

**Advanced GCE
GCE RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

Unit G588: A2 Islam

Specimen Paper

Additional Materials: Answer Booklet (...pages)

G588 QP

Morning/Afternoon

Time: 1 hour and 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.

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

Answer **two** questions.

- 1 To what extent are the origins of Shi'a Islam reflected in Shi'a beliefs and practices? [35]
- 2 'Muhammad**D** was a Sufi.' Discuss. [35]
- 3 'Jihad is the sixth pillar of Islam'. Discuss. [35]
- 4 Assess the role and significance of ijti had in establishing Muslim ethical values. [35]

Paper Total [70]

The maximum mark for this paper is 70.

SPECIMEN

Band	Mark / 21	AO1	Mark / 14	AO2
0	0	absent / no relevant material	0	absent / no argument
1	1-5	almost completely ignores the question <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • little relevant material • some concepts inaccurate • shows little knowledge of technical terms Communication: often unclear or disorganised	1-3	very little argument or justification of viewpoint <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • little or no successful analysis Communication: often unclear or disorganised
2	6-9	focuses on the general topic rather than directly on the question <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • knowledge limited and partially accurate • limited understanding • selection often inappropriate • limited use of technical terms Communication: some clarity and organisation	4-6	an attempt to sustain an argument and justify a viewpoint <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • some analysis, but not successful • views asserted but not successfully justified Communication: some clarity and organisation
3	10-13	satisfactory attempt to address the question <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • some accurate knowledge • appropriate understanding • some successful selection of material • some accurate use of technical terms Communication: some clarity and organisation	7-8	the argument is sustained and justified <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • some successful analysis which may be implicit Communication: some clarity and organisation
4	14-17	a good attempt to address the question <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • accurate knowledge • good understanding • good selection of material • technical terms mostly accurate Communication: generally clear and organised	9-11	a good attempt at using evidence to sustain an argument <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • some successful and clear analysis • might put more than one point of view Communication: generally clear and organised
5	18-21	an excellent attempt to address the question showing understanding and engagement with the material <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • very high level of ability to select and deploy relevant information • accurate use of technical terms Communication: answer is well constructed and organised	12-14	an excellent attempt which uses a range of evidence to sustain an argument <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • comprehends the demands of the question • shows understanding and critical analysis of different viewpoints Communication: answer is well constructed and organised

Question Number	Answer	Max Mark
1	<p>To what extent are the origins of Shi'a Islam reflected in Shi'a beliefs and practices?</p> <p>AO1 Responses are likely to include some explanation of the leadership dispute which led to the original split in Islam.</p> <p>Any belief or practice is acceptable if made relevant to the question e.g. Shi'a Muslims are allowed to pretend to be either Sunnis or Christians if this will prevent them from being persecuted and the lie will not be a sin. This is called taqiyya.</p> <p>Candidates may give examples to illustrate what they may see as principles of extreme zeal e.g. Shi'a Muslims are not allowed to eat any food prepared by Jews or Christians.</p> <p>Good responses are likely to focus on the importance of the Imamate, ziyara, minor pilgrimages to the tombs of the Imams and extra festivals especially the commemoration of the martyrdom of Husayn during Muharram.</p> <p>AO2 Good discussions will keep the question in mind throughout and should include beliefs and practices.</p> <p>Some may consider loyalty to the ahl-al-bayt – the house of the Prophet – is at the heart of Shi'a belief and practice and this leads to other beliefs and practices which may therefore be traced back to the original situation e.g. some Shi'a Muslims include 'Hazrat Ali is the friend of Allah' in the Shahadah, they reject the authority of the first four khalifahs and they believe there is secret knowledge hidden in the Qur'an passed down from Ali through the Imams who had special divine authority.</p> <p>Some may mention that Shi'a Muslims are about ten per cent of modern Muslims but rapidly growing in developing countries and candidates may link this growth to the attempt to return to fundamental values.</p>	[35]
2	<p>'Muhammad was a Sufi.' Discuss.</p> <p>AO1 Responses are likely to begin with a brief explanation of Sufism. Candidates have studied the life of Muhammad and there are many incidents which might be explained and used to make a parallel with Sufism.</p> <p>Candidates may explain that Sufis themselves claim that Muhammad was a Sufi and some Muslims of other traditions see Sufism as an integral part of Islam.</p> <p>Some may select the prayer practices of Muhammad and his visions are the likeliest starting point for discussion.</p>	

