~The~~ Correct treatment of the Quran is very important.



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- (b) 2 developed reasons
- (c) 4 features with reasons
- (d)(i) needs a bit of unpicking but careful reading shows 3 reasons to support a personal opinion
- (d)(ii) 2 reasons, one of which is developed



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Examiner Tip

Candidates need to learn the difference between giving a reason for their opinion and simply rewriting the question in their own words.

Question 4 (a)

Q4(a) was answered simply and well by the majority of candidates. 'World wide community of Muslims' was sufficient for 2 marks.

Some responses lost a mark with an example like this because there was no concept of the ummah being more than the local community.

Write your answer here:

(a) Ummah is lots of muslims, or all muslims. Like they are a group.

(b) I do not think that shari'ah laws are the best laws. In my opinion shari'ah law is too extreme and I don't think that it represents islamic teachings, or follows what Islam says. In Islam Stealing



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Examiner Comments

Partially correct



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Examiner Tip

Encourage candidates to look at the glossary definition.

Write your answer here:

(a) Ummah is the worldwide community of Muslims that make this.

(b) Shari'ah laws were made for a reason and in a way they are the most effective laws on the people. This is because a punishment done to someone wrong doing is publicly displayed.



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Clearly a 2 mark answer

Question 4 (b,c,d)

A well answered question although a few candidates misunderstood Shari'ah and wrote about Shi'ia . There were some excellent responses to (d) which included quotations from the hadith. Whilst these are not essential they enabled candidates to develop their argument.

This is an example of a full mark answer but the candidate has written more than is necessary. In (b) there are 3 developed reasons but only 2 can be credited.

the gathering or the unity of muslim brothers and sisters.

(b) Yes I believe shari'ah laws are the best laws because they have been given to us by our creator Allah and only Allah knows what is best for us. Also by chopping of someones hand because they stole something will be a reminder for them if they ever think of stealing something else. This will stop them from doing so. It will also scare other people and they will not want to steal because they will lose a limb. Also it helps the muslims understand what is right and what is wrong. and teaches them a good message. It is just some people do not understand the shari'ah correctly.

(c) Muslims show respect to the Quran because it is their holly book. It is the only message which is true and has not been changed or forgotten. It is the true words of Allah.

It is also because it is written in the Quran that we should show respect towards the Quran and its teachings. Muslims also show respect towards it because the Quran has all answers inside it for their daily lives. Muslims gain knowledge from it. They respect the Quran because it is part of their religion and identity. They show respect towards it as it is their holy book and they will be punished if they don't. They also show respect towards it because the prophet instructed them to do so. Also because to show their love towards the words of their creator. Also because it is like showing their love for Allah. Muslims show respect towards the Quran so that it does not wipe or change so that it is the same beautiful meaning for their next generation.

- (d) (i) I agree because prayer is a firth ~~f~~You have to do it no matter what. It is a comand from Allah. Also a building should not effect the way you think and your connection with Allah. People pray at home and home isn't much of a special building yet that does not stop them from praying. Some people stop their cars and pray on the road this also proves you dont need a special building. Prayer is meant to be your connection with Allah. It is your chance to talk to him. You dont need to do it in a special building.
- (ii) However some people may disagree with me because they believe. The special building would make pray more spiritual and help them concentrate more. Where as at home you may have little children running around and a lot of distractions. Prayer is compus lary but it is good to visit special buildings it would bring the Ummah together and strenthen the unity. It would help people strenthen their connection with Allah.



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- (b) 2 well developed reasons - the third reason can not be credited
- (c) 4 clear reasons and although there is a spelling mistake this does not detract from meaning.
- (d) 3 reasons to support a personal opinion. There is an excess of examples
- (d)(ii) 1 developed reason and 1 simple reason.



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Examiner Tip

Some of this answer is interesting but unnecessary and does not gain the candidate any extra marks. However, too much time spent on this question might cause them to be short of time and unable to complete section 4 of the paper.

This is an excellent example of a full mark answer.

(b) I think sharia laws are the best laws. This is because they are based on the Quran and sunnah. This means they are not laws from any human, but the creator of the universe himself meaning they are way more important. Sharia laws are also the best laws because it shows a person should live their life as a good muslim. This brings them ^{into} their path and closer to Allah. A muslim must also follow sharia laws if they want to go to heaven.

