

Candidate Style Answers

GCSE Religious Studies A

OCR GCSE in Religious Studies: J620

Unit: B577 (Islam)

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

GCSE Religious Studies A

J620 B577 Islam 1 (Beliefs, Special Days, Divisions, Interpretations)

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 Qualifications 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.

<p>2(e) ‘Fasting during Ramadan is more important to a Muslim’s religious life than celebrating the Id festivals.’ Discuss this statement. You should include different, supported points of view and a personal viewpoint. You must refer to Islam in your answer. (12)</p>	
<p><i>Candidate style answer</i></p> <p><i>I think there could be valid arguments that both agree and disagree with this statement. Fasting is very hard and is a serious activity that takes great strength and willpower and it shows how dedicated you are to Allah. So from this point of view Muslims would see it as extremely important. Festivals are joyful, fun and involve all kinds of pleasant activities. They are not so serious and probably Muslims are focusing more on themselves and their families than on Allah. It could be argued then that this makes them less important for religious life. Lots of non-</i></p>	<p><i>Examiners commentary</i></p> <p>High Level Response</p> <p>This is a good response which meets the requirements of the highest level but is not the best at that level. It acknowledges that there is more than one viewpoint. It is an appropriate personal response and an understanding of the significance of both events is clearly shown. It links to a Muslim viewpoint.</p> <p>The view is restated with supporting argument and evidence given in the preceding sentences. Personal engagement shown by appropriate personal comments offered.</p>

<p><i>religious people take part in festivals, enjoying the parties and the presents without thinking about the meaning behind them. They are not thinking about the religion or God.</i></p> <p><i>However, some Muslims would argue that Allah commanded fasting and also commanded the festival at the end of fasting so it is just as religious. The parties bring Muslims together and they all thank Allah for a successful Ramadan so they are thinking about Him and they give money and meat to the poor, which are both important to their religious life as this is following Allah's commands and shows care for the Ummah.</i></p> <p><i>In conclusion I think both fasting and festivals are important. You need the one to appreciate the other and learn different things from them such as self-discipline in fasting and thankfulness to Allah in the festival. Muslims see both as commanded by Allah and therefore both have equal importance.</i></p>	<p>Another view (opposing) is offered – note the link “However”.</p> <p>Relevant arguments are offered in support of this view, once again developed to show deeper knowledge and understanding of the issue.</p> <p>Personal engagement with the argument is shown through appropriate comment about the view and by offering relevant evidence/argument in support of the view.</p> <p>Use of Muslim terminology is accurate and appropriate, the written communication is good.</p>
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<p><i>Candidate style answer</i></p> <p><i>“Fasting during Ramadan is more important to a Muslim’s life than celebrating the Id festivals”. Discuss this statement.</i></p> <p><i>Muslims fast for 30 days in Ramadan and then have a big party at the end to celebrate. Children get presents and they eat special food and have new clothes. This is nice but it isn’t as important in a Muslim’s life as the fasting because this is very hard and shows they will give up everything for god. They must not eat or drink in the day and don’t eat very much at night this makes them hungry and thirsty and shows they are doing what god</i></p>	<p><i>Examiners commentary</i></p> <p>Medium Level Response</p> <p>This is a satisfactory answer in which relevant material is appropriately developed. However, it shows the danger of the candidate copying out the question as if they miscopy they may answer THEIR question not the one the examiner has asked.</p> <p>An appropriate personal response is offered with an argument supporting it. The argument is relevant and justifies the opinion offered, although it is brief and not fully developed.</p> <p>An alternative view is offered, again with an argument to support it. Once again, to reach a higher level you would expect more engagement with the argument – how do both</p>

<p><i>commanded them to do.</i></p> <p><i>Other people may say that both fasting and festivals are important because they both make you think about god.</i></p> <p><i>I agree with this because you are celebrating to god when you have your festival and you are thinking about god when you are fasting.</i></p>	<p>events make you think about God? There is a personal summing up showing structure to the answer. It is appropriate but lacks development and real evaluation. The use of appropriate Muslim terminology is limited</p> <p>Written communication is satisfactory.</p>
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