

**CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS**

Cambridge International Advanced Subsidiary Level

## **MARK SCHEME for the October/November 2015 series**

### **8053 ISLAMIC STUDIES**

**8053/12**

Paper 1, maximum raw mark 100

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### Section A

- 1 (a) Write about the status of women in pre-Islamic Arabia. [10]

Basic answers will give a few familiar details will not go much further.

Fuller answers will add further details and will show signs of understanding how women were regarded.

More advanced answers will give details about the ways in which some women exercised freedom in a male-dominated society, and may mention Khadijah.

The fullest answers will give thorough accounts of the place of women, showing factual awareness and understanding of the main attitudes towards women, and also exceptions.

- (b) Explain why the pre-Islamic period in Arabia is called the “time of ignorance” (*jahiliyyah*). [10]

Basic answers will give a few facts about pre-Islamic Arabia, but will not explore reasons for the name given to it.

Fuller answers will add further factual details and show signs of trying to explain the name.

More advanced answers will begin to explore the meaning of the name, whether it is simply descriptive of a time without religion, or condemnatory of a society that repudiated religious truth.

The fullest answers will focus on explanation rather than fact, referring to the Qur’an and reaching a judgement about the meaning of the name.

- 2 Explain why the first Muslims suffered persecution in Mecca before the time of the *hijra*. [20]

Basic answers will give incomplete factual descriptions of the kinds of persecution suffered.

Fuller answers will give more complete factual details about the beliefs of the early Muslims and the opposition they caused.

More advanced answers will elaborate on these details and begin to say why the beliefs caused conflict.

The fullest answers will explain the differences between the beliefs of the early Muslims and the beliefs of the Meccans, and explain the economic reasons behind the Meccan’s intolerance.

- 3 (a) Give a descriptive account of the capture of Mecca by the Muslim army led by the Prophet. [8]

Basic answers will give sketchy and incomplete details.

Fuller answers will give further facts contributing towards a full account.

More advanced answers will give a complete account.

The fullest answers will give a full and coherent account, showing confident knowledge of the event.

- (b) What lessons can be learnt by political leaders from the Prophet’s treatment of the Meccans after he captured their city? [12]

Basic answers will give incomplete details of the Prophet’s conduct.

Fuller answers will give some accurate details of the Prophet’s treatment of the Meccans.

More advanced answers will give a complete account and draw some lessons.

The fullest answers will give a coherent account, and specific lessons drawn from the events.

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### Section B

- 4 Write an account of the teachings of the Qur'an about the role and status of Messengers sent by God. [20]**

Basic answers will give a few factual details and no more.

Fuller answers will give details of various prophets, and will mention things they did.

More advanced answers will give details about prophetic narratives in the Qur'an, and discuss their roles as upholders of belief, revealers of God's guidance and will, and warners.

The fullest answers will give comprehensive accounts of the role of Messengers, and also of their status as God's chosen means of communicating with humankind.

- 5 (a) Outline the main themes of Surat al-Baqarah. [12]**

Basic answers will give incomplete or sketchy outlines.

Fuller answers will show knowledge of the main elements in the surah.

More advanced answers will give a full account of the main elements in the surah.

The fullest answers will give full and confident accounts, together with some references or quotations from the surah

- (b) Explain why Surat al-Ikhlās is regarded as equal in value to one third of the whole Qur'an. [8]**

Basic accounts will attempt to describe the contents of the surah.

Fuller answers will describe the contents of the surah and point towards its theme of *tawhid*.

More advanced answers will show more fully how it sums up the doctrine of *tawhid*.

The fullest answers will discuss *tawhid* in the surah, with confidence, and will bring into the discussion references from elsewhere in the Qur'an.

- 6 "The first Muslim community was built entirely on the Qur'an." How far was this the case? [20]**

Basic answers will attempt to show how the Qur'an was used by the first Muslims.

Fuller answers will discuss the Qur'an as the basis of thought and action among the Muslim community in Mecca and more so in Medina.

More advanced answers will show how the teachings of the Qur'an both gave detailed guidance to the first Muslims and inspired them in general.

The fullest answers will show the fundamental importance of the Qur'an, but will also refer to the example of the Prophet.

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### Section C

- 7 (a) Describe how Muslims perform their daily prayers. [12]**

Basic answers will give simple outline descriptions of the five prayers and their times. Fuller answers will describe the prayers and the slight differences between them. More advanced answers will describe the preparations for prayer and performance of a rak'ah. The fullest answers will give a thorough description of the prayer times, the preparations and the way of performing a rak'ah.

- (b) How important are the Friday congregational prayers in the life of the Muslim community? [8]**

Basic answers will give a description of the prayer. Fuller answers will make some reference to the importance of community assembling together. More advanced answers will try to explain the importance of the prayer as a joint activity in the community. The fullest answers will explain the importance of the prayer as a communal activity and discuss the significance of Muslims meeting together.

- 8 Which is more important for maintaining the strength of the Muslim community, `Id al-Fitr or `Id al-Adha? [20]**

Basic answers will attempt to describe the two festivals. Fuller answers will describe the festivals, and may say they are both important. More advanced answers will discuss the importance of the two festivals as means of bringing Muslims together, and may decide in favour of one. The fullest answers will emphasise how the festivals unite Muslims, and may challenge the question by arguing that both are equally important.

- 9 "In this day and age, belief in a final Resurrection and Judgement can no longer be accepted." How might Muslims respond to this opinion? [20]**

Basic answers will state that these beliefs are important and may describe what they involve. Fuller answers will describe what the beliefs involve and begin to defend them as necessary to Muslim faith. More advanced answers will show awareness of the challenges to Islam from science and secular values, and of the tension between these are traditional beliefs. The fullest answers will examine the tension thoroughly and confidently and try to arrive at some form of solution.

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### Section D

**10 Would it be possible for Muslims to base their beliefs and actions on the Qur'an alone?** [20]

Basic answers will begin to discuss the importance of the Qur'an in Islam.

Fuller answers will try to show how the Qur'an is central and its teachings applied in the Sunnah and other sources.

More advanced answers will show understanding of the problem of trying to apply the Qur'an in practical situations.

The fullest answers will discuss the ways in which the Sunnah and other sources have been used to expand the teachings of the Qur'an, but insist on its centrality.

**11 Give concrete examples to show how the Prophet's Sunnah is used to interpret the Qur'an for legal purposes.** [20]

Basic answers will offer some details of the relationship between the Qur'an and Sunnah.

Fuller answers will go a little further in pointing out that the two sources are in harmony.

More advanced answers will add some examples, e.g. about the performance of prayer, fasting, and the details of the pilgrimage.

The fullest answers will give detailed accounts of the ways in which the Sunnah is used in conjunction with the Qur'an, and will give quotations or recognisable references.

**12 Explain the relevance of consensus (*ijma`*) and analogy (*qiyas*) in Muslim legal thinking in today's world.** [20]

Basic answers will do no more than identify these two legal sources.

Fuller answers will say what they are and try to show how they are used.

More advanced answers will explain them and try to discuss how they can still be relevant in legal thinking.

The fullest answers will recognise a possible problem in applying these sources in current situations and try to suggest a resolution.