

# OxfordAQA

# International GCSE

## GCSE Islamiat (9237)

### Paper 1

## Example responses (Additional specimen)

For teaching from September 2025 onwards  
For International GCSE exams in May/June 2026 onwards

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# Introduction

This guide includes examples of responses to questions from Paper 1 of the Additional Specimen Assessment Materials for International GCSE Islamiat (9237).

These questions are presented with responses and commentary from a senior examiner.

# Assessment Objectives

The exams will measure how students have achieved the following assessment objectives:

- AO1: Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of religion, beliefs and practices, including:
  - the importance of beliefs, practices, and sources of authority (Qur'an and Hadith)
  - the key events in the history of Islam
  - their influence and impact on individuals, communities, and society
  - how beliefs and practices are observed.
- AO2: Examine aspects of religious beliefs, practices and teachings, including:
  - their significance and implications
  - application of learning to and from sources of authority.

# Example responses

## Question 1.3

**0 1 . 3** Explain **two** reasons why *Tawhid* is important.

[4 marks]

## Mark scheme

Question	Part	Marking guidance	Total marks
1	3	<p><b>Explain two reasons why <i>Tawhid</i> is important.</b></p> <p><b>One</b> mark for each reason identified, and <b>one</b> additional mark for a suitable explanation of that reason.</p> <p>A maximum of two marks for each reason.</p> <p><b>Possible answers:</b></p> <p><i>Tawhid</i> is important because it is the foundation of Islam <b>(1)</b>. This belief is expressed in the <i>Shahadah</i>, the declaration of faith, and without it a person cannot be considered a Muslim. It is therefore the basis for all other beliefs and practices <b>(1)</b>.</p> <p>It is important to worship Allah alone because this protects against <i>shirk</i> <b>(1)</b>. Muslims believe only Allah is worthy of worship, so their prayers, actions, and intentions must be directed to Him alone. This prevents <i>shirk</i>, the unforgivable sin of associating partners with Allah <b>(1)</b>.</p> <p>It is important to live with belief in <i>Tawhid</i> because it gives Muslims a clear purpose in life <b>(1)</b>. It reminds them that humans were created to submit to the one true God, which gives meaning, direction, and guidance when making moral choices <b>(1)</b>.</p> <p>It is important to share belief in one God because it unites the Muslim community worldwide <b>(1)</b>. All Muslims, regardless of race or culture, are joined together through <i>Tawhid</i>, which creates brotherhood and equality, as everyone is equally accountable to Allah <b>(1)</b>.</p> <p><b>Note:</b>                      This indicative content is not exhaustive, other creditworthy responses should be awarded marks as appropriate</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p><b>AO1 = 4</b></p>

## Response A

Tawhid is important because it teaches Muslims that there is only one God. Muslims must pray to Allah and not anyone else.

## Commentary

This answer scored **2 marks**. The candidate gives very simple points without developing them and so is capped at 2 Marks.

## Response B

Tawhid is important because it teaches Muslims that there is only one God, and all worship should be for Him. This stops idol worship and helps Muslims focus on praying and obeying Allah (Qur'an 112:1-4).

Tawhid is also important because it shows that Allah is all-powerful and knows everything. Believing this helps Muslims trust Allah, make good choices, and be honest and fair in their daily life.

## Commentary

This answer scored **4 marks**.

The student gives two clearly developed points and gains full marks. Although there is no requirement for students to refer to sources of authority in this question they will be credited when it is relevant and applied as a development. This is shown in the first paragraph. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph, a developed point is shown

## Question 1.4

**0 1 . 4** Explain **two** Muslim teachings about death rituals.

Apply **one** teaching from a source of authority in your answer.

