

**CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS**  
GCE Advanced Subsidiary Level

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## **MARK SCHEME for the October/November 2012 series**

### **8053 ISLAMIC STUDIES**

**8053/01**

Paper 1, maximum raw mark 100

This mark scheme is published as an aid to teachers and candidates, to indicate the requirements of the examination. It shows the basis on which Examiners were instructed to award marks. It does not indicate the details of the discussions that took place at an Examiners' meeting before marking began, which would have considered the acceptability of alternative answers.

Mark schemes should be read in conjunction with the question paper and the Principal Examiner Report for Teachers.

Cambridge will not enter into discussions about these mark schemes.

Cambridge is publishing the mark schemes for the October/November 2012 series for most IGCSE, GCE Advanced Level and Advanced Subsidiary Level components and some Ordinary Level components.

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### Section A

- 1 Explain how the Prophet Muhammad's early proclamations presented a challenge to the beliefs of the people of Mecca. [2]

Basic answers will describe the main outline of the Prophet's difficulties at the hands of the Meccans.

Fuller answers will refer to the themes of his proclamations and contrast them with the beliefs of the Meccans.

More advanced answers will mention the potential religious threats to the Meccan cults and also the economic threat to income from pilgrims.

The fullest answers elaborate on the nature of these threats and show confidence in explaining them.

- 2 (a) Outline the relations in Medina between the Muslims and:

(i) the 'hypocrites' (*munafiqun*)

(ii) the Jewish tribes. [12]

- (b) Explain the importance of the people of Medina in the early years of Islam. [8]

(a) Basic answers will identify the situation in Medina in the years following the hijra. Fuller answers will give some factual details of the ways in which the Muslims engaged with the other groups.

More advanced answers will elaborate on these details.

The fullest answers will add details about the threat posed by the two groups to the Muslim community.

(b) Basic answers will give brief factual details about the groups in Medina at the time of the Prophet.

Fuller answers will refer to the activities of the Helpers, *ansar*.

More advanced answers will attempt to explain how social stability, financial security and moral backing strengthened the developments of Islam.

The fullest answers will discuss these features confidently and fully.

- 3 (a) Explain why Abu Bakr thought it necessary to resist the false prophets who rose up in his time. [10]

(b) Describe the main ways in which 'Umar established the foundations of the Islamic state. [10]

(a) Basic answers will give elementary facts.

Fuller answers will add full factual details.

More advanced answers will refer to the religious and social threat from the false prophets.

The fullest answers will explain how the Muslim state relied on the authority of the Prophet Muhammad and his teachings, could not allow any rivals.

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- (b) Basic answers will give outline details.  
Fuller answers will give accurate facts.  
More advanced answers will give some explanation of how ‘Umar’s arrangements had knit the state together.  
The fullest answers will show how his introductions laid the foundations of institutions that later became central in Islam.

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### Section B

4 (a) Outline the main stages of the collection of the Qur'an under the caliphs Abu Bakr and 'Uthman. [8]

(b) Explain why the early Muslims thought they should make a written copy of the Qur'an. [8]

(a) Basic answers will give outline details.  
Fuller answers will give accurate facts, including names and dates.  
More advanced answers will give a full and accurate account.  
The fullest answers will refer in detail to the parts played by key individuals, e.g. Hafsa, Zayd ibn Thabit.

(b) Basic answers will show signs of an attempt at an explanation.  
Fuller answers will begin to discuss the difficulties of preserving the Qur'an in the circumstances of the early Islamic state.  
More advanced answers will refer to problems such as different articulations of the text.  
The fullest answers will discuss the virtues of memorisation and of a written record.

5 (a) Outline the main themes of Surah al-Fatihah. [10]

(b) How far do these themes sum up the main teachings of the Qur'an? [10]

(a) Basic answers will give outline details.  
Fuller answers will base details on particular verses.  
More advanced answers will identify the themes in doctrinal terms (e.g. the oneness and lordship of God)  
The fullest answers will link the themes to the Qur'an as a whole.

(b) Basic answers will show only faint signs of linking the sura with the Qur'an as a whole.  
Fuller answers will be able to make a few links.  
More advanced answers will both identify the themes in the sura and link them with main themes in the Qur'an.  
The fullest answers will discuss the extent to which the sura represents the Qur'an as a whole.

