

GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES A

(8062)

Marked Responses
Summer 2018 - Islam

See a range of responses and how different levels are achieved and understand how to interpret the mark scheme.

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EXAMPLE RESPONSES



Whilst every attempt has been made to show a range of student responses, the following responses and examiner comments provide teachers with the best opportunity to understand the application of the mark scheme. They are not intended to be viewed as 'model' answers, , although they are genuine student responses from the summer 2018 examinations and have all been marked by senior examiners.

Two mark questions (A01.1)

0 2 . 2

Give two actions that Muslims perform during Hajj.

[2 marks]

Answer A

1. Throwing stones at three pillars that represent the devil.
2. Circling the Ka'ba seven times anti-clockwise.

Answer B

1. Prayer
2. Circle the Ka'ba

Answer A

This answer gives more detail than is required for this question. Nevertheless, both actions identified are correct.

2 marks

Answer B

Two correct points identified. There is no requirement for further development or explanation here as the question command is 'give.'

2 marks

Four mark questions (A01.3)

0 | 2 | . | 3

Explain two contrasting Muslim beliefs about giving alms.

[4 marks]

Answer A

In Sunni Islam zakah says you should give 2.5% of income to charity. Whereas in Shi'a Islam you're told to give 20% of your profit away.

Answer B

Sunni Muslims pay zakah annually. This is a charity donation of 2.5% of your income paid to the poor. It is the third pillar.

Shi'a Muslims also pay a 20% tax that contains alms. This is Khums and it is the sixth obligatory act.

Answer C

Muslims believe giving alms can consist of giving money to charity or to someone who is in need of it. However it could also mean donating time such as voluntary charity work or working with people and giving them advice which can help them live a better life.

Answer A

This response has contrasted the practices of Sunni and Shi'a Muslims and has correctly identified differences between them. However as there is no further development only the marks for simple points can be awarded.

2 marks

Answer B

This response gives two correct beliefs about almsgiving which both include development of the points made.

4 marks

Answer C

This response approaches the question in a different way to the previous by explaining different beliefs about what alms is as opposed to Sunni/Shi'a beliefs about alms. A variety of approaches are equally valid as exemplified in the mark scheme. The student gives two simple points in the first sentence, or this could be read as a developed point. The second sentence gives two different beliefs about alms (donating time and giving advice), both of which are developed. Despite the slightly unusual structure, there is more than enough here to achieve full marks.

4 marks

Five mark questions (A01.1)

0	1	.	4
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Explain two Muslim beliefs about the role of prophets. Refer to sacred writings or another source of Muslim belief and teaching in your answer.

[5 marks]

Answer A

One role of a prophet is to be a messenger for Allah like the angels. Another role is to help and guide Muslims today and to help them make correct and accurate decisions in their lives.

Answer B

Muslims believe that prophets are to show an example of how Muslims should live their life. For example, Prophet Muhammad showed how a Muslim should pray to Allah in order to live a good life and complete one of the five pillars, Salah.

Also prophets like Ibrahim show how Muslims should be prepared to devote their life to Allah like Ibrahim was ready to sacrifice his son to show devotion to Allah.

Answer A

The first sentence here includes a simple correct point that prophets are messengers for Allah. The second sentence gives a developed point, with the explanation that they help people make good decisions.

3 marks

Answer B

The first paragraph gives a clear point that prophets are an example to follow, which is then developed and includes a reference to Prophet Muhammad demonstrating prayer. So, the first paragraph is worth 3 marks. The second paragraph gives a detailed point.

5 marks

12 mark questions

Levels of response

Level	Criteria	Marks
4	<p>A well-argued response, reasoned consideration of different points of view.</p> <p>Logical chains of reasoning leading to judgement(s) supported by knowledge and understanding of relevant evidence and information.</p> <p>References to religion applied to the issue.</p>	10-12
3	<p>Reasoned consideration of different points of view.</p> <p>Logical chains of reasoning that draw on knowledge and understanding of relevant evidence and information.</p> <p>Clear reference to religion.</p>	7-9
2	<p>Reasoned consideration of a point of view.</p> <p>A logical chain of reasoning drawing on knowledge and understanding of relevant evidence and information.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Recognition of different points of view, each supported by relevant reasons / evidence.</p> <p>Maximum of Level 2 if there is no reference to religion or the argument is one-sided.</p>	4-6
1	<p>Point of view with reason(s) stated in support.</p>	1-3
0	<p>Nothing worthy of credit.</p>	0

12 mark questions (A02)

0 | 1 | . | 5

'The Qur'an is the only authority a Muslim needs in life.'
Evaluate this statement.