Question Number	Answer	Max Mark
2 cont'd	<p>Some candidates may explain that Sufis would claim that, though the revelations to the Prophet and his role are unique, the practice of the contemplation of Allah, hunger and abstinence constitute the same spiritual discipline which Sufis still follow to attain mystical experiences.</p> <p>AO2 Some candidates may suggest that Muslims question the motives of seeking union with God by fana and see this Sufi practice as a distortion of Islam in that it can be an arrogant quest even though the whole idea is meant to be annihilation of the self.</p> <p>Candidates are free to come to any conclusion, the quality of their discussion is the most important factor.</p> <p>Good responses are likely to try in their discussions to balance their selection of examples or try to prioritise them to address the extent to which a case might be made that the statement is true or false.</p>	[35]

Question Number	Answer	Max Mark
3	<p>‘Jihad is the sixth pillar of Islam.’ Discuss.</p> <p>AO1 The Five Pillars have some relevance and candidates may demonstrate a wider understanding of these but this should not be the main focus of their response.</p> <p>Candidates are likely to show some understanding of the wider theological context of the five pillars.</p> <p>Candidates are likely to begin by taking the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding about lesser and greater Jihad.</p> <p>Good responses are likely to explain that greater Jihad includes observance of all the Five Pillars.</p> <p>AO2 The view under discussion is a comment made in some text books.</p> <p>Jihad is not the sixth pillar and good responses are likely to point out that the Five Pillars are immutable.</p> <p>Despite this, a case might be made that Jihad is treated as the sixth pillar and that for some Muslims total commitment to lesser Jihad makes them martyrs for the faith and for all Muslims greater Jihad is inextricably part of Islamic life.</p>	[35]
4	<p>Assess the role and significance of ijthihad in establishing Muslim ethical values.</p> <p>AO1 Answering this question is likely to entail an explanation of the primary and secondary sources of authority in Islam as a basis for Muslim life.</p> <p>Candidates are likely to explain that there is a distinction between Shari’ah rules based on revelation (wahy) and those known as fiqh which are based on human reason (aql).</p> <p>Shari’ah rules are derived from the Qur’an and Sunnah but Ijma’, (consensus), qiyas, (analogy -which is really a form of parallels and precedent) and ijthihad provide rulings on areas of uncertainty.</p> <p>Candidates are likely to explain that the word ijthihad technically means enterprise or intellectual exertion but it is only a means to consensus not an invitation to free thinking on the basis of conscience. Historically, after the first three centuries, fiqh became set with four main law schools (Hanifite, Malikite, Shafi’ite and Hanbalite) using their accepted precedents.</p>	

Question Number	Answer	Max Mark
4 cont'd	<p>AO2 Discussion may take into account factors such as: in modern times all kinds of experts are consulted on matters which affect the ummah, not merely scholars of the Shari'ah.</p> <p>Candidates are likely to argue that the significance of Ijtihad lies in its potential to cope with times of change and how far the ummah is prepared to use it. Muslim scholars debate whether the door is closed or open.</p> <p>Candidates may argue that since the occultation of the last imam (according to the majority of Shi'ites) in 874 CE, Shi'ite jurists make decisions on his behalf. This presents another issue for the future of Islam.</p>	[35]
Paper Total		[70]

Assessment Objectives Grid (includes QWC)

Question	AO1	AO2	Total
1	21	14	35
2	21	14	35
3	21	14	35
4	21	14	35
Totals	42	28	70

SPECIMEN