

Religious Studies A (World Religion(s))

General Certificate of Secondary Education **2306/01**

Paper 6 Islam

Mark Scheme for June 2010

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1 (a) Describe how Muslims prepare for prayer. [8]

Description of preparations is likely to include eg wash, cover head, remove shoes, use prayer mat, face Makkah.

Candidates may go on to focus the description on wudu with some details eg make niyyah (intention); wash three times hands, mouth, nose, face, arms, head, ears, neck, feet.

Candidates might state that the three conditions laid down by Muhammad ﷺ for prayer were pray in clean place/ five times a day/ facing Makkah but this is not essential for full marks.

(b) Explain the importance of Salat-ul-Jumu'ah for Muslims. [7]

Candidates are likely to begin by explaining Salat-ul-Jumu'ah means prayers on Friday, the Day of Assembly, and all males are expected to attend prayers just after midday. Some might explain that females may but are not expected to attend but perform their usual zuhr prayers at home.

The importance does not include it being a holy day nor a day of rest. Muslims go back to work afterwards. Religious activity is part of life not separate.

The most important point is that the Qur'an commands attendance on Salat-ul-Jumu'ah and, therefore, because they accept its authority, Muslims obey the Qur'an (information for markers: Surah 62:9-10).

Candidates might explain why it is important for the community; eg because having prayed together, there is a sense of unity, co-operation and singleness of purpose etc. The khutbah sermon in the vernacular is followed by discussion of things which might affect the local community; eg practical matters for the community or political issues which affect the whole Ummah.

(c) 'Islam is all about prayer.'

Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer and show that you have thought about different points of view. [5]

Candidates are likely to begin by confirming the importance of prayer for Muslims. The discussion concerns whether it is 'all about' prayer and candidates are free to agree, disagree, or come to some sort of compromise position.

As part of the argument in support of the stimulus quotation, some candidates may use the fact that the words for 'Islam' and 'Muslim' are based on the idea of submission.

Others might argue that, although very important, 'salah' is only one of the Five Pillars etc.

2 (a) Describe the ceremonies at the start of a Muslim baby's life. [8]

Descriptions are likely to include most of the following with details:
baby is washed, Adhan/call to prayer/name of God in right ear, command to worship in left ear;

Aqiqah ceremony when baby is named;
head shaved; equivalent weight of hair in money to poor;
males circumcised; goats or sheep sacrificed.

Accept customs which might be cultural eg sweets etc. and general celebratory things that Muslims might do at the birth and very soon after.

(b) Explain the religious meaning of these ceremonies for Muslims. [7]

Candidates are likely to explain the meaning or symbolism (including having a sweet life) of the ceremonies described in response to the first part of the question.

The explanations by candidates who noticed the word 'religious' in the question might demonstrate some depth of understanding of the significance and religious importance of birth ceremonies in terms of the general value of rites of passage in most faiths.

Some responses might include detailed explanations specific to Islam such as reference to the circumcision of Ibrahim and Ishmael and the types of names which Muslims might choose etc.

(c) 'Family ceremonies are more important than community celebrations in Islam.'

Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer and show that you have thought about different points of view. [5]

Some candidates might develop points made earlier in the structured question about the meaning of the rite of passage to illustrate the importance to the family unit of family ceremonies.

Some might discuss for whom ceremonies are more important.

Other candidates might cite community activities eg festivals, fasts etc. to illustrate the solidarity and importance of the community. Candidates are free to interpret 'community celebrations in Islam' as the local Muslim community or/and the worldwide Ummah.

Many candidates might be of the opinion that all parts of Islam are inter-related and family and community are equally important.

- 3 (a) **Describe the main differences between the practices of Sunni and Shi'ah Muslims.** [8]

Candidates might include:

- Eg Shi'a prayer 3 times a day not 5; forehead touches dust or mud block from Karbala; fast at Ramadan is longer (till sunset) and three of the days are for mourning Ali who was martyred on 20 Ramadan; Sunni pay zakah to state and Shi'ah pay to religious leaders.
- Shi'ah have extra pilgrimages and festivals; ziyara pilgrimages to tombs of Shi'ah Imams; Ghadir al-Khumm: celebrate appointing of Ali as Imam by pool of Khumm; commemorate martyrdom of Husayn during Muhurram. (Some Sunnis join in taziya processions of mourning for Ali and Husayn.)

Credit relevant general or wider differences eg of authority of the Imamate and reverence shown to Ali among Shi'ah etc. Accept reference to muta (temporary marriage) as a 'main' difference etc.

- (b) **Explain how the mosque is used by Muslim communities in the United Kingdom.** [7]

There might be a variety of equally acceptable approaches to this question and some candidates might focus on explaining the use by particular Muslim communities of their mosques in the United Kingdom.