**[6 marks]**

## Mark scheme

Question	Part	Marking guidance	Total marks
1	4	<p><b>Explain two Muslim teachings about death rituals.</b></p> <p><b>Apply one teaching from a source of authority in your answer.</b></p> <p>When assigning AO1 marks, award one mark for each teaching identified, and one additional mark for a suitable explanation of that teaching. A maximum of two marks for each teaching.</p> <p>When assigning AO2 marks on the application of a source of authority, award:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>one mark for a general, relevant and accurate use of a source of authority.</li> <li>two marks for a specific, relevant and accurate use of a source of authority which <b>must</b> be applied directly to the question.</li> </ul> <p><b>Points about teachings (AO1):</b></p> <p><i>Ghusl</i> (ritual washing): This shows respect for the deceased and prepares the body in a pure state for burial (1). It reflects the belief in honouring the human body and following Islamic guidance after death (1).</p> <p><i>Kafan</i> (shrouding in simple white cloth): This emphasizes equality in death, showing that all Muslims are equal before Allah regardless of wealth or status (1). It reminds the community that material differences do not matter in the sight of God (1).</p> <p><i>Salat al-Janazah</i> (funeral prayer): This asks Allah for forgiveness for the deceased and supports the community (1). It shows care, solidarity, and communal responsibility among Muslims (1).</p> <p>Burial facing Makkah: This maintains spiritual connection to Allah and follows the Prophet's (ﷺ) guidance (1). It reflects obedience, respect for Islamic teachings, and the unity of the Muslim ummah (1).</p> <p>Belief in the soul's journey and accountability on the Day of Judgement: This reminds Muslims of the afterlife and the consequences of their actions (1). It encourages reflection on life choices and moral responsibility (1).</p> <p><b>Applications of teachings from sources of authority (AO2):</b></p> <p><i>Ghusl</i> (ritual washing) "Wash him with water and purify him" (Hadith, Sahih Muslim) (1). This shows the importance of cleanliness and respect for the body after death, preparing it properly for burial (1).</p> <p><i>Kafan</i> (shrouding in simple white cloth) "Do not make the funeral extravagant; cover the dead with simple cloth" (Hadith, Sunan Abu Dawood) (1). This emphasizes equality among Muslims and that worldly wealth has no value in the sight of Allah (1).</p>	<p>6</p> <p>AO1 = 4 AO2 = 2</p>

	<p><i>Salat al-Janazah</i> (funeral prayer) "Whoever prays over a deceased person, Allah will forgive them" (Hadith, Sahih Bukhari) (1). This shows the importance of seeking forgiveness for the deceased and the community supporting one another in times of loss (1).</p> <p>Burial facing Makkah "The dead should be placed on their right side facing the Qiblah" (Hadith, Sahih Muslim) (1). This reflects obedience to the Prophet's (ﷺ) guidance and maintains the spiritual connection to Allah (1).</p> <p>Belief in the soul's journey and accountability on the Day of Judgement "Every soul shall taste death. Then to Us will you be returned" (Qur'an 29:57) (1). This reminds Muslims that life is temporary and that they will be accountable to Allah, encouraging moral responsibility (1).</p> <p><b>Note:</b> This indicative content is not exhaustive, other creditworthy responses should be awarded marks as appropriate</p>	
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## Response A

One Muslim teaching about death rituals is that the body should be washed and wrapped in a shroud.

Another teaching is that Muslims should pray for the person who has died.

## Commentary

This answer scored **2 marks**.

The student provides simple points without developing these. There is also no reference to a source of authority and so is capped at 2 marks.

## Response B

One Muslim teaching about death rituals is that the body should be washed, wrapped in a simple white shroud (kafan), and buried quickly. This shows respect for the deceased and follows the guidance of the Prophet ﷺ, who said: "*Wash the dead, shroud them, and pray over them*" (Sahih Bukhari).

Another teaching is that Muslims should offer prayers for the deceased, called Salat al-Janazah. This helps the family and community remember the person, ask Allah for forgiveness, and show solidarity, reflecting the importance of compassion and duty in Islam.

## Commentary

This answer scored **6 marks**. It shows two clearly developed points with clear link to a source of authority in the first paragraph which is linked back to the question and explained.