(c) Muslims show respect for the Quran because it is the final holy book. They are the direct words from Allah.

therefore is not a human talking, making it so powerful. Allah has created the Quran in a way that it'll never ~~be~~ be forgotten or changed over time. This because Allah has given many 'Hafiz' the ability to memorise it. Because of this, the Quran cancels out all other past Holy Books given to the other prophets. Muslims also show respect for the Quran, because in the Quran Allah has explained how a Muslim should live their life. He has explained what is permissible and what should be avoided. The Quran also teaches Muslims ~~know~~ how one day they will be judged in front of their creator, Allah, for their good and bad. If Muslims read the Quran they will earn deeds. Reading the Quran also makes Muslims closer to Allah. therefore when they read the Quran they make sure they have wudu, to show respect.

(d) (i) I agree. Because if a muslim muslim can't find an appropriate place than they can pray anywhere as long as the place is free from any impurities. Also the main importance while praying is that you are ~~for~~ focused and Submitted to Allah, regardless of the buildings.

Also this thinking of the ~~area~~ ~~area~~ building must be special ~~for~~ for prayer, could lead to 'Bid'ah' if it is part of.

(ii) However some people may disagree by saying that muslims must pray in the mosque. Also that the area they pray should look nice and special because prayer is a special ritual between a person and Allah. They are standing in front Allah therefore must be in a presentable area.



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- (b) 2 clear developed reasons
- (c) This is a mixture of brief reasons and developed reasons
- (d)(i) excellent reasons to support a personal opinion
- (d)(ii) 1 fully developed reason

Question 5 (a)

Many candidates lost marks by simply writing the word 'prayer' which was only partially correct. It is important that candidates understand that salah is more than a quick word in passing to Allah and is something that demands commitment through the day.

2 marks for this answer which is a rewording of the glossary definition

Write your answer here:

(a) Salah means prayer, which muslims do five times a day.

(b) I do think someone going on Hajj makes them a better person because when they go there they have a special experience which brings them closer to Allah. So when they finish Hajj



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Examiner Comments

2 marks because there is the idea of commitment - five times a day



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Examiner Tip

Encourage candidates to look at glossary definitions and pick out the important ideas.

Partially correct answer because it does not define exactly what salah is. This could be a brief definition of ibadah

(a) Salah is worshipping Allah.

(b) - Hajj can make someone a better person
as you are cleaned from your sins.

- Hajj is a way of worshipping and understanding
Allah better this can make someone a better



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Examiner Comments

1 mark. This would have received 0 marks
if there had been no mention of Allah



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Examiner Tip

Learn the glossary definition

Question 5 (b,c,d)

Most candidates answered this question really well. In the (c) item candidates demonstrated excellent knowledge of saum and the best answers linked the importance of fasting during Ramadan with the revelation of the Qur'an. Some candidates struggled with the (d) question and tended to repeat themselves giving the same argument for both sides.

The examples chosen here are to give an idea of where some candidates were unable to receive full marks.

This example shows a weak response which manages to gain marks by giving brief reasons. In (b) the first basic reason is attached to the second reason which is then developed in the last sentence.

(b) Going to hajj does make a ~~better~~ person better because they've followed one of the commandments of Allah and also all of their sins have been forgiven by Allah. So they can start a new clear and better life as a muslim.

(c) Saum is important during the time of Ramadan as Saum is one of the 5 pillars of Islam and has to be followed.

Another reason why saum is important ~~is the~~ during the month of Ramadan is because ~~you~~ it makes you think about the poor people that don't get food all day and starve.

(d) (i) ~~Zaka~~ I disagree with this because you are not giving money ~~just to one person~~ ~~in~~ to a group of ~~money~~ people you are giving to a person which really needs the money to feed the poor.

~~As~~ you give a ~~reason~~ ~~an~~ amount that ~~a~~ the poor can eat with. The amount is 2.5% of their earnings annually but after paid their bills debts everything. but as a muslim Zakah must be ~~done~~ done.

(ii)



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- (b) 1 basic and 1 developed reason
- (c) 2 reasons
- (d)(i) 1 very simple reason with a personal opinion
- (d)(ii) no response given



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Candidates need to practice developing a basic reason.

This candidate is clearly struggling with answering the question but is able to give some very basic answers. The information is understandable despite the poor English. 'sprite' was interpreted as 'spirit'

(b)

yes i think that going to hajj makes you a better person because all your sins be cleared and you go in the sprite of holyness.

(c) fasting is important during Ramadan because it shows how poor and hungry people ~~live~~ live and it shows respect that we care for them.