Candidates might demonstrate understanding that in the United Kingdom the mosques serve many functions for the local community as well as being places of prostration and prayer.

Some might regard this as similar to the purposes of the first mosque in Madinah; built to accommodate the full range of community activities. For example, some mosques have a mortuary and the prayer room is used for funerals (but not for weddings) etc.

Responses might include, for example, the madrassah for learning Arabic and reciting the Qur'an as well as for learning English etc. Candidates might comment on the mosque being particularly important for a Muslim community in a non-Muslim country.

- (c) **'The differences between Sunni and Shi'ah don't matter.'**

Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer and show that you have thought about different points of view. [5]

Most candidates are likely to make reference to the basic unity of Islam in that all Muslims believe in Allah and follow the teaching in the Qur'an and the example (Sunnah) of Muhammad ﷺ and some candidates might refer to the community in Madinah and the start of the worldwide ummah.

The main area for debate in the responses is likely to be the extent to which differences, eg between Sunni and Shi'ah or any other differences, 'matter' or can be ignored in the light of this basic unity. Some might consider 'matter to whom?' and this might constitute another point of view.

Candidates are free to come to any conclusion but, hopefully, the responses will attempt to present a balanced discussion and the arguments will be based on sound knowledge and sensitive understanding of Islam and of the groups within the faith.

4 (a) Describe what Muslims believe about life after death. [8]

Credit general references to Muslims believing in Allah and trusting that there is life after death.

In Muslim theological belief Allah has 99 names, one of which is the master of the Day of Judgement. Some candidates might begin by putting life after death in the context of the whole belief system: Allah as Creator, Sustainer, Lord of the beginning of things and also of the End of things.

The descriptions of life after death (after Yawmuddin, the Last Day, Day of Judgement) might focus on heaven and hell. Credit reference to barzakh waiting place. Akhirah is life after death. Again, credit but don't expect it. Credit angels and questions at or before death only if made relevant to the question.

Note that some Muslims believe Hell is temporary and that Judgement Day happens at death by a sort of time warp. Accept scenarios about crossing bridges.

Some candidates might call resurrection of the body 're-incarnation'. Technically the word can be used for bodies rising in flesh from their graves at the Last Day and may not simply be confusion with Hinduism so check what the meaning seems to be.

(b) Explain why Muhammad ﷺ faced difficulties in spreading the message of Allah. [7]

There might be a variety of equally acceptable approaches. Accept any accurate difficulties, specific or general, if they are accurate and made relevant to the question.

eg idolatry and polytheism at Makkah/ wealth of city came from pilgrims/ hostility and persecution/ causing flight to Yathrib (Madinah)/tribal politics/relationship with Jews and Christians/ battles with Makkah etc.

Credit explanations of personal fears- that he was going mad- etc.

(c) 'It is difficult to be a follower of the example of Muhammad ﷺ in a non-Muslim country.'

Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer and show that you have thought about different points of view. [5]

Candidates are likely to begin by giving evidence of difficulties in eg keeping the Five Pillars (especially pilgrimage, prayer and fasting); festivals (especially sacrifice at Id-ul-Adha), Salat –ul-Jumu'ah etc.

Persecution and prejudice and simple misunderstandings by non-Muslims might also feature.

Discussions might consider the actual wording of the stimulus and might conclude that it is difficult but not impossible for various reasons. Some candidates might even argue that it is not difficult but easy. Consideration of what makes a follower of the example of Muhammad ﷺ might be another point of view in a balanced debate.

- 5 (a) **Describe how Muslims might show respect for the Qur'an.** [8]

Descriptions might include a variety of examples from silk cloths and highest shelves to use in worship and application of the teaching to daily life. Washing before touching it is likely to feature and the use of a kursi/stand.

'How' might also include keeping it in the original Arabic and not translating it. Considering it the highest authority and basing the Shari'ah law on it as the primary source might also be used but, at this level, is not essential.

- (b) **Explain why the Qur'an is a sacred text for Muslims.** [7]

Explanation might include eg the status and authority is because it is revelation to Muhammad ﷺ /by angel/

but more importantly because it is the actual words /of Allah /final uncorrupted message etc.

Credit reference to practical application of teaching in daily life/ main source of Shari'ah law /etc.

- (c) **'It is not a good idea to base your life on a book.'**

Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer and show that you have thought about different points of view. You must refer to Islam in your answer. [5]

Credit sensible references to other faiths and their sacred literature in addressing the question.

Discussions are likely to home in on why a book might be sacred to some people and candidates might discuss the concept of revelation and include the status and authority given by Muslims to the Qur'an.

Candidates may see the question as about authority and consider what else people might base their lives on before coming to their final conclusion after a balanced discussion.

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