## Question 1.5

0 1 . 5

حَدَّثَنَا عُثْمَانُ، قَالَ حَدَّثَنِي جَرِيرٌ، عَنْ مَنْصُورٍ، عَنْ سَعْدِ بْنِ عُبَيْدَةَ  
عَنْ أَبِي عَبْدِ الرَّحْمَنِ، عَنْ عَلِيٍّ. رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ. قَالَ كُنَّا فِي جَنَازَةٍ فِي  
بَقِيعِ الْغَرْقَدِ، فَأَتَانَا النَّبِيُّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ فَقَعَدَ وَقَعَدْنَا حَوْلَهُ  
وَمَعَهُ مِخْصَرَةٌ فَنَكَّسَ، فَجَعَلَ يَنْكُتُ بِمِخْصَرَتِهِ ثُمَّ قَالَ " مَا مِنْكُمْ مِنْ  
أَحَدٍ، مَا مِنْ نَفْسٍ مَنفُوسَةٍ إِلَّا كُتِبَ مَكَانُهَا مِنَ الْجَنَّةِ وَالنَّارِ، وَالْأ  
قَدْ كُتِبَ شَقِيئَةً أَوْ سَعِيدَةً ". فَقَالَ رَجُلٌ يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ، أَفَلَا نَتَّكِلُ  
عَلَى كِتَابِنَا وَنَدْعُ الْعَمَلَ، فَمَنْ كَانَ مِنَّا مِنْ أَهْلِ السَّعَادَةِ فَسَيَصِيرُ إِلَى  
عَمَلِ أَهْلِ السَّعَادَةِ، وَأَمَّا مَنْ كَانَ مِنَّا مِنْ أَهْلِ الشَّقَاوَةِ فَسَيَصِيرُ إِلَى  
عَمَلِ أَهْلِ الشَّقَاوَةِ قَالَ " أَمَّا أَهْلُ السَّعَادَةِ فَيُيسِّرُونَ لِعَمَلِ  
السَّعَادَةِ، وَأَمَّا أَهْلُ الشَّقَاوَةِ فَيُيسِّرُونَ لِعَمَلِ الشَّقَاوَةِ "، ثُمَّ قَرَأَ (فَأَمَّا  
مَنْ أُعْطِيَ وَاتَّقَى) الْآيَةَ

Sahih al-Bukhari 1362, Book 23, Hadith 115

'We were accompanying a funeral procession in Baqi-I-Gharqad. Muhammad (ﷺ) came to us and sat and we sat around him. He had a small stick in his hand then he bent his head and started scraping the ground with it. He then said, "There is none among you, and not a created soul, but has place either in Paradise or in Hell assigned for him and it is also determined for him whether he will be among the blessed or wretched." A man said, "O Allah's Messenger (ﷺ)! Should we not depend on what has been written for us and leave the deeds as whoever amongst us is blessed will do the deeds of a blessed person and whoever amongst us will be wretched, will do the deeds of a wretched person?" The Prophet (ﷺ) said, "The good deeds are made easy for the blessed, and bad deeds are made easy for the wretched." Then he recited the Verses:-- "As for him who gives (in charity) and is Allah-fearing And believes in the Best reward from Allah.'

'Belief in predestination (*Al-Qadr*) helps Muslims deal with problems in life.'

Examine why this statement is significant for Muslims.

In your answer you should:

- use the given passage
- provide supporting evidence and reasoning.

[12 marks]

