

**Advanced Subsidiary GCE
GCE RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

Unit G578: AS Islam

Specimen Paper

Additional Materials: Answer Booklet (...pages)

G578 QP

Morning/Afternoon

Time: 1 hour 30 minutes



INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- Answer **two** questions.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

- The number of marks for each question is given in brackets [] at the end of each question or part of question.
- The total number of marks for this paper is **70**.

ADVICE TO CANDIDATES

- Read each question carefully and make sure you know what you have to do before starting your answer.

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This document consists of **2** printed pages.

Answer **two** questions.

- 1 (a) Explain the importance and authority of the Qur'an in Muslim life. [25]
(b) 'A holy book should be translated so that all believers can understand it.'
Discuss with reference to Islam. [10]
- 2 (a) Explain the theology of the hajj. [25]
(b) To what extent is it true that all parts of the hajj are equally important? [10]
- 3 (a) Explain the role of the Imam as a teacher of Islam. [25]
(b) Assess the claim that 'Muslim communities would benefit by having female Imams.' [10]
- 4 (a) Explain how sawm shows devotion to Allah. [25]
(b) 'Sawm is more about uniting the Muslim community than about showing devotion to Allah.'
Discuss. [10]

Paper Total [70]

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The maximum mark for this paper is 70.

SPECIMEN

Band	Mark /25	AO1	Mark /10	AO2
0	0	absent/no relevant material	0	absent/no argument
1	1-5	<p>almost completely ignores the question</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> little relevant material some concepts inaccurate shows little knowledge of technical terms <p>Communication: often unclear or disorganised</p>	1-2	<p>very little argument or justification of viewpoint</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> little or no successful analysis <p>Communication: often unclear or disorganised</p>
2	6-10	<p>focuses on the general topic rather than directly on the question</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> knowledge limited and partially accurate limited understanding selection often inappropriate limited use of technical terms <p>Communication: some clarity and organisation</p>	3-4	<p>an attempt to sustain an argument and justify a viewpoint</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> some analysis, but not successful views asserted but not successfully justified <p>Communication: some clarity and organisation</p>
3	11-15	<p>satisfactory attempt to address the question</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> some accurate knowledge appropriate understanding some successful selection of material some accurate use of technical terms <p>Communication: some clarity and organisation</p>	5-6	<p>the argument is sustained and justified</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> some successful analysis which may be implicit <p>Communication: some clarity and organisation</p>
4	16-20	<p>a good attempt to address the question</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> accurate knowledge good understanding good selection of material technical terms mostly accurate <p>Communication: generally clear and organised</p>	7-8	<p>a good attempt at using evidence to sustain an argument</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> some successful and clear analysis might put more than one point of view <p>Communication: generally clear and organised</p>
5	21-25	<p>an excellent attempt to address the question showing understanding and engagement with the material</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> very high level of ability to select and deploy relevant information accurate use of technical terms <p>Communication: answer is well constructed and organised</p>	9-10	<p>an excellent attempt which uses a range of evidence to sustain an argument</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> comprehends the demands of the question shows understanding and critical analysis of different viewpoints <p>Communication: answer is well constructed and organised</p>

Question Number	Answer	Max Mark
1(a)	<p>Explain the importance and authority of the Qur'an in Muslim life.</p> <p>In explaining the importance of the Qur'an, candidates are likely to include examples from all facets of individual and community life including the respect shown to the Qur'an and its use in Muslim worship.</p> <p>The Qur'an's importance and authority might be linked with the message it contains about Allah, the last judgement and the straight path to paradise.</p> <p>Good responses are likely to focus on the Qur'an not simply as a revealed book but as the eternal revelation which previously was corrupted but is now in its final form. The heavenly original is 'the mother of the book'; the authority is not just of Muhammad ﷺ the last prophet but of the very words of Allah.</p> <p>The best responses are likely to reflect a sound understanding of Muslim attitudes to the Qur'an.</p>	[25]
1(b)	<p>'A holy book should be translated so that all believers can understand it.' Discuss with reference to Islam.</p> <p>Candidates might approach this question from a variety of equally valid angles.</p> <p>Good discussions are likely to distinguish between the Qur'an in Arabic used by Muslims in worship and the interpretations which are translated into other languages for educational purposes.</p> <p>Candidates are likely to assess the reasons why the Qur'an remains in Arabic e.g. the Qur'an is the revealed words of Allah; the heavenly original, the 'mother of the book' is eternal and the inimitability of the Arabic text is considered to be proof of its divine authorship, the miracle which confirms the role of Muhammad ﷺ and the veracity of Islam.</p>	[10]