[12 marks + 3 SPaG]

In your answer you should:

- refer to Muslim teaching
- give reasoned arguments to support this statement
- give reasoned arguments to support a different point of view
- reach a justified conclusion.

Answer A

The Qur'an is the authority a muslim needs in life to some christians is right because it was made by Allah which teaches the ways of Islam and how to act upon them which makes them believe the Qur'an is the most only authority a muslim needs in life. Other Muslims think that because God gave free will that they can choose which authority they need in life.

A non-religious believer would think that a Muslim should be able to choose wether they should choose the Qur'an as their only source of authority in life. In conclusion some muslims believe the Qur'an should be the only source of authority as it was hand written by Allah. However other muslims think because of free will they can choose.

Answer A

This is a short response (127 words) which lacks detail or range of arguments. The first paragraph contains a point with some slight development, followed by a second simple point about free will. The second paragraph contains an irrelevant point about non-religious views and then some repetition of previous material.

Level 1, 3 marks

SPaG – 2 marks. There is general control of meaning in this response with some use of specialist terms. There are some spelling mistakes, and a lack of capitalisation on Muslims and Christians. The term Christians was misused in this answer but did not hinder meaning.

Answer B

Some Muslims may agree with this statement because the Qur'an decreeds 'everything that will happen.' This creates the foundations of Islam and has complete authority over their life.

Some Muslims may disagree with this statement because in the Qur'an we are taught to obey the laws of your country. This shows that we shouldn't just obey the Qur'an.

Some Muslims agree with this statement because the Qur'an is the 'most sacred.' It's placed at the highest place in your home and is only touched by clean hands because it's the most important book.

Some Muslims may disagree with the statement because there are many holy books such as the torah. If the Qur'an was the only authority then why do other sacred texts exist if they don't contribute.

Some Muslims may agree with this statement because the Qur'an was one of the final books of Allah's message. As it was one of the last books it must be special and have allowed Allah to share His full message.

Some Muslims may disagree with this statement because we don't know how much the Qur'an details about life. By only recognising the Qur'an as authority you miss out on any other teachings and beliefs.

Overall, I disagree with the statement because the Qur'an is only one book and your life shouldn't only be centred about it as your authority.

Answer B

This response is generally well argued and logically considers different viewpoints. Religious beliefs are applied to the issue throughout the response. In order to achieve the top of Level 4, this response would require more detailed evaluation.

Level 4, 10 marks

SPaG – 3 marks. The response includes some specialist terms and has good control of meaning. Spelling, punctuation and grammar are generally accurate.

Answer C

On the one hand, some Muslims might agree with this statement because they believe that the Qur'an contains a complete and accurate record of Allah's message to mankind, told to Muhammad through the angel Jibril. If it is the totality of Allah's message, then there is no reason for them to need any other authority, because Allah is the ultimate authority in Islam.

On the other hand, the fourth Shia article of faith is Imamah: belief in the authority of Imams. This suggests that Muslims need other authority, aside from the Qur'an. Sunni Muslims also believe in the authority of Caliphs.

There are also several other holy books as well as the Qur'an. There is the Tawrat (Torah) given to Musa that contains "guidance and light" (Qur'an). There is also the Zabur (Psalms) given to Dawud; "to David we gave the book of Pslams," and the Injil. If Allah gave all of these to mankind, then they must have needed them, not just the Qur'an.

Additionally, Muslims follow the Hadith and Sunnah because Muhammad is a role model to them, so they read the details of his practices to learn how to be good Muslims.

In conclusion, I believe that Muslims need multiple sources of authority, otherwise why would Allah have provided them? Together the teachings of all the holy books and the Imams or Caliphs provides suitable authority for Muslims.