## Mark scheme

Question	Part	Marking guidance	Total marks															
1	5	<p><b>'Belief in predestination (<i>Al-Qadr</i>) helps Muslims deal with problems in life.'</b></p> <p><b>Examine why this statement is significant for Muslims.</b></p> <p><b>In your answer you should:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• use the given passage</li> <li>• provide supporting evidence and reasoning.</li> </ul> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Level</th> <th>Marks</th> <th>Success criteria</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>10-12</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrates a thorough and accurate examination of a range of points of significance and the implications for belief / practice/ teachings.</li> <li>• Provides a logical chain of reasoning that is well supported by detailed and relevant evidence and information.</li> <li>• Excellent use of the passage with references applied directly to the issue.</li> </ul> </td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>7-9</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrates a generally clear and accurate examination of more than one point of significance and the implications for belief / practice/ teachings.</li> <li>• Provides a logical chain of reasoning that is supported by some detail and mostly relevant evidence and information.</li> <li>• Good use of the passage with references applied directly to the issue.</li> </ul> </td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>4-6</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrates some accurate examination of one or more points of significance but implications for belief / practice/ teachings may not always be clear.</li> <li>• Provides some chains of reasoning that are not always supported by relevant evidence and information.</li> <li>• Some use of the passage with some general references applied to the issue.</li> </ul> <p>Note: maximum Level 2 if only one point of significance identified.</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>1-3</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrates limited examination of one or more points of significance with few or no implications for belief / practice/ teachings</li> <li>• Provides limited reasoning that is not supported by relevant evidence and information.</li> <li>• Limited or no use of the passage with no references applied directly to the issue.</li> </ul> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Level	Marks	Success criteria	4	10-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrates a thorough and accurate examination of a range of points of significance and the implications for belief / practice/ teachings.</li> <li>• Provides a logical chain of reasoning that is well supported by detailed and relevant evidence and information.</li> <li>• Excellent use of the passage with references applied directly to the issue.</li> </ul>	3	7-9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrates a generally clear and accurate examination of more than one point of significance and the implications for belief / practice/ teachings.</li> <li>• Provides a logical chain of reasoning that is supported by some detail and mostly relevant evidence and information.</li> <li>• Good use of the passage with references applied directly to the issue.</li> </ul>	2	4-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrates some accurate examination of one or more points of significance but implications for belief / practice/ teachings may not always be clear.</li> <li>• Provides some chains of reasoning that are not always supported by relevant evidence and information.</li> <li>• Some use of the passage with some general references applied to the issue.</li> </ul> <p>Note: maximum Level 2 if only one point of significance identified.</p>	1	1-3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrates limited examination of one or more points of significance with few or no implications for belief / practice/ teachings</li> <li>• Provides limited reasoning that is not supported by relevant evidence and information.</li> <li>• Limited or no use of the passage with no references applied directly to the issue.</li> </ul>	<p>12</p> <p>AO2 = 12</p>
Level	Marks	Success criteria																
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		Note: maximum Level 1 if no reference to the passage.
	0	Nothing worthy of credit
	<p><b>Possible answers:</b></p> <p><b>Points of significance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Predestination is significant because it gives comfort during difficulties. Knowing that Allah has knowledge of everything that will happen allows Muslims to remain patient and hopeful when facing problems, trusting that there is a purpose behind challenges.</li> <li>• It may be significant because it encourages patience (<i>Sabr</i>) and perseverance. Belief in Al-Qadr helps Muslims accept situations beyond their control, making it easier to stay calm, continue trying, and not lose faith during hardship.</li> <li>• It may be significant because it strengthens trust and reliance on Allah (<i>Tawakkul</i>). Muslims understand that ultimate control lies with Allah, so they rely on Him for guidance and support, which provides emotional and spiritual stability.</li> <li>• It may be significant because it provides perspective on success and failure. Belief in predestination helps Muslims see that both achievements and setbacks are part of Allah’s plan, reducing feelings of despair or arrogance and encouraging humility.</li> <li>• It may be significant because it encourages reflection and moral responsibility. While Allah has knowledge of all events, humans have free will and are accountable for their choices. This helps Muslims make thoughtful decisions and strive to act morally even in difficult circumstances.</li> </ul> <p><b>Application of teachings from the passage</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Hadith highlights that every soul has its place in Paradise or Hell already assigned. This reinforces the idea that Muslims can face life’s challenges with calm, knowing that Allah’s plan is already established and nothing happens without His knowledge.</li> <li>• Since “good deeds are made easy for the blessed, and bad deeds are made easy for the wretched,” Muslims may find comfort in difficulties, understanding that trials and successes are part of Allah’s plan and should be accepted with patience.</li> <li>• The Hadith shows that while fate is determined, individuals’ actions reflect whether they are blessed or not. This allows Muslims to remain motivated to do good deeds, linking Al-Qadr with both accountability and guidance in handling problems responsibly.</li> <li>• Knowing that everything, including their moral abilities, is under Allah’s control can help Muslims rely on Him and stay resilient during challenges. It reassures believers that hardships are not random but part of a divine plan, providing spiritual comfort and stability.</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b>                  This indicative content is not exhaustive, other creditworthy responses should be awarded marks as appropriate</p>	

## Response A

Belief in Al-Qadr is important because it teaches Muslims that Allah knows everything that will happen. This helps them feel less worried when things go wrong. It also teaches Muslims to accept problems and trust that Allah has a plan.