(d) (i)

Of course it is enough to help the poor we give what we have such as money, clothes, food etc so I don't really think why it will be less to give zakaah

(ii) the people who are poor they might disagree with me because they might not be used to living with no money no food and nothing to wear.



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- (b) 1 developed reason
- (c) 1 reason
- (d)(i) point of view supported with one simple reason that is not well expressed.
- (d)(ii) does not answer the question



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Candidates should practice giving alternative views for the (d)(ii) sections of the paper.

Question 6 (a)

This question caused confusion for many candidates who had not learnt the difference between Id ul-Fitr and Id ul-Adha. Some candidates gave answers that gave far more detail than was required for an (a) item. Answers which simply said 'sacrificing an animal' were only credited 1 mark as no link was made to hajj.

Straightforward glossary definition

write your answer here:

(a) ID - ul - Adha - is the festival of sacrifice.

(b) ~~Not~~ not everyone because in the ~~quran~~ quran it states those who are travelling, old, sick, or who have not reached puberty or who are pregnant or breastfeeding don't need to fast.



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Full marks



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Another of those key words which need to be carefully differentiated from a similar word.

Another good answer although different to the glossary definition.

Write your answer here:

(a) ID-ul-Adha is the celebration to mark the end of Hajj.

(b) Not everyone should fast if it is not in your religion or belief to do so. However all Muslims if ~~see~~ they are the right age and in sane mind should



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Examiner Comments

2 marks for a clear definition



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Examiner Tip

Sometimes candidates remember definitions of key words because of links to other learning.

Question 6 (b,c,d)

The (c) part of this question was not well done by many candidates as they did not read the question carefully and gave very general answers about hajj. The specification divides hajj into separate areas and therefore questions will be asked on Makkah, Mina and Arafat individually. Note that there is no bullet point in the specification that deals with hajj as a total event.

Candidates must always give a personal opinion in both (b) and (d)(i) in order to get marks. No personal opinion in (b) will mean the reasons will not be credited however good they are.

(b) No, because not everyone is part of a religion which says fasting is compulsory. If people fasted without knowing the true purpose, they wouldn't gain any reward.

Also, as a Muslim I believe Allah has laid down exceptions such as those who are ill, not reached puberty, travelling, do not have fast. This eases pressure on people, thus showing not everyone should fast.

(c) Muslims take part in many events during hajj. ~~the annual pilgrimage of hajj.~~

Firstly, the tawaf is very important when Muslims go round the Kabah seven times

worshipping Allah. The Kaabah is the main focus point of a Muslim's life, as it is the direction in which they pray. Whilst going round, Muslims read the talbiyah, which raises their level of God-consciousness or taqwa and makes realise their purpose is just to worship Allah alone.

After spend At Arafat, Muslims stand and confess their sins on the plains near Makkah. The Sun is scorching hot, showing the commitment they are making. On this day, Allah forgives ^{all} their sins, which highlights how humans are so weak in comparison to Allah. Also, this is the place where the Day of Judgement will take place, which makes Muslims ready for that Day and they also realise that on that Day, they cannot ask for forgiveness.

At Mina, Muslims stone the three pillars which represent Satan. They believe it was here that Satan ~~was~~ encouraged Ibrahim to not sacrifice his son. After having their sins forgiven, Muslims realise that Satan will always tempt them to do wrong, and reinforce their prayers to start a better life.

(d) (i) I do not agree because Shahadah is the first pillar Islam, showing its importance. When saying the Shahadah, a person makes a commitment to worship only one God Allah and follow the example of the prophet. If a person truly means this, they will follow Islam's teachings.

Also, the Shahadah is the basic principle of Islam - Tawhid. If a person believes in the Oneness of Allah, he/she is a Muslim. Also, Allah forgives all sins after repenting except shirk.

(ii) Some people and some Muslims may feel it is important to follow all the pillars of Islam to be a Muslim.

Also, doing wrong in other ways e.g. riba, gambling is also very bad and not what Islam teaches.

Saying the Shahadah is just some words to some people and some people may not mean it.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

- (b) 1 developed reason and 1 basic reason with the personal opinion coming part way through
- (c) A developed reason at the beginning on tawaf. The information on Mina and Arafat can not be credited.
- (d)(i) 2 developed reasons
- (d)(ii) 3 reasons



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Candidates should always start (b) answers with 'I think' or 'I do not think' then the personal opinion is present.

