

OXFORD AQA

INTERNATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

INTERNATIONAL GCSE

ISLAMIAT

9237/1

Paper 1 Living the Muslim life

Mark scheme

Specimen

Version: 1.0 Final

Mark schemes are prepared by the Lead Assessment Writer and considered, together with the relevant questions, by a panel of subject teachers. This mark scheme includes any amendments made at the standardisation events which all associates participate in and is the scheme which was used by them in this examination. The standardisation process ensures that the mark scheme covers the students' responses to questions and that every associate understands and applies it in the same correct way. As preparation for standardisation each associate analyses a number of students' scripts. Alternative answers not already covered by the mark scheme are discussed and legislated for. If, after the standardisation process, associates encounter unusual answers which have not been raised they are required to refer these to the Lead Examiner.

It must be stressed that a mark scheme is a working document, in many cases further developed and expanded on the basis of students' reactions to a particular paper. Assumptions about future mark schemes on the basis of one year's document should be avoided; whilst the guiding principles of assessment remain constant, details will change, depending on the content of a particular examination paper.

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Section A

Islam: Beliefs and teachings

Question	Part	Marking guidance	Total marks
1	1	<p>Name one quality that describes the nature of Allah.</p> <p>One mark for any correct answer given.</p> <p>Possible answers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ar-Rehman</i> (The Most Gracious) • <i>Ar-Raheem</i> (The Merciful) • <i>Al-Khaliq</i> (The Creator) • <i>Al-Waheed</i> (The One) • <i>Al-Wadood</i> (The All-loving) • <i>Al-Ghafoor</i> (The All-forgiving) <p>Note: This indicative content is not exhaustive, other creditworthy responses should be awarded marks as appropriate</p>	<p>1</p> <p>AO1 = 1</p>

Question	Part	Marking guidance	Total marks
1	2	<p>Give two Muslim beliefs about the Prophet Ibraheem (AS).</p> <p>One mark for each correct answer, up to a maximum of two marks.</p> <p>Possible answers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ibraheem (AS) was tested by Allah in many ways. • He fulfilled his test and commands given to him by God, including willingness to sacrifice his son Ismail. • Allah replaced his son with a lamb. • Hazrat Muhammad ﷺ descended from Ibraheem (AS) through his first son Ismail. • He is known as <i>Khaleel ul Allah</i> (friend of Allah). • He destroyed the idols and reinstated monotheistic beliefs. • He performed miracles, for example he was protected by Allah when thrown into the fire. • Ibraheem (AS) rebuilt the <i>Ka'aba</i> with his son Ismail. • Ibraheem (AS) is remembered during some of the rituals of <i>Hajj</i> etc. <p>Note: This indicative content is not exhaustive, other creditworthy responses should be awarded marks as appropriate.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>AO1 = 2</p>

Question	Part	Marking guidance	Total marks
1	3	<p>Explain two reasons why angels are important in Islam.</p> <p>One mark for each reason identified, and one additional mark for a suitable explanation of that reason.</p> <p>A maximum of two marks for each reason.</p> <p>Possible answers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Angels were created of light (1). This shows that they are sinless, pure and allow messages to be sent in their purest form/ the Qur'an describes them as messengers with wings [Qur'an 35:1] (1). • Angels have various roles linked to human beings (1). Jibril (AS) revealed the Qur'an [Qur'an 2:97] showing the importance of their role (1). • Some say angels record the deeds of a person's life in the book (1). This shows their importance as this will be read at the final judgement (1). • Angels serve and praise Allah [Qur'an 21:20] and act as God commands them [Qur'an 21:26–7] (1). This shows that they are always in the obedience of Allah (1). <p>Note: This indicative content is not exhaustive, other creditworthy responses should be awarded marks as appropriate.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>AO1 = 4</p>