## Commentary

This is a **Level 2** response.

Limited reasoning provided by the students and no links to the passage provided. More detailed development of points and a clear link to the passage is progressed to a higher level.

## Response B

Belief in Al-Qadr is significant because it helps Muslims understand that everything happens according to Allah's plan. When they face problems, illness, or difficulties, they can accept these events as part of God's will and stay patient instead of becoming upset or angry. The Hadith emphasises the importance on reliance with Allah, when the Messenger ﷺ told his companions that an individual's destiny in paradise or hell is predetermined. This makes Muslims trust Allah's plan and work towards doing the best they can in this life.

It is also significant because it encourages Muslims to trust Allah while still making effort in their lives. They understand that while Allah has a plan, they are responsible for their actions and should try to do good, knowing that Allah is aware of all their efforts. This belief gives them comfort, hope, and guidance during challenging times.

A third significance is that belief in Al-Qadr reminds Muslims that life is fair and just. Even if bad things happen, Muslims trust that Allah has wisdom behind everything, which encourages them to remain hopeful and continue to live morally and follow Islamic teachings.

## Commentary

This is a **Level 4** response.

The response provides 3 reasons for significance and develops these points with detailed and relevant knowledge and understanding. In the first paragraph, the response paraphrases the passage and applies it to the point being made.

## Question 2.3

**0 2 . 3** Explain **two** reasons why the Night of Power (*Laylat ul-Qadr*) is important for Muslims. **[4 marks]**

### Mark scheme

Question	Part	Marking guidance	Total marks
2	3	<p><b>Explain two reasons why the Night of Power (<i>Laylat ul-Qadr</i>) is important for Muslims.</b></p> <p><b>One</b> mark for each reason identified, and <b>one</b> additional mark for a suitable explanation of that reason.</p> <p>A maximum of two marks for each reason.</p> <p><b>Possible answers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Night of Power is important because it marks the night the Qur'an was first revealed <b>(1)</b>. This gives Muslims guidance and strengthens faith, as they recognise Allah's chosen method of sending His message to humanity <b>(1)</b>.</li> <li>• It may be important because it is a night of forgiveness and blessings <b>(1)</b>. Muslims believe that worship on <i>Laylat ul-Qadr</i> brings greater reward, motivating them to pray, reflect, and seek mercy from Allah <b>(1)</b>.</li> <li>• It may be important because it encourages spiritual reflection <b>(1)</b>. The Night of Power reminds Muslims to assess their behaviour, strengthen their relationship with Allah, and plan to live according to Islamic principles <b>(1)</b>.</li> <li>• It may be important because it unites the global Muslim community <b>(1)</b>. Observing the night with additional prayers and charity connects Muslims worldwide in shared devotion <b>(1)</b>.</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b>                      This indicative content is not exhaustive, other creditworthy responses should be awarded marks as appropriate.</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p><b>AO1 = 4</b></p>

## Response A

It is important because Muslims believe the Qur'an was first revealed to the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ on the Night of Power.

It is important because prayers on this night are believed to be worth more than many years of worship.

## Commentary

This answer scored **2 marks**.

Two simple points given with no development of the point.

## Response B

The Night of Power (*Laylat ul-Qadr*) is important because Muslims believe it is the night when the Qur'an was first revealed to the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. This makes it a very special night, as the Qur'an is the holy book that guides Muslims in their daily lives.

It is also important because Muslims believe that praying on this night brings more reward than praying for many years. Many Muslims pray and ask Allah for forgiveness, believing that this night is full of mercy and blessings.

## Commentary

This answer scored **4 marks**

Two clear points are given in each paragraph. Both points are well developed and the candidate gains full marks.

## Question 2.4

**0 2 . 4** Explain **two** ways in which *Hajj* influences the life of a Muslim.

Apply **one** teaching from a source of authority in your answer.