In this answer the (c) response is very brief but does contain 3 reasons on why events in Makkah are important

(b) Not everyone should fast because some people may not be able to fast for example if you are ill or old, if you have not passed the age of puberty and if there is a mental health issue. Also because if you are unable to fast because it is difficult for you and you are fasting for the sake of your parents is wrong, as you should be fasting for the sake of Allah and fasting should help you see how the poor live.

(c) The events of Hajj in Makkah are important for Muslims because this is where the prophet Muhammad was born and also is where the revelation of the Quran happened. In Makkah

for Hajj they do tawaf, where they go around the Kaabah 7 times to show worship to Allah. This shows that they obey Allah and are committed to him. Also when tawaf is taking place people all over the world are gathered and are united to take part in Hajj. It sends a message that everyone, regardless of where they are from, they all come to gather to worship Allah, this also shows how united we are to Allah.

(d)(i) Saying the Shahaedah does not make a person a muslim. I disagree, because to become a muslim in Islam, the man must witness the Shahaedah for you to become a muslim. So it does make you a muslim. The Shahaedah is the declaration of faith in Allah and his messengers.

(ii) I agree because if the shahaedah is done then you must also carry out the actions of a muslim, you can not be muslim by name, but you must also show it. To be a muslim you must pray 5 times a day, obey Allah and follow the prophet's example.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

- (b) 1 developed reason -the last statement is an alternative view which is not credited
- (c) 3 very brief reasons
- (d)(i) 2 reasons
- (d)(ii) 1 developed reason



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Encourage candidates to write clearly.

Question 7 (a)

Not all candidates who answered this question gained full marks. There was confusion between the two jihads.

Clear definition.

Write your answer here:

(a) greater jihad is the struggle in one's own life against evil.

(b) Muslim teachings on dress is relevant today as Islam is not a religion which becomes outdated by the passing of time but is a true religion which requires its followers



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

Glossary definition so full marks



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

Practise quick fire questions with candidates on key words so that they are used to short correct answers

1 mark was given to partially correct answers such as this which used evil in a general way and could be interpreted as personal as opposed to national.

Write your answer here:

(a) Greater Jihad is fighting against the evil.

(b) I think Muslim teaching on dress is relevant today because the way is society changing. I will be in a chaos situation in the future and for the next generations.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

given 1 mark as partially correct with the concept of evil



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

Candidates do need to show that they know what the key word means.

Question 7 (b,c,d)

This question was not well answered. Many candidates found it difficult to give four ways how living in western society might affect a Muslim and in an attempt to develop their arguments they tended to be repetitive. Very few candidates really showed understanding of riba

In this answer the list of haram things is clearly linked to the way they would affect a Muslims life so go beyond pure description and can be credited as a developed reason.

own life against emu.

(b) Muslim teachings on dress is relevant today as Islam is not a religion which becomes outdated by the passing of time but is a true religion which requires its followers to abide by the rules and regulations. The muslim dress is included in this and is shown as muslims follow the Quran dressing a certain way is also.

(c) The laws of halal and haram affect muslim living in western society as halal ~~is~~ it follows different ways.

The halal and haram laws differ, include many things like :- pork or any meat not slaughtered in a certain way, riba (interest), pre-marital sex and alcohol being forbidden.

The listed things are widely spread amongst western society, sometimes making a muslim fight a great temptation easily found and acquired which means greater jihad is what that person goes through, struggling and striving against the haram.

✶

A great example of this is the muslims in America who live in come across Taco Bell which is a very popular restaurant but does not sell halal food.

Some of these laws are said ^{by some} ~~sometimes~~ that as the dividing end meaning these laws are not helping with the social integration of muslims.

(d) (i) ~~Riba is everywhere and on most items~~
~~so muslims may find it difficult to~~
~~follow this~~

Muslims believe that riba is not very difficult to overcome or ignore as for banking there are many interest-free saving accounts and even mortgages by which they are given out by the IBB (Islamic Bank of Britain) and even riba acquired on banking can be easily calculated and given away as

(ii) Some people may disagree with this as they believe that riba is everywhere and on most items so avoiding it would be very difficult to follow in a capitalist society.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

- (b) 1 good developed reason
- (c) 1 developed reason and 1 basic reason
- (d)(i) on first reading it looks as though there is no personal statement as the 'I' above the crossed out word is not very clear. If this had not been changed the candidate would not have been credited for (d)(i)
- (d)(ii) 1 reason against



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Candidates should always start (d)(i) with 'I agree' or 'I disagree' then there is no doubt that it is a personal opinion.