Question	Part	Marking guidance	Total marks
1	4	<p>Explain two ways in which the belief in life after death influences Muslims today.</p> <p>Apply one teaching from a source of authority in your answer.</p> <p>When assigning AO1 marks, award one mark for each influence identified, and one additional mark for a suitable explanation of that influence. A maximum of two marks for each influence.</p> <p>When assigning AO2 marks on the application of a source of authority, award:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • one mark for a general, relevant and accurate use of a source of authority. • two marks for a specific, relevant and accurate use of a source of authority which must be applied directly to the question. <p>Points about influence (AO1):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Those who fear punishment in hell are motivated to avoid doing evil (1). For example, they will not drink alcohol, do haram acts (1) • Similarly, those who are wronged have confidence in God’s judgement (1). They will see evil punished and face punishment (1). • Those who look forward to the rewards of the afterlife are motivated to do good and to obey <i>Shariah</i> law (1), they will carry out the pillars (1). • Some welcome death because they are expecting a favourable reward (1). This includes some who are prepared to die as martyrs for their beliefs for the reward in the afterlife (1). <p>Applications of teachings from sources of authority (AO2):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Qur’an teaches that souls will be questioned for what they have done (1). ‘They will dwell amid scorching wind and scalding water in the shadow of black smoke, neither cool nor refreshing’ (Qur’an 56:42-44) which influences Muslims to avoid evil (1). • Islam teaches equality and fairness (1). In the Qur’an Allah says ‘But those who have faith and work for righteousness, they are companions of the garden. Therein shall they abide forever’ (Qur’an 2:82). This encourages Muslims to carry out good deeds (1). • Islam teaches Muslims to prepare for the afterlife (1). The Qur’an warns Muslims about the perils of this day. Allah says ‘On the Day a man will flee from his brother. And his mother and his father. And his wife and his children, For every man, that Day, will be a matter adequate for him. [Some] faces, that Day, will be bright. Laughing, rejoicing at good news. And [other] faces, that Day, will have upon them dust. Blackness will cover them. Those are the disbelievers, the wicked ones’ (Qur’an 80:34-42) (1). <p>Note: This indicative content is not exhaustive, other creditworthy responses should be awarded marks as appropriate.</p>	<p>6</p> <p>AO1 = 4 AO2 = 2</p>

Question	Part	Marking guidance	Total marks															
1	5	<p>‘Hazrat Muhammad’s ﷺ most important message was to worship one God.’</p> <p>Examine why this statement is significant for Muslims.</p> <p>In your answer you should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> use the given passage provide supporting evidence and reasoning. 	12 AO2 = 12															
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<p>Possible answers:</p> <p>Points of significance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worshiping one God is important because it's the core of what Muslims believe. Allah is the only God, with no partners, and Muslims must pray and turn to Him alone. This keeps them away from worshiping idols (<i>Shirk</i>), people, or anything else, making sure their faith stays pure and focused on Allah. • Worshiping one God is important because it shapes how Muslims act every day. Since Allah controls everything, they ask Him for help—like in <i>Salah</i> (prayer) or when life gets hard—instead of trusting in luck or other things. It keeps their lives simple and centered on obeying and depending on just one God. • Worshiping one God is important because it unites Muslims everywhere. Believing in only Allah connects them, no matter their country or culture, and reminds them to treat everyone the same since Allah made all people. It builds a strong community where they feel like one team under one God. <p>Application from the passage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The passage may influence Muslim belief by clearly teaching that Allah is one and only. It says He has no family or anything equal to Him, making it a strong statement about worshiping just Allah. Muslims use it to stay firm in their belief that there's no other god, repeating it often to keep this idea central in their faith. • It may also influence Muslim practices by showing them how to worship properly. They say it in their daily prayers (<i>Salah</i>) to remember Allah is unique and forever, so they pray, give charity, or fast just for Him. It helps them stay away from worshiping anything else, keeping their actions focused on Allah alone. • Finally, it may influence Muslim practices by giving them a way to feel safe and close to Allah. They recite it, for example, before bed or in hard times because the Prophet said it's powerful for protection. It reminds them Allah is the only one to turn to, helping them trust Him and avoid relying on other things. <p>Note: This indicative content is not exhaustive, other creditworthy responses should be awarded marks as appropriate.</p>				