**[6 marks]**

## Mark scheme

Question	Part	Marking guidance	Total marks
2	4	<p><b>Explain two ways in which <i>Hajj</i> influences the life of a Muslim.</b></p> <p>Apply <b>one</b> 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"> <li>one mark for a general, relevant and accurate use of a source of authority.</li> <li>two marks for a specific, relevant and accurate use of a source of authority which <b>must</b> be applied directly to the question.</li> </ul> <p><b>Points about influence (AO1):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Hajj</i> influences Muslims to promote equality and unity <b>(1)</b>. During <i>Hajj</i>, Muslims from all backgrounds stand together in prayer and rituals, highlighting the universal nature of Islam and the importance of community <b>(1)</b>.</li> <li>It may influence moral responsibility <b>(1)</b>. The spiritual renewal of Hajj motivates Muslims to continue good deeds, avoid sin, and act ethically in daily life <b>(1)</b>.</li> <li>It may influence Muslims to deepen gratitude and humility <b>(1)</b>. Standing in the holy sites and following Hazrat Muhammad's (ﷺ) example reminds Muslims of Allah's blessings, inspiring them to live responsibly <b>(1)</b>.</li> </ul> <p><b>Applications of teachings from sources of authority (AO2):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hajj brings Muslims closer to Allah. The Qur'an says: "And proclaim to the people the Hajj [pilgrimage]; they will come to you on foot and on every lean camel" (22:27). After Hajj, Muslims try to pray more and follow Allah's guidance in daily life.</li> <li>Hajj also teaches Muslims to be humble. The Qur'an says: "We created you into nations and tribes so that you may know one another" (49:13). Everyone wears simple white clothes and stands together equally, no matter their wealth or status. This helps Muslims treat others fairly and stay humble after Hajj.</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b>                      This indicative content is not exhaustive, other creditworthy responses should be awarded marks as appropriate.</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p><b>AO1 = 4</b>  <b>AO2 = 2</b></p>

## Response A

Hajj influences a Muslim's life by making their faith stronger. It also helps them feel closer to Allah.

Hajj is the fifth pillar of Islam and it also teaches equality and humility for all Muslims

## Commentary

This answer scored **2 marks**.

Two simple points are given with no further development or support, and so this response cannot go above 2 marks

## Response B

Hajj influences a Muslim's life by strengthening their faith, as completing the pilgrimage helps them feel closer to Allah and more committed to following Islamic teachings.

It also encourages equality and humility, because all Muslims dress the same and worship together, showing that everyone is equal before Allah. This is supported by the Qur'an which states that "*The most honoured of you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous of you*". This shows that Allah values people for their faith and actions rather than their wealth or status.

## Commentary

This answer scored **6 Marks**

The first paragraph, although brief, gives one developed point and gains 2 marks. The second paragraph gives a developed point which is supported with a relevant quote that is linked directly to the question, and so gains additional 4 marks. This is a full mark response.

## Question 2.5

0 2 . 5

يَأَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا كُتِبَ عَلَيْكُمُ الصِّيَامُ كَمَا كُتِبَ عَلَى الَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِكُمْ  
لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ ﴿١٨٣﴾ أَيَّامًا مَّعْدُودَاتٍ ۚ فَمَن كَانَ مِنكُم مَّرِيضًا أَوْ  
عَلَى سَفَرٍ فَعِدَّةٌ مِّنْ أَيَّامٍ أُخَرَ ۗ وَعَلَى الَّذِينَ يُطِيقُونَهُ فِدْيَةٌ طَعَامُ  
مِسْكِينٍ ۚ فَمَن تَطَوَّعَ خَيْرًا فَهُوَ خَيْرٌ لَهُ ۗ وَأَن تَصُومُوا خَيْرٌ لَّكُمْ إِن  
كُنْتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ ﴿١٨٤﴾ شَهْرُ رَمَضَانَ الَّذِي أُنزِلَ فِيهِ الْقُرْءَانُ هُدًى  
لِّلنَّاسِ وَبَيِّنَاتٍ مِّنَ الْهُدَىٰ وَالْفُرْقَانِ ۚ فَمَن شَهِدَ مِنْكُمُ الشَّهْرَ  
فَلْيَصُمْهُ ۗ وَمَن كَانَ مَرِيضًا أَوْ عَلَى سَفَرٍ فَعِدَّةٌ مِّنْ أَيَّامٍ أُخَرَ ۗ يُرِيدُ  
اللَّهُ بِكُمْ الْيُسْرَ وَلَا يُرِيدُ بِكُمُ الْعُسْرَ وَلِتُكْمِلُوا الْعِدَّةَ وَلِتُكَبِّرُوا اللَّهَ  
عَلَىٰ مَا هَدَىٰكُمْ وَلَعَلَّكُمْ تَشْكُرُونَ ﴿١٨٥﴾