In this (c) answer the candidate has used 4 examples to show the difficulties that a Muslim might face. These make this a fully developed answer.

In (d)(ii) the answer is vague and only gets marks because the candidate has indicated in (d)(i) that they know what riba is.

the struggle to overcome evil in ones own life.

(b) ~~I think muslims should be allowed to eat all types of food~~^{not} because I think muslims teaching on dress is relevant today because it gives people security by dressing islamically. Muslims have to dress modestly as it is mentioned in the Qur'an so it is obviously still an important issue today.

(c) The laws haram and halal affect a Muslim in western society today because there are too many temptations to do haram things which is also known as lesser jihad. Muslims do find it hard to live in a

Society where there are many haram things for example a young muslim might think its ok to go to McDonalds even though they sell haram food. They could find it ok to steal a pen from school and wont think of it as a big deal. They might not want to go to the madrasah but want to go out with there non-muslim friends instead. They have a bad influence of friends who encourage them to do bad things like stealing, drugs and alcohol. It is hard to find halal meats from Superstores as very few sell halal meat, and also not all schools serve halal meat.

(d) (i) I agree because in a western society if you borrow loans from banks you have to pay back with interest. The western society mostly only lend you money if they get back interest so they can make a profit. It might be the only way you can earn a living if you charge interest.

(ii) Some people may disagree with me because they feel that you should only ~~not~~ do a job where you are not committing riba. They do not think it is the only way of earning a living and in Islam you should do a job that is acceptable to Allah.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

- (b) personal opinion with 2 basic reasons
- (c) 1 comprehensive explanation using 4 examples
- (d)(i) 1 developed reason
- (d)(ii) 1 developed reason



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

The best answers are those which show a clear knowledge of the topic.

Question 8 (a)

Generally this question was answered well but as hijab is a specifically Muslim concept there had to be some link with Islam for full marks.

Full mark answer. Modest dress worn by Muslim women would also have been credited.

Write your answer here:

(a) hijab is a headscarf worn by muslim women in Islam as commanded by Allah in the Quran.

(b) No because it's clearly stated in the shariah the difference between halal and haram and we should follow the shariah as a source of guidance. There are clear laws in the Quran which is the true and final



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

Correct definition

Partially correct

Write your answer here:

(a) Head covering for women, e.g. A scarf.

(b) I don't think Muslims should be able to eat all types of food because Allah has said in the Quran what Muslims can or cannot eat so we must obey Allah's command.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

Only 1 mark as there is no reference to Islam



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

Use the mark scheme to make sure candidates understand the difference between a 1 mark and a 2 mark answer.

Question 8 (b,c,d)

This question was very poorly answered. Some candidates clearly ran out of time. Other candidates did not understand that community cohesion is about the wider community not the ummah. Also in (b) many candidates spent time describing haram meat without any link to the reasons either for or against eating it.

In (b) the second reason given only repeats the last part of the first reason so can not be credited

In (d)(ii) there is an assumption that spending money on a celebration after the funeral could mean sharing food with the poor.

(b)
I don't think muslim should be allowed to eat all type of food because some food can and drink can harm us for example alcohol. It can harm us and in the Quran it said you shouldnt eat or drink something that would harm you.

The second reason is that in the Quran and hadith it said you shouldnt eat haram stuff.

(d) (i) No I don't agree with this because it doesn't matter how big or small the funeral is as long as you bury the body and Islamic way.

(ii) Some people may disagree with this because they would say if there is more money then we can feed more poor people and we also can ~~make~~ sacrifice more animals and give it to the poor.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

- (b) opinion with 1 developed reason
- (c) no response
- (d)(i) personal opinion with 1 reason
- (d)(ii) credited on the basis of what happens after burial



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

Candidates need to learn 3 reasons for and against topics in order to answer the (d) questions

In (c) the answer really begins at.. 'Muslims should treat all society well'.

for a man to ever between his hand and knee and a woman to ever anything and hands.
except her face

(b) I think that Muslims must observe the teachings of the Qur'an and the Sunnah to observe the Halal and abstain from the Haram, as Allah says in the Qur'an " and eat of the lawful things we have provided for you" and to "desist from alcohol or intoxicants... and the meat of swine", the Shari'ah clearly states what is Halal and Haram in terms of food, and the Shari'ah is the set of guidelines and way of life that a Muslim should follow.