6 Explain the importance of the Qur'an in the beliefs and practices of Muslims today. [20]

Basic answers will state the fact of importance, and begin to describe how Muslims make use of the Qur'an.

Fuller answers will give concrete factual details about the use of the Qur'an.

More advanced answers will refer to the centrality of the Qur'an in individual and communal life.

The fullest answers will show how Muslim life can only retain its identity if the Qur'an is kept central.

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### Section C

- 7 Explain how practising any two of the Five Pillars of Islam is intended to redress inequalities in Muslim society. [2]

Basic answers will refer to the Five Pillars and what they involve.

Fuller answers will identify the two chosen Pillars and describe how they are put into practice.

More advanced answers will show how the chosen Pillars alert Muslims to others in society.

The fullest answers will explain in detail how the practices make rich aware of poor, powerful aware of powerless, etc. and prompt believers to action.

- 8 (a) Describe the distinctive features of:

(i) a Muslim marriage ceremony

(ii) a Muslim funeral. [12]

- (b) How far do these observances express the principles of early Islam? [8]

(a) Basic answers will describe these observances.

Fuller answers will give accurate details of them.

More advanced answers will identify the characteristically Muslim features.

The fullest answers will link these features with the Qur'an or Sunnah.

(b) Basic answers will show recognition that these practices derive from early precedents.

Fuller answers will refer generally to actual early practices.

More advanced answers will make specific references to the practice of the Prophet.

The fullest answers will attempt to discuss how far early Muslim practice forms the basis of the contemporary forms of observance.

- 9 (a) Outline any four ways in which a Muslim's daily living embodies the example of the Prophet Muhammad. [12]

- (b) How would a Muslim explain the principle of commanding good and prohibiting wrong? [8]

(a) Basic answers will describe one or two examples.

Fuller answers will give up to four examples.

More advanced answers will show signs of identifying the prophetic basis of the practice.

The fullest answers will make clear links between the four examples and the Prophet.

(b) Basic answers will recognise this as a Qur'an-based principle.

Fuller answers will show signs of understanding what it is.

More advanced answers will show signs of linking it to social responsibility.

The fullest answers will explain how Muslims are enjoined to be proactive in upholding the structures of society.

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Section D

10 By what means can the fundamental teachings of Islam be made fresh as new situations arise? [20]

Basic answers will allude to such general matters as what the fundamental teachings are, and the need to follow them.

Fuller answers will refer to the comprehensive nature of Islam, and its relevance to all contexts, possibly stating that the Qur'an and Sunnah contain everything to guide a Muslim.

More advanced answers will attempt to bring in the Sunnah as a means of interpreting the Qur'an, and *ijma'* and *qiyas* as further means of applying the traditional teachings in new circumstances.

The fullest answers will give examples, and may refer to the concept of *ijtihad* and explain how it is exercised.

11 Explain the difference between the Sunnah and the Qur'an for legal purposes. [20]

Basic answers will place the Sunnah together with the Qur'an as a source of legal thinking.

Fuller answers will begin to show how the Sunnah amplifies the Qur'an.

More advanced answers will allude to the example of the jurist al-Shafi'i and his teachings about the agreement between the Qur'an and Sunnah, and how the Sunnah is a reliable source of interpretation of the Qur'an.

The fullest answers will set out a full discussion of the use of the Sunnah in relation to the Qur'an, and give relevant examples.

12 (a) Write an account of the legal principles of consensus (*ijma'*) and analogy (*qiyas*). [12]

(b) How easily can they be put into practice in Muslim societies today? [8]

(a) Basic answers will show some awareness of these two principles.

Fuller answers will attempt to identify them with some accuracy.

More advanced answers will begin to demonstrate how they are employed in relation to the Qur'an and Sunnah.

The fullest answers will present a comprehensive description of the principles themselves and the ways they are used.

(b) Basic answers will show the beginning of understanding of what the principles are.

Fuller answers will begin to describe how they function.

More advanced answers will begin to outline the possibilities of making use of them, e.g. by identifying the body that could reach a consensus in any circumstance (legal experts in a country?).

The fullest answers will explain how they might be employed, but also refer to the problems of applying them in a global society.