### **Qur'an 2:183-185**

O you who have believed, decreed upon you is fasting as it was decreed upon those before you that you may become righteous – [Fasting for] a limited number of days. So whoever among you is ill or on a journey [during them] – then an equal number of days [are to be made up]. And upon those who are able [to fast, but with hardship] – a ransom [as substitute] of feeding a poor person [each day]. And whoever volunteers excess – it is better for him. But to fast is best for you, if you only knew. The month of *Ramadhan* [is that] in which was revealed the Qur'an, a guidance for the people and clear proofs of guidance and criterion. So whoever sights [the new moon of] the month, let him fast it; and whoever is ill or on a journey – then an equal number of other days. Allah intends for you ease and does not intend for you hardship and [wants] for you to complete the period and to glorify Allah for that [to] which He has guided you; and perhaps you will be grateful.

'Fasting during *Ramadhan* teaches Muslims patience and concern for those in need.'

Examine why this statement is significant for Muslims.

In your answer you should:

- use the given passage
- provide supporting evidence and reasoning.

[12 marks]

## Mark scheme

Question	Part	Marking guidance	Total marks															
2	5	<p>'Fasting during <i>Ramadhan</i> teaches Muslims patience and concern for those in need.'</p> <p>Examine why this statement is significant for Muslims.</p> <p>In your answer you should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• use the given passage</li> <li>• provide supporting evidence and reasoning.</li> </ul> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Level</th> <th>Marks</th> <th>Success criteria</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>10-12</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrates a thorough and accurate examination of a range of points of significance and the implications for belief / practice/ teachings.</li> <li>• Provides a logical chain of reasoning that is well supported by detailed and relevant evidence and information.</li> <li>• Excellent use of the passage with references applied directly to the issue.</li> </ul> </td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>7-9</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrates a generally clear and accurate examination of more than one point of significance and the implications for belief / practice/ teachings.</li> <li>• Provides a logical chain of reasoning that is supported by some detail and mostly relevant evidence and information.</li> <li>• Good use of the passage with references applied directly to the issue.</li> </ul> </td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>4-6</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrates some accurate examination of one or more points of significance but implications for belief / practice/ teachings may not always be clear.</li> <li>• Provides some chains of reasoning that are not always supported by relevant evidence and information.</li> <li>• Some use of the passage with some general references applied to the issue.</li> </ul> <p>Note: maximum Level 2 if only one point of significance identified.</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>1-3</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrates limited examination of one or more points of significance with few or no implications for belief / practice/ teachings</li> <li>• Provides limited reasoning that is not supported by relevant evidence and information.</li> <li>• Limited or no use of the passage with no references applied directly to the issue.</li> </ul> <p>Note: maximum Level 1 if no reference to the passage.</p> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Level	Marks	Success criteria	4	10-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrates a thorough and accurate examination of a range of points of significance and the implications for belief / practice/ teachings.</li> <li>• Provides a logical chain of reasoning that is well supported by detailed and relevant evidence and information.</li> <li>• Excellent use of the passage with references applied directly to the issue.</li> </ul>	3	7-9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrates a generally clear and accurate examination of more than one point of significance and the implications for belief / practice/ teachings.</li> <li>• Provides a logical chain of reasoning that is supported by some detail and mostly relevant evidence and information.</li> <li>• Good use of the passage with references applied directly to the issue.</li> </ul>	2	4-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrates some accurate examination of one or more points of significance but implications for belief / practice/ teachings may not always be clear.</li> <li>• Provides some chains of reasoning that are not always supported by relevant evidence and information.</li> <li>• Some use of the passage with some general references applied to the issue.</li> </ul> <p>Note: maximum Level 2 if only one point of significance identified.</p>	1	1-3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrates limited examination of one or more points of significance with few or no implications for belief / practice/ teachings</li> <li>• Provides limited reasoning that is not supported by relevant evidence and information.</li> <li>• Limited or no use of the passage with no references applied directly to the issue.</li> </ul> <p>Note: maximum Level 1 if no reference to the passage.</p>	<p>12</p> <p>A02 = 12</p>
