AS LEVEL

Exemplar Candidate Work

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

H173
For first teaching in 2016

H173/04 Developments in Islamic thought
Summer 2017 examination series
Version 1
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Introduction

These exemplar answers have been chosen from the summer 2017 examination series.

OCR is open to a wide variety of approaches and all answers are considered on their merits. These exemplars, therefore, should not be seen as the only way to answer questions but do illustrate how the mark scheme has been applied.

Please always refer to the specification ([http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-a-level-gce-religious-studies-h173-h573-from-2016/](http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-a-level-gce-religious-studies-h173-h573-from-2016/)) for full details of the assessment for this qualification. These exemplar answers should also be read in conjunction with the sample assessment materials and the June 2017 Examiners’ Report to Centres available on the OCR website [http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/](http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/).

The question paper, mark scheme and any resource booklet(s) will be available on the OCR website from summer 2018. Until then, they are available on OCR Interchange (school exams officers will have a login for this).

It is important to note that approaches to question setting and marking will remain consistent. At the same time OCR reviews all its qualifications annually and may make small adjustments to improve the performance of its assessments. We will let you know of any substantive changes.
Question 1

To what extent is it true to say that the Sira and the Hadith are equally important for Muslims?

AO1 – 8 marks  AO2 – 8 marks

| 1 | The Sira and Hadith are important to Muslims and may be equally as important to an extent as tree or other factors which are also key for Muslims. The Hadith is what Muslims who are Sunni believe in and follow. The Hadith to Sunni Muslims is a set of beliefs and teachings by the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). They act as a guide for Muslims to follow and act upon and it is a key source for Muslims as well as the teaching of the Quran and messages of the Holy book.

Many Hadiths are by `Bukhari` and enable Muslims to know how to act as the Prophet did, which is the correct way to act in Islam. They outline the `Sunnah` way to act which is following the footsteps of the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), which helps Muslims to maintain a good, pious Muslim and please Allah. Muhammad (pbuh) was a `nabi` which in Arabic means that he was a prophet of Allah. Alongside 28
other. However, Muhammad was given more significance to Muslims, and it is very important to Muslims since it was told by Allah to guide the ummah (community). So now that Muslims follow the practices of Muhammad (pbuh)

Allah is pleased that his creation is obeying his commands for his Prophet (pbuh) and his actions were highly recommended to follow and the Hadith has been a set of guidelines of the right action, and how the way of life to a Muslim should be lived, the ummah way of the Prophet.

The Sira is important to Shia Muslims who are of a different sect of Islam. They do not believe as much in the significance of Prophet Muhammad but they place significance on Ali ibn Talib as their successor. They use Sira as a guideline to follow by. Sira is the autobiography of the Prophet and written by the people of that time or era. Shia Muslims follow or use Siras as a form of significance in their life, or it is how they believe and follow the ways to act as a Shia Muslim.

Sira and Hadith are equally important.
for Muslim there are Shia and Sunni but there are not other equally important significance such as praying 5 times, the belief in 5 pillars (Shahadah, Salat, Zakat, Sawn, Hajj), the belief in one God (Tawhid) and the belief in afterlife known as Yomm Al Qiyamah. The Sine and Hadiths may state the fundamental and basic key significance ideas of Islam which are the main some principles to any type of Muslim, so it can be argued that Sine and Hadiths are equally important. They state the fundamentals of Islam to Muslim in general, despite a few difference depending on the sect of Islam.

Sine may not be important to Sufis, Muslims as it can be to other types. Sufis believe in Ihsan and spirituality as important and the love of God, not any script.

Overall, the sine and Hadiths are equally important for Muslims to an extent as there are different sects of Islam and not all Muslims may believe in something that acts as a guideline to follow and abide by.
Examiner commentary

AO1

This response shows a satisfactory understanding of the Hadith, as the sayings of the Prophet pbuh, and the Sira, as narratives of the Prophet’s life. In addition to this there is reference to one of the main compilers of the Hadith (Al-Bukhari) and this helps to demonstrate that the candidate has a sound understanding of the topic.

The candidate introduces the idea that there are differences in the way that Sunnis and Shi’as approach the Hadith and the Sira, however, the knowledge is not entirely accurate. A more accurate display of knowledge in this area would have improved the marks. For example, the candidate could have shown a greater depth of knowledge if they had discussed the differences in terms of how the Hadith and Sira were composed or the role of the Hadith and Sira as sources of historical knowledge and religious wisdom.

In addition to this, if the candidate had referred to specific Hadiths or referenced certain events from the Sira and gone on to demonstrate how Muslims might use these it would have demonstrated a greater breadth of knowledge. This would have improved the level awarded for this element of the question.

AO2

This candidate offers some examples of how the Hadith and the Sira are important and this shows that there is some level of evaluation. However, the candidate needs to engage in a greater level of evaluation in order to increase the marks awarded. For example, there is little appreciation of scholars’ views on the issue and this shows that the evaluation is not as developed as it could be. Introducing a wider range of scholarly views would allow the candidate to reach a more justified conclusion.

Also including specific examples of how the two might be used would have given the candidate more evidence to have analysed and this would have shown a fuller appreciation of the issue, resulting in higher marks.
Question 1

To what extent is it true to say that the Sira and the Hadith are equally important for Muslims?

AO1 – 14 marks  AO2 – 14 marks

Both the Sira and the Hadith: they report sayings of the Prophet, and the life and biography of the Prophet. The Sira gives us context and what is important to Muslims. The Sira and the Hadith provide Muslims with additional guidance for understanding God's revealed wisdom. The Hadith, which includes the teachings and practices of the Prophet, provide Muslims with guidance on how to live a life that is consistent with the teaching of the Prophet. Furthermore, the Hadith provide a means to reflect on the teachings of the Prophet. Consequently, the Hadith serve as a means to guide Muslims in their daily lives. The Hadith are often referred to as a trustworthy guide for Muslims, and they are used to provide an understanding of the teachings of the Prophet.