(c) Muslims are involved in working for social and community cohesion following the teachings of Islam to have respect for one another, with a Hadith from the Messenger of God (S.A.W) stating that "he is not a believer who eats his fill whilst his neighbour remains hungry" and that

"Jibrail (Gabriel) came to me telling me the rights of neighbours, so much so that I began to fear that they would inherit from me as well." Whilst the ummah, the worldwide community of Muslims, have been commanded in the Qur'an to be united and be not divided amongst ^{your} ~~your~~ selves and to respect one another. Muslims should treat all of society well, with the Qur'an and hadith describing the reward for those who "look after the poor... the needy... take care of the orphans... and free the prisoners of war... and free the slaves", not being specific to Muslims alone but for the whole of society, and ^{therefore} encouraging Muslims to work towards community cohesion. The Prophet (s.a.w) established an Islamic state in Madinah in which the Jews, Christians, and Pagan Arabs were also given due status and respect and were provided with healthcare and protection, and when the second Khalifah, Umar (r.a), saw a starving old Jewish man, he rebuked the people for allowing him to be in this condition and next to the treasury ~~to~~ treasury to help him, saying "he paid the jizyah and worked for the community when he was of sound body and mind, so take care of him in ^{his} old age" and the Qur'an ^{and hadith} stresses "to respect one's elders and show compassion to one's youth"; therefore encouraging taking care of society and promoting social and community cohesion, to work together for the betterment of society.

(d) (i) 'Expensive funerals show proper respect for the dead.' I disagree as Islam is a religion of moderation and funerals should be simple as death is merely the beginning of a life that shall never end; the soul has returned to God and out of respect for God, the money should not be wasted in extravagance and should be spent in the remembrance of God and in charity, as expensive funerals will not benefit the dead person but the living one. 'To God we belong and to Him we shall return'; a ^{person} should be buried with ~~accompany~~ ^{accompany} to

(ii) The world disagrees, believing that there is no life after death and that a person would like to have an expensive funeral to be remembered by his loved ones and that they do not believe he has returned to God or is only on the next stage in the journey of life, feeling that a ~~very~~ simple funeral would not honour the person and that people would perceive simple funerals as a slight against the person as if his relatives do not care to allow him to leave this world with dignity or wealth.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

- (b) 1 developed and 1 basic reason
- (c) 4 good reasons
- (d)(i) 3 reasons to support a personal opinion
- (d)(ii) 2 developed reasons



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

Candidates need to know some of the principles behind halal and haram in order to answer the questions and not describe.

Paper Summary

The paper was answered well.

Some candidates had difficulties with the (b) and (d) items as they were unable to use the knowledge they had, to give reasons for their opinion.

The mark scheme is available for all centres and is a useful tool to help candidates prepare for the examination as it clearly shows how marks are awarded.

Teachers and candidates should note these general points in order to improve candidates' achievement in future years:

There is a choice of two questions per section, each of these has four sub questions, candidates can either attempt the sub-questions in the top question (odd numbers) or the sub-questions in the bottom question (even numbered). Candidates who choose questions from a mixture of the top and bottom questions will not receive marks for all their questions and as such are at a clear disadvantage.

Candidates are asked to indicate which question they have answered by crossing in a square at the top of the paper, some candidates did not do this. They should be reminded to do this as part of examination preparation.

The amount of lines given is more than adequate for candidates to achieve maximum marks; there is no need for candidates to write more than this. If candidates write more than can be inserted into the allocated linage, they are likely to be using up too much time on that particular question. Almost all the candidates who used extra paper had already achieved maximum marks for that item. Any candidate who needs extra space can use the space allocated to other parts of the question as long as they clearly indicate on their paper that this is what they have done.

A number of candidates did not complete the final section this year due to timing difficulties. Candidates should be encouraged to spend about twenty minutes per question leaving about ten minutes to check through their work at the end of the paper.

(a) questions ask for either a definition or example. Learn glossary definitions to gain full marks

(b) questions only need one opinion backed by two reasons but a clear personal opinion must be stated.

(c) questions are Explain why... or Explain how... questions, and are testing AO1. Candidates must use their knowledge not to describe but to show understanding.

(d) questions are divided into two parts: (d)(i) needs the candidate's opinion backed by reasons and (d)(ii) needs an alternative opinion backed by reasons. One of the reasons used in the whole of (d) must be religious.

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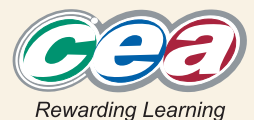
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