Question Number	Answer	Max Mark
2(a)	<p>Explain the theology of the hajj.</p> <p>The Qur'an calls Muslims to 'complete the Hajj or 'Umrah in the service of Allah' and there might be a number of equally valid but different approaches to the question.</p> <p>Candidates may use the opportunity to show their understanding of the relative significance of the places on the pilgrimage. The better responses are likely to be those which select material about this act of ibadah to directly address the question.</p> <p>The best responses are likely to explain that the journey from the first declaration of niyyah through the countless proclamations of the Talbiyah is for the glory of Allah not for the glory of the pilgrim.</p> <p>Some may explain that Muslims believe that the Ka'bah, the Baitullah, lies directly below the throne of Allah and is the place where Allah began creating the world and Muhammad ﷺ was restoring traditions which go back to Ibrahim, Ishmael and to Adam.</p>	[25]
2(b)	<p>To what extent is it true that all parts of the hajj are equally important?</p> <p>Candidates are free to come to any conclusion but discussions should be based on accurate information.</p> <p>Answers are likely to build on material used in part a).</p> <p>Good discussions are likely to show awareness of the fact that the essential parts of the Hajj are the four rites which are obligatory in the Qur'an: putting on Ihram, circling the Ka'bah, going to Arafat and making the last tawaf on the return.</p>	[10]

Question Number	Answer	Max Mark
3(a)	<p>Explain the role of the Imam as a teacher of Islam.</p> <p>Responses might include explanations of the Imam's role in leading the worship, particularly on Friday, including the khutbah, and of the responsibilities of teaching in the madrassah.</p> <p>Candidates may explain that the role is not that of a priest nor of any hierarchical structure but is integral to the functioning of the Ummah and the application of Muslim ethics and Qur'anic teaching.</p> <p>Candidates may refer to the Shi'ah Muslim use of the word 'Imam' and this is acceptable but not essential.</p> <p>Good explanations are likely to comment on the learning and qualities expected of an Imam and to be based on awareness of the centuries of Islamic scholarship as well as the Qur'anic emphasis on 'ilm' (knowledge). Following on from this, candidates might explain that the importance of the pursuit of knowledge for every Muslim is essential to a just society and that education is regarded by many Muslims as particularly important in relating Islam to contemporary world issues.</p>	[25]
3(b)	<p>Assess the claim that 'Muslim communities would benefit by having female Imams.'</p> <p>The discussions are likely to be based on points explained in the first part of the question concerning the role of the Imam.</p> <p>Good responses are likely to be those which address the wording of the question in particular.</p> <p>Better responses may consider the practicalities, possible advantages and potential problems without too much of the debate, except where relevant, about the role of Muslim women and the rights granted in Islam over 1,500 years ago as contrasted with the oppressive injustice of some traditional cultural practices and ethnic customs.</p>	[10]

Question Number	Answer	Max Mark
<p>4(a)</p>	<p>Explain how sawm shows devotion to Allah.</p> <p>Good explanations will demonstrate accurate factual knowledge about fasting in the lunar month of Ramadan.</p> <p>Candidates might explain that for example observing this pillar of Islam is a daunting effort involving physical abstinence from food, drink, smoking and sexual activity and it involves also refraining from bad thoughts, speech and actions.</p> <p>Candidates may explain that, for Muslims, the intention of fasting must be totally sincere if the fast is to be valid because the discipline is not simply about self control (though that is one reason given in the Qur'an); nor is it simply about learning to appreciate Allah's gifts and showing compassion towards the needy; observing sawm is an exercise in ibadah, obedience, as part of worship, commitment, submission and devotion to Allah.</p> <p>The best responses are likely to focus on selecting and using the information to address the wording of the question.</p>	<p>[25]</p>
<p>(b)</p>	<p>'Sawm is more about uniting the Muslim community than about showing devotion to Allah.' Discuss.</p> <p>Discussions are likely to follow on from the purposes of and the effects on the individual explained in the first part of the question.</p> <p>Candidates are likely to explore the ways in which sawm also is intended to and does strengthen the worldwide Ummah not merely in shared experience and practical provision but in contributing to the concept of spiritual unity and cohesive communal solidarity which is the hallmark of Islam.</p> <p>Candidates might come to a conclusion in favour of or against the statement or might conclude that observing sawm is another example of the interrelation in Islam of the individual and the community.</p>	<p>[10]</p>
Paper Total		[70]

Assessment Objectives Grid (includes QWC)

Question	AO1	AO2	Total
1(a)	25		25
1(b)		10	10
2(a)	25		25
2(b)		10	10
3(a)	25		25
3(b)		10	10
4(a)	25		25
4(b)		10	10
Totals	50	20	70

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