

ISLAMIC STUDIES

Paper 8053/11

Paper 1

General Comments.

Candidates are encouraged to pay attention to examination techniques such as reading the questions carefully and developing answers as required. Unfortunately several candidates scored low marks because they did not answer the question set. **Questions 1, 3, 7, 8 and 10** were the most popular questions and were answered satisfactorily. **Questions 4, 6 and 12** were less popular and less well answered. **Question 9** did not attract many responses.

Most candidates appeared well prepared for the examination and there were a number of excellent scripts. Many candidates demonstrated a sound knowledge of the subject.

Comments on Specific Questions

Section A

Question 1

- (a) This question was generally well answered, with many candidates demonstrating their familiarity with the worship at the Ka'ba in pre-Islamic Arabia and these were well described. Stronger candidates were able to mention the names and numbers of idols in the Ka'ba. Although many answers identified specific beliefs of hanifs, some responses focused on Imam Abu-Hanifa. Weaker candidates often lacked sound knowledge and tended towards generalised statements.
- (b) Part (b) was generally well answered with the majority of candidates explaining the main reasons about the cleansing of the Ka'ba.

Question 2

There were many good answers to this question but unfortunately several candidates misread the question. These candidates did not show enough knowledge of precise historical events and generalised on the life of the Prophet (pbuh).

Question 3

Candidates were required to give a detailed description of one of Caliph 'Ali's major battles and explain the reasons why it took place. A high proportion of candidates wrote relevant, well-balanced answers, giving approximately equal attention to both Caliph 'Ali and Mu'awiyah. Weaker responses lacked specific details.

Section B

Question 4

Stronger candidates were able to offer a comprehensive account of the different characters between the Meccan Surahs and the Medinan Surahs of the Qur'an. Weaker candidates stated the importance of the Qur'an. Some responses were either very brief or the explanation was confused.

Question 5

This question was not a popular choice and the standard of answering was low overall. Specific knowledge was required to address this question effectively. Very few candidates could explain the reasons why the order of the Surahs in the Qur'an is the reverse of the order in which the Prophet (pbuh) received them.

Question 6

Overall this question was very well answered with candidates providing detailed answers. The relatively small number of candidates who chose this question answered it well and displayed a wide range of knowledge about the importance of *tawhid* in Islam. They also outlined the main teaching about *tawhid* in the Qur'an as a whole.

Section C

Question 7

This question was very popular and many of the candidates who attempted it did well. There were some outstanding responses to this question. The majority of the candidates possessed sound knowledge about the Pillars of Islam and their importance in Muslim life. They provided a range of evaluation statements and most were able to link these statements to the question. Overall this question was very well answered with candidates providing detailed answers.

Question 8

- (a) This question was quite popular and was done well by a large number of candidates. Most candidates were able to provide a complete list of the principal rites in connection with the institution of the pilgrimage as observed by Muslims and offered a clear explanation of the link between Prophet Abraham and Hajj. Some candidates did not read the question carefully and concentrated only upon the ceremony of sacrifice.
- (b) This part of the question asked for an explanation of the significance of these connections. This was generally well answered. However, some candidates gave brief answers and there was some repetition of points from part (a).

Question 9

Very few attempted this question.

Section D

Question 10

This was the most popular question in this section and many of the candidates who attempted it did well. The majority of candidates were able to outline the principles of consensus in Islamic law. However, some candidates confused *ijma'* with *qiyas*.

Question 11

Responses to this question generally showed that the majority of candidates did not understand the question. Most candidates outlined their knowledge and understanding of Hadith as a primary source of Islamic law and wrote at length leading to unfocused answers. The better answers to this question displayed a very sound knowledge and understanding of the Qur'an and jurisprudence and thus were able to provide detailed examples to illustrate their answers.

Question 12

This question was not a popular choice, but several candidates who answered it were knowledgeable on Islamic law and gave a detailed account of *qiyas*, providing examples to illustrate their answers. Some responses lacked a full knowledge of the topic and were superficial, lacking supporting examples. Very few candidates could explain why only qualified legal experts are allowed to practice analogy.

ISLAMIC STUDIES

Paper 8053/12

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