Section B

Islam: Practices

Question	Part	Marking guidance	Total marks
2	1	<p>Name one religious action Muslims perform during the ‘Night of Power’ (<i>Laylat ul-Qadr</i>)</p> <p>One mark for any correct answer given.</p> <p>Possible answers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Praying <i>Taraweeh</i>. • <i>Tahajud</i>, <i>Nafil</i> (voluntary) prayer. • Reciting the Qur’an. • Performing <i>Du’a</i> (supplication). • Giving charity or acts of kindness. • Seeking forgiveness. • Sitting in <i>I’tikaf</i>. • Remembering Allah through <i>Tasbih</i> and <i>Zikr</i>. <p>Note: This indicative content is not exhaustive, other creditworthy responses should be awarded marks as appropriate.</p>	<p>1</p> <p>AO1 = 1</p>

Question	Part	Marking guidance	Total marks
2	2	<p>Give two Muslim beliefs about <i>Zakah</i>.</p> <p>One mark for each correct answer, up to a maximum of two marks.</p> <p>Possible answers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Zakah</i> is paid annually. • It is 2.5% of a Muslim's excess wealth. • It is paid on commodities and animals. • It is paid as it is a direct command of God. • It is not payable for those who do not meet the <i>Zakah</i> threshold (<i>Nisaab</i>). • <i>Zakah</i> helps one appreciate the things that we have. • It makes one value money and spend it appropriately. • It brings people closer to God. • It promotes unity in the <i>Ummah</i>. • It leads to forgiveness of sins and entry to paradise. <p>Note: This indicative content is not exhaustive, other creditworthy responses should be awarded marks as appropriate.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>AO1 = 2</p>

Question	Part	Marking guidance	Total marks
2	3	<p>Explain two ways Muslims celebrate <i>Eid ul-Fitr</i>.</p> <p>One mark for each way identified, and one additional mark for a suitable explanation of that way.</p> <p>A maximum of two marks for each way.</p> <p>Possible answers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rise early and bathe (1), because The Messenger of Allah ﷺ used to have a bath on the day of <i>Fitr</i> – Hadith (1). • Consume food before the <i>Eid</i> prayer (usually dates or a sweet dish) (1). This is because Muhammad ﷺ consumed dates before <i>Eid</i> prayer (1). • Give <i>Zakat ul Fitr</i> before the <i>Eid</i> prayer (1), as this was encouraged by the Prophet ﷺ (1). • Exchange gifts and welcome family and friends/ share in a special meal (1). This signifies the end of Ramadhan (1). • Say special prayers (<i>Takbir Tashreeq</i>) (1) '(He wants that you must complete the same number (of days), and that you must magnify Allah for having guided you so that you may be grateful to Him' (Qur'an 2:185) (1). <p>Note: This indicative content is not exhaustive, other creditworthy responses should be awarded marks as appropriate.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>AO1 = 4</p>