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		<p style="text-align: center;"><b>0</b>    Nothing worthy of credit</p>	
<p><b>Possible answers:</b></p> <p><b>Points of significance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It may be significant because it encourages empathy. Experiencing hunger and thirst allows Muslims to understand the struggles of the poor, motivating charitable actions.</li> <li>• It may be significant because it strengthens spiritual awareness. <i>Ramadan</i> fosters closeness to Allah through prayer, Qur'an recitation, and reflection, reinforcing trust in His guidance.</li> <li>• It may be significant because it encourages social unity. Muslims share in the fast and break it together, creating a sense of community and shared responsibility.</li> <li>• It may be significant because it provides an opportunity for moral reflection. Fasting encourages Muslims to evaluate their behaviour, avoid wrongdoing, and improve relationships with others.</li> </ul> <p><b>Application of teachings from the passage</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fasting is significant because the verse states, "decreed upon you is fasting as it was decreed upon those before you." This shows that fasting is a divine command, part of Allah's plan for believers, reinforcing that Muslims' actions follow His guidance.</li> <li>• It may be significant because the verse says, "that you may become righteous." This links fasting to moral and spiritual growth, demonstrating that the purpose of fasting is to develop <i>taqwa</i> and strengthen the believer's relationship with Allah.</li> <li>• It may be significant because the verse explains, "So whoever among you is ill or on a journey... an equal number of days [are to be made up]." This highlights Allah's compassion and flexibility, showing that religious duties are designed with human circumstances in mind, which is important for understanding Islam's balance between obligation and ease.</li> <li>• It may be significant because the verse mentions, "And [for those] with hardship – a ransom of feeding a poor person." This links fasting to concern for others and charity, demonstrating the social and ethical dimension of fasting, making it significant as a practice that encourages empathy and helping those in need.</li> <li>• It may be significant because the verse states, "The month of <i>Ramadhan</i>... in which was revealed the Qur'an, a guidance for the people." This shows that fasting is tied to spiritual reflection on divine guidance, making it significant as a way for Muslims to connect more deeply with Allah's message.</li> <li>• It may be significant because the verse says, "And whoever volunteers excess – it is better for him. But to fast is best for you." This shows the value of voluntary acts of devotion beyond obligation, emphasizing the significance of intention and extra effort in worship to please Allah.</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b>                  This indicative content is not exhaustive, other creditworthy responses should be awarded marks as appropriate.</p>			

## Response A

it is significant is because Muslims fast during Ramadan and this shows patience. They do not eat or drink and this is important to them.

Also because fasting helps Muslims think about poor people and be kind. Muslims give to charity in Ramadan. The Qur'an says Muslims should fast in Surah 2:183–184. This means fasting is important.

## Commentary

This is a level 2 response

A basic response that provides several simple reasons why Ramadhan is significant, although the response mentions the passage, and while there is an attempt to expand on this in the final sentence, it is not developed or linked to the question in a meaningful way.

## Response B

One reason it is significant is because fasting during Ramadan teaches Muslims patience and self control. By going without food and drink during daylight hours, Muslims learn to control their desires and focus more on worship, which helps them grow spiritually and become more disciplined in everyday life.

Another reason it is significant is because fasting helps Muslims develop concern for those in need. Feeling hunger allows Muslims to better understand what poor people experience daily, which encourages empathy, charity, and giving to others, especially through zakah and sadaqah during Ramadan.

A final reason it is significant is because fasting is a direct command from Allah and helps Muslims become more righteous. Surah 2 verses 183–185 state that fasting is prescribed so that Muslims may gain self-restraint (*taqwa*). This shows that fasting is not just physical but spiritually important, helping Muslims live in a way that pleases Allah.

## Commentary

This is a Level 4 response

The candidate gives 3 clear points of significance and unpacks these in some detail. The final paragraph makes explicit links to the passage in the question and is able to link this directly to the question.