
ISLAMIC STUDIES

9013/23

Paper 2

October/November 2017

3 hours

Additional Materials: Answer Booklet/Paper

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

If you have been given an Answer Booklet, follow the instructions on the front cover of the Booklet.

Write your Centre number, candidate number and name on all the work you hand in.

Write in dark blue or black pen.

Do not use staples, paper clips, glue or correction fluid.

DO NOT WRITE IN ANY BARCODES.

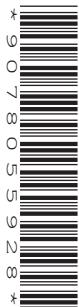
Answer **five** questions.

Answer at least **one** question from **each** Section.

You are reminded of the need for good English and clear presentation in your answers.

At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.

The number of marks is given in brackets [] at the end of each question or part question.



This document consists of **3** printed pages and **1** blank page.

You must answer **five** questions in all, **one** question from each section and **one** other question.

Section A

- 1 'The main cause of the collapse of the Umayyad dynasty was the weakness of their rulers.' Do you think this is a more likely cause than the strength of the 'Abbasids? Give reasons for your answer. [20]
- 2 'Umar II is remembered as the most pious of the Umayyad caliphs. Do you think he was the most effective of them? [20]
- 3 How justified is the claim that the early 'Abbasid period up to the end of the death of al-Mutawakkil in 861 was a golden age of Islamic culture? [20]

Section B

- 4 Each of the four founders of the Sunni law schools followed his own particular principles and methods. Choosing two of these founders, describe and explain the main differences between them. [20]
- 5 (a) Outline the methods used by any one of the collectors of the six canonical books of Sunni Hadiths in making their collections. [12]
- (b) Explain why these collectors thought it important to make their collections. [8]
- 6 Abu al-Hasan al-Ash'ari is regarded as the great opponent of the Mu'tazili theologians. What were the main points of controversy between him and them? [20]

Section C

- 7 What are the essential differences between the position of Caliph in Sunni Islam and Imam in Shi'a Islam? [20]
- 8 'Sufism brings a believer closer to God.' Give reasons to agree or disagree with this claim. [20]
- 9 Al-Ghazali was an expert in philosophy, yet he rejected it completely. Explain why the majority of Muslims turned away from philosophy (*falsafa*). [20]

Section D

- 10** Do you think the teachings of Muhammad 'Abduh or the teachings of Hasan al-Banna' are more suited to the needs of Muslims today? [20]
- 11** How far should Muslims living as minorities in non-Muslim societies be prepared to blend in with these wider societies? [20]
- 12** 'The Qur'an teaches Muslims everything they need to know about women's rights and responsibilities.' Give reasons to agree or disagree with this statement. [20]

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