Both the Sira and the Hadith are essential for Muslims. The Sira provides context and understanding of the Prophet's life, while the Hadith provide guidance on how to live a life that is consistent with the teachings of the Prophet. Without the Sira and the Hadith, it would be difficult for Muslims to understand the teachings of the Prophet and to live a life that is consistent with the teaching of the Prophet. The Hadith, in particular, provide a means to reflect on the teachings of the Prophet and to live a life that is consistent with the teaching of the Prophet. Moreover, the Hadith provide guidance on how to live a life that is consistent with the teachings of the Prophet. Without the Sira and the Hadith, it would be difficult for Muslims to understand the teachings of the Prophet and to live a life that is consistent with the teaching of the Prophet. The Hadith, in particular, provide a means to reflect on the teachings of the Prophet and to live a life that is consistent with the teaching of the Prophet. Moreover, the Hadith provide guidance on how to live a life that is consistent with the teachings of the Prophet. Without the Sira and the Hadith, it would be difficult for Muslims to understand the teachings of the Prophet and to live a life that is consistent with the teaching of the Prophet. The Hadith, in particular, provide a means to reflect on the teachings of the Prophet and to live a life that is consistent with the teaching of the Prophet. Moreover, the Hadith provide guidance on how to live a life that is consistent with the teachings of the Prophet.

Adam, 1.2.3
Alternatively, it is undeniable that the Hadith remain of considerable
importance to many Muslims and can often provide excellent
guidance for the those wishing to live a faithful life. Although
many scholars are often critical about the origins and reliability
of the Hadith it is important to remember that such criticism
Hadith Buhari have been subject to intense scholarly investigation.
Buhari, concerned about the validity of the Hadith — which at
the time of his writing has reached about 600,000 copies
in Arabic — argued that its validity to only the valid and true Hadith, through
a process of scrutinizing their origin: the By non-religious, through
Cabinet of Transmission of each Hadith. Buhari was able to
and manage the number to just 7,000 — a Hadith Buhari remains
safety, consistent, valid today.
Therein, as largely,
accurate reflections of the saying of the Prophet Muhammad
Muslims can use the Hadith to enrich other religious and
efficient determinants covered in the Qur’anic text.

Nevertheless, it is undeniable that while the Hadith can be considered
highly, if not entirely, accurate, an uncompromising existence
of the Hadith as instruction for how to live a faithful life
we lead to a life that is actually far from what the Qur’anic
prescribes. For not fundamentalist advantage of the Hadith over
the Qur’an is its inclusion of contexts for Muhammad’s decisions.
For example, “will the unbelievers” (Hadith Buhari) is often
taken as instruction by many fundamentalists to carry out
inhibited acts. B. The Qur’an only does the Qur’an
explicitly oppose this — “there shall be no coercion in matters of faith”;
but the Hadith also fails to include vital context for the
Muhammad’s words. As the live Muhammad was expected to
have said this, he is not facing great deception, and
must to pursue defensive military action for the overall good
As the umma, in this context, fill the believers' in a general command - and a spiritual inspiration. The *Spirit* of *Muhammad* is a comprehensive picture of *Muhammad*’s character and action, rather than that the Prophet abhors violence and would never incite religious persecution. Clearly, he is evident that, when uncorrect and good remaining furthermore, the ability to heal with unkind, not help is the Muslim is move to maintain the order to live a faithful life.

Furthermore, this idea to say that the healing we not without we listen and, even until government for when they control, the order that the healing we help the faithful live in Islamic life. Jeremy Henry Thomas argues that the healing we live to be interpreted by the truthful - in a 'religion of balance' - your blindfold should seek to take guidance from the healing that seem to support, add contradict, the principle of Islam. Official - "to heal, the rule for as spiritual benefit (Jeremy Henry Thomas). Taken with an understanding of Islam, and the will of God, the healing may provide your guidance for in Islamic life.

Nevertheless, it is the idea that should clearly provide the most important source of guidance for Muslims: next to the Qur’an. The Qur’an is clear that: "We have indeed in the Apostle of God a most beautiful picture of a Conduct." explicit suggests explicitly writing that Muhammad’s example is to be followed. Muhammad’s role as the servant of the prophets - he fight, people - and that bearer of the final revelation - means it must follow that he is the finish, and that enough of how to live a faithful life. Muhammad Qudsin takes the Prophet Muhammad such as his charity, kindness and love and respect for women, so that one close in the five can often look to in an Islamic approach that clearly
Examiner commentary

AO1
The candidate focuses on the precise question throughout and there is a good level of clarity to the writing. Technical terms are used consistently and demonstrate accurate understanding of the words.

The selection of material is very good and conveys a very good understanding of not only what the Sira and the Hadith are but also the usefulness of both for Muslims.

The response includes breadth of knowledge and this is shown in the candidate’s ability to explain how the Hadith, as well as providing Muslims with day to day guidance on certain issues, can be misused by extremists to advocate violence.

AO2
This response shows that the candidate has a full understanding of the demands of the question - the use of specific examples from today to help analyse the difficulties of relying solely on the Hadith illustrates this. The inclusion of a good variety of scholars’ views helps to extend the evaluation further.

The use of Qur’anic references to help evaluate and argue for the overriding importance of the Sira helps to make a more convincing and justified conclusion.
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