Question	Part	Marking guidance	Total marks
2	4	<p>Explain two reasons why praying <i>Salah</i> is important in Islam.</p> <p>Apply one teaching from a source of authority in your answer.</p> <p>When assigning AO1 marks, award one mark for each reason identified, and one additional mark for a suitable explanation of that reason. A maximum of two marks for each reason.</p> <p>When assigning AO2 marks on the application of a source of authority, award:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • one mark for a general, relevant and accurate use of a source of authority. • two marks for a specific, relevant and accurate use of a source of authority which must be applied directly to the question. <p>Points about importance (AO1):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Salah</i> is one of the Five Pillars of Islam, meaning it is obligatory for all Muslims to complete (1). Prayer brings the <i>Ummah</i> together, especially congregational prayer (1). • It allows Muslims to build a personal relationship with Allah (1). Prayer keeps Muslims in close contact with God and encourages moral and spiritual discipline (1). • It prevents Muslims from committing <i>Shirk</i> (1) and increases <i>Taqwa</i> (1). • It is the key to heaven (1), as the first action a person will be held accountable for on the day of Judgment is <i>Salah</i> (1). <p>Application of teachings from sources of authority (AO2):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Salah</i> is one of the Five Pillars of Islam (1) The Qur'an teaches the importance of <i>Salah</i>: 'So, exalt [Allah] with praise of your Lord and be of those who prostrate [to Him]' (Qur'an 15:98) showing the importance of <i>Salah</i> in Islam (1). • Hazrat Muhammad ﷺ instructed his followers to pray <i>Salah</i> (1). Muhammad ﷺ said in a Hadith (Bukhari) that the first thing to be questioned on the day of judgment is <i>Salah</i>, showing its significance in Islam (1). • <i>Salah</i> brings a person closer to God (1). The Qur'an teaches that 'Allah is near' suggesting that <i>Salah</i> enables a Muslim to build a stronger relationship with Allah (1). <p>Note: This indicative content is not exhaustive, other creditworthy responses should be awarded marks as appropriate.</p>	<p>6</p> <p>AO1 = 4 AO2 = 2</p>

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2	5	<p>‘Entering the state of <i>Ihram</i> and performing <i>Tawaf</i> are important rituals of the <i>Hajj</i> pilgrimage.’</p> <p>Examine why this statement is significant for Muslims.</p> <p>In your answer you should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • use the given passage • provide supporting evidence and reasoning. 	<p>12</p> <p>AO2 = 12</p>															
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		<p>Possible answers:</p> <p>Points of significance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entering <i>Ihram</i> is important for <i>Hajj</i> because it starts a special time of focusing on Allah. Pilgrims wear plain white clothes and say they're ready for <i>Hajj</i>, leaving everyday life behind. This gets them ready in their hearts and minds to worship Allah purely during the pilgrimage. • Entering <i>Ihram</i> is important for <i>Hajj</i> because it shows everyone is equal to Allah. The simple white clothes hide differences like money or rank, so all pilgrims look the same. It reminds them that Allah cares about their faith, not their status, and brings them together as one group for <i>Hajj</i>. • <i>Tawaf</i> is important for <i>Hajj</i> because it is a key act of worship that shows devotion to Allah. Pilgrims walk around the <i>Ka'bah</i> seven times, reciting prayers and remembering Allah's greatness. This action helps them feel close to Him and marks a special moment of connection during the pilgrimage. • <i>Tawaf</i> is important for <i>Hajj</i> because it unites Muslims in a shared ritual. As they circle the <i>Ka'bah</i> together, pilgrims from all over the world join in the same purpose, no matter their background. It reminds them they're part of one big community, all equal and focused on praising Allah. <p>Application of teachings from the passage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The passage highlights the importance of <i>Hajj</i> as a sacred duty that requires discipline and trust in Allah. It teaches Muslims that true faith means practicing self-control and good behaviour, knowing that Allah sees and rewards their efforts. • This passage also guides Muslim behaviour during <i>Hajj</i>, encouraging peace, prayer, and remembrance of Allah, especially at key sites like Arafat and the Holy Mosque. It also allows work and trade, as long as pilgrims remain grateful for Allah's guidance. • Another implication is that <i>Ihram</i> teaches self-discipline and spiritual focus during <i>Hajj</i>. Pilgrims must avoid arguments, bad behaviour, and certain worldly activities, helping them practice patience and devotion to Allah. This reinforces the idea that <i>Hajj</i> is not just a physical journey but also a test of character and faith. <p>Note: This indicative content is not exhaustive, other creditworthy responses should be awarded marks as appropriate.</p>			