

Candidate Style Answers

GCSE Religious Studies A

OCR GCSE in Religious Studies: J620

Unit: B578 (Islam 2)

These candidate style answers are designed to accompany the OCR GCSE Religious Studies A specification for teaching from September 2009.

GCSE Religious Studies A

B578 Islam 2 (Worship, Community and Family, Sacred Writings)

OCR has produced these candidate style answers to support teachers in interpreting the assessment criteria for the new GCSE specifications and to bridge the gap between new specification release and availability of exemplar candidate work.

This content has been produced by senior OCR examiners, with the support of the Qualification Manager, to illustrate how the sample assessment questions might be answered and provide some commentary on what factors contribute to an overall grading. The candidate style answers are not written in a way that is intended to replicate student work but to demonstrate what a “good” or “excellent” response might include, supported by examiner commentary and conclusions.

As these responses have not been through full moderation and do not replicate student work, they have not been graded and are instead, banded “medium” or “high” to give an indication of the level of each response.

Please note that this resource is provided for advice and guidance only and does not in any way constitute an indication of grade boundaries or endorsed answers.

1e) ‘Ahadith are just as important as the Qur’an for Muslims.’	
Discuss this statement. You should include different, supported points of view and a personal viewpoint. You must refer to Islam in your answer. (12)	
<i>Candidate style answer</i>	<i>Examiner’s commentary</i>
<p><i>Some Muslims might argue that there is nothing that is as important as the Qur’an as this is the very word of Allah. There are only two copies – the one in Heaven and its perfect copy on earth revealed to Muhammad through Jibril. Before Muhammad died he told Muslims that he was leaving them the Qur’an to follow and this must be obeyed at all times. In it is contained all the laws and knowledge given by Allah to ensure that Muslims live the life required for a favourable Day of Judgement and an eternity spent in Heaven.</i></p> <p><i>The Ahadith are important because they are the sayings of Muhammad and they help Muslims to interpret the teachings of the Qur’an. However, they are the</i></p>	<p>High Level Response</p> <p>This is a good response addressing the question and linking it to Islam from the outset. A first view is given with an argument in support of it which is then developed/discussed showing deeper understanding of the significance of the issue.</p> <p>Then response exhibits a sound understanding of why the Qur’an is so important.</p> <p>A different (not opposite) view is offered with supportive reasoning and an appropriate personal evaluation is made of the views offered so far.</p> <p>Another view (opposing) is offered – note the</p>

Creation of a human being and I can therefore understand why some people would rank them as secondary to the Qur'an.

On the other hand there may be some Muslims who give the same importance to the Ahadith as they do to the Qur'an. They are indeed the sayings of Allah's chosen messenger used to explain and supplement the teachings of the Qur'an. These words would surely be divinely inspired, especially where Muhammad quotes Allah, and they are used alongside the Qur'an when developing Shariah Law. They provide practical examples of how the Qur'an's teachings can be carried out and are therefore a really important aid for Muslims who might not fully understand the Qur'an without them.

In conclusion I can see both points of view but I would have to support the first opinion as I believe that any revelation that comes directly from Allah, who is perfect and all knowing, must be more reliable than the thoughts of a human, even if he is considered by Muslims to be the perfect role model.

link "On the other hand".

Relevant arguments offered in support of this view, once again these are developed showing a deeper understanding of the issue.

Personal engagement with the argument is shown through personal, appropriate comment about the view. Relevant evidence/argument is offered in support of the view.

In the conclusion there is clear evidence of an appropriate personal response supported by relevant justification.

Use of Muslim terminology is accurate and appropriate. The written communication is good.

1e) 'Ahadith are just as important as the Qur'an for Muslims.'

Discuss this statement. You should include different, supported points of view and a personal viewpoint. You must refer to Islam in your answer.

(12)

Candidate style answer

I agree because these are the books that Muhamed wrote and that makes them important. The quran is important because it was the holly book of the muslims and it has got laws in it.

Muhamad got the quran when he was in a cave and it was written down by his followers because he could not read and right. The quran is important because you must wash before you read it put it on a shelf and people think it is the word of allah

Some people will say the hadith are just as important because they are the books that Muhamed wrote so these are important as well because he was the person who started Islam.

Examiner's commentary

Medium Level Response

This is a medium level response towards the lower end of the band because it shows a limited understanding of the question.

A better understanding would talk about the Ahadith and Qur'an having equal importance not just both being important.

A personal viewpoint is offered with an attempt at supporting it with arguments. The arguments are limited, however, not developed/discussed.

There is some relevant information about the Qur'an but it does not make appropriate links to the question. To improve: the answer could state that Muslims place the word of Allah above everything, making it more important than the Ahadith.

The final point look like another viewpoint but the argument is the same as the original one so the reasoning remains one-sided.

Written communication is hampered by poor spelling and some grammatical errors.