

CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS

GCE Advanced Level

MARK SCHEME for the October/November 2013 series

9013 ISLAMIC STUDIES

9013/23

Paper 2, 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 2013 series for most IGCSE, GCE Advanced Level and Advanced Subsidiary Level components and some Ordinary Level components.

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Section A

- 1 Account for the immense military and political success of the Umayyad dynasty in the century of their rule. [20]**

Basic answers will show only an elementary understanding of the factors involved in Umayyad success.

Fuller answers will show awareness of a range of factors, but will be undeveloped in detail.

More advanced answers will develop the various factors.

The fullest answers will present a full range of factors, and show clear signs of ability to discriminate between them.

- 2 Can the ‘Abbasids’ overthrow of the Umayyads be attributed to any single individual? Give reasons to support your answer. [20]**

Basic answers will give descriptions of the events that led to the overthrow of the Umayyads.

Fuller answers will show deeper understanding and will refer to some of the main factors and individual participants.

More advanced answers will introduce references to the last Umayyad caliphs, al-saffah and Abu Muslim.

The fullest answers will present a range of reasons and should evaluate the role of Abu Muslim.

- 3 Compare the cultural and intellectual achievements of the Umayyads between 661 and 750 and the ‘Abbasids’ between 750 and 850. [20]**

Basic answers will give only outline factual information of an elementary nature.

Fuller answers will identify some achievements in each period.

More advanced answers will give details of the main achievements and offer some comparison.

The fullest answers will detail the main achievements, with examples (e.g. legal advances, poetry, Hadith collections, architecture, *kalam*), and will compare the two periods to show their respective merits.

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Section B

- 4 'Al-Shafi'i was the greatest legal mind of the early Islamic period.' Discuss this opinion. [20]**

Basic answers will describe early Islamic legal developments with some references to al-Shafi'i. Fuller answers will show awareness of other leading legal scholars, but without development in detail.

More advanced answers will identify leading figures, and discuss their respective methods in legal thinking.

The fullest answers will show in detail the methods of the four leaders of the main law schools and compare them in order to support a full response to the claim in the question.

- 5 Comparing the methods used by the collectors of the six canonical collections of Hadith and earlier Hadith collectors, explain how the six canonical collections can claim to be reliable. [20]**

Basic answers will give some details about the collections made in the early period.

Fuller answers will begin to identify differences between the *sahih* collectors and earlier collectors, including care taken in collecting Hadiths and concern for accuracy.

More advanced answers will give details about the methods employed by the *sahih* collectors, and will compare their collections with earlier collections.

The fullest answers will explain how the methods used by the *sahih* collectors were advances on earlier equivalents and will explore the issue of reliability.

- 6 The Mu'tazilah emphasised the importance of human reason as a source of knowledge. Why did many Muslims oppose them in this? [20]**

Basic answers will give general information about the Mu'tazilah.

Fuller answers will begin to address the issue of their use of reason and the challenge to the Qur'an implied in this.

More advanced answers will explore the problem of reason challenging the authority on the Qur'an in more detail.

The fullest answers will show how the use of reason by the Mu'tazilah threatened to relegate the Qur'an to secondary status and may introduce figures such as Ahmad ibn Hanbal.

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Section C

- 7 Consider the main differences between the position of *Khalifah* in Sunni thought and *Imam* in Shi'i thought? [20]**

Basic answers will give elementary descriptions of the two positions.

Fuller answers will give descriptions that begin to outline the differences and similarities between the two positions.

More advanced answers will show similarities and differences in detail, and will begin to explain the reasons for this.

The fullest answers will provide comprehensive accounts of the similarities and differences between them.

- 8 (a) Outline the main features of a Sufi *tariqah*. [5]**

Basic answers will give a few facts.

Fuller answers will give a few more features, but unelaborated.

More advanced answers will identify features such as the *silsilah*, the form of *dhikhr*, and the relationships between the members.

The fullest answers will describe the main features comprehensively.

- (b) In the *tariqah*, describe the relationship between the *shaykh* (also known as the *murshid*) and the *murid*. [5]**

Basic answers will contain elementary accounts of who these are.

Fuller answers will identify the master and pupil and their respective roles.

More advanced answers will give fuller details about the relationship.

The fullest answers will explain the functions of the figures and the relationship between them in detail.

- (c) Explain why *fana'* ('passing away') is the aim of the majority of Sufis. [10]**

Basic answers will show only a weak understanding of this concept.

Fuller answers will identify *fana'* with some accuracy.

More advanced answers will explain the concept and its centrality in Sufi beliefs.

The fullest answers will give comprehensive accounts of the move towards passing away.

- 9 With reference to one or more major experts, explain the main aims of Islamic philosophy. [20]**

Basic answers will give some facts about philosophy and may identify a few names.

Fuller answers will begin to say what philosophy was and refer in detail to leading individuals.

More advanced answers will address the main issue of the question in some detail.

The fullest answers will focus on one or more philosophers and explain their intentions to introduce Greek thinking into Islam, or to explore the nature of the observed world, or to understand the nature of the relationship between God (the One) and the creation.

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Section D

- 10 Write an account of the main contributions to Islamic religious and political thought of any two of the following: Hasan al-Banna', Muhammad Iqbal, Abu A'la al-Mawdudi. [20]**

Basic answers will give some facts about the two scholars.

Fuller answers will begin to describe the main points of their teachings.

More advanced answers will give detailed accounts of their teachings and identify the main religious and political elements in them.

The fullest answers will give confident and coherent accounts of their teachings and may make some comparisons.

- 11 (a) Outline the main teachings of the Qur'an about relations between Muslims and people of other faiths. [10]**

Basic answers will sketch out in general relevant teachings of the Qur'an.

Fuller answers will give specific teachings and may include references to groups or communities.

More advanced answers will begin to show how the Qur'an refers to other communities in relation to Islam.

The fullest answers will give specific details and may include quotations or references to particular verses.

- (b) Choosing a country that you know, explain how far these teachings can guide Muslims today in their relations with others. [10]**

Basic answers will give elementary descriptions of relations.

Fuller answers will show awareness of relations in some detail.

More advanced answers will begin to show evidence of how Muslims can be guided by the Qur'an in relating to others.

The fullest answers will offer comprehensive accounts of specific ways in which the Qur'an influences Muslims in relating to others and will include examples.

- 12 'In Islam, women are less important than men.' Give reasons to support or reject this statement. [20]**

Basic answers will show some evidence of addressing the claim in the question.

Fuller answers will contain discussions about the relationship between the sexes as set out in the Qur'an.

More advanced answers will evaluate the aspects of the claim and come to a judgement, with evidence from the Qur'an.

The fullest answers will present nuanced discussions about the merits of the claim, with specific references to the Qur'an and maybe to Islamic scholars, and give a clear judgement.