Answer C

This response is about the expected length (231 words) and is well argued with clear chains of reasoning. The points made on both sides of the argument are fully focussed on the question set, and are well developed, and the response makes good use of a range of evidence. The conclusion leads on from the reasoning and comes to an overall judgement based on the evidence that has been presented.

Level 4, 12 marks

SPaG – 3 marks. This response fully meets the criteria for high performance. Clear meaning and control throughout with good use of specialist terms and high accuracy in spelling and grammar.

0	2	.	5
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'The Friday prayer (Jumma) is more important than the daily prayers.' Evaluate this statement.

[12 marks]

In your answer you should:

- refer to Muslim teaching
- give reasoned arguments to support this statement
- give reasoned arguments to support a different point of view
- reach a justified conclusion.

Answer A

The Jumma prayer is a important prayer in Islam because it is different from a daily prayer and more important. Allah made the Jumma prayer a sacred prayer for Muslims and a prayer that is obligatory for Muslims.

However, one may argue that all daily prayers as a collective (salah) are equally as important because it is a way of connecting with Allah and reaching out to him each day to become closer and more attached with Allah.

Moreover, if for some reason a Muslim was finding it difficult to find tome to pray 5 times each day then it is important that they at least do the Jumma prayer each Friday.

In conclusion it is important to pray 5 times each day however, if for some reason a lesser jihad occurs then it is almost vital to still do a Jumma prayer.

Answer A

This response includes a brief argument in support of the statement and a brief counter argument. Both sides lack detail and development, and religious arguments are general and not fully applied. Due to lack of development the best fit for this response is mid-level 2.

Level 2, 5 marks

Answer B

Some Muslims may agree with this statement as they believe that the Friday prayer Jummah could be more important as it takes place in the holy place the mosque so therefore it may mean more as God's presence will be in the mosque. Some Muslims may also say that it is not always necessary to pray daily as in the Qur'an it says "do not pray if you do not have the faith" showing that prayer on Fridays may be better than praying daily as sometimes we can lose the faith.

However some Muslims may say that daily prayer is more important than the Friday prayer because daily prayer shows moral self-discipline and commitment to God. Some Muslims may also say that daily prayer help to communicate with God at all times and stay focused on God and Friday prayer is just extra prayers with a community of people.

To conclude I think that Friday prayers are important as it takes place in a mosque and Muslims may feel the presence of God. However, I think daily prayers are just as important as it keeps Muslims focussed on God and allows constant communication with God.

Answer B

This response shows a reasoned consideration of two points of view. Although at times the expression seems a little repetitive, some valid arguments are made on both sides. For example, the idea of prayer in the mosque being a holy place in the first sentence. However, the second sentence lacks clarity. Overall, due to some lack of clarity and somewhat limited application of religious beliefs to the issue the best fit is Level 3.

Level 3, 8 marks

Answer C

This is believed by Muslims because the Friday prayer is the whole community coming together. This unity is written about in the Qur'an and must be followed, so by the gathering for Jummah it is pleasing Allah; which is the aim for all Muslims. Also, this prayer of Friday Jummah, people do a ritual of washing before they pray. This is metaphorically washing away their sins to be able to speak with Allah when they pray. During Jummah, the congregation are able to give to charity which is one of the 5 Pillars of Islam. This means that is important to all Muslims. Therefore it is very important for Muslims to attend. Although it is only compulsory for men, both are encouraged to attend.

On the other hand, daily prayer is important because the whole world of Muslims are awake and praying towards the holy place of Mecca, this means that all Muslims become united by this bond. Therefore, making daily prayer (salah) is more important to Muslims. Also daily prayer is one of the 5 Pillars of Islam. These must be followed by all Muslims. Therefore it is more important than Jummah.

In conclusion, I believe that, as someone who is not a Muslim, that daily prayer is more important as it is done more often therefore God can see you trying to be a good Muslim more often. Therefore Allah believes you are a better Muslim.

Answer C

This response is about the expected length (238 words). It is generally well argued with consideration of different points of view and effective application of key beliefs such as the Five Pillars. The counter argument in the second paragraph is weaker than the argument in support, however logical reasoning is demonstrated. The conclusion makes a valid judgement, although the final sentence does not enhance the judgement.

Level 4, 11 marks

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