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**GCE O LEVEL  
Islamiyat (2058)**

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**Topical Question Bank 2009-2011**

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### The History and Importance of the Quran

**Q** N2011/P1/2

- (a) Give an account of how the Qur'an developed into book form. [10]
- (b) What is the significance to Muslims today of having the Qur'an in the form of a book? [4]

**Q** J2011/P1/2

- (a) From the Qur'anic passages you have studied, outline the relationship between God and two of His messengers who were sent before the Prophet Muhammad. [10]
- (b) Explain why God sends his revelations through messengers. [4]

**Q** N2010/P1/2

- (a) Describe how the two main sources of Islamic legal thinking are related. [10]
- (b) Give an example to show how the Qur'an could be used in the exercise of *qiyas* (analogy). [4]

**Q** J2010/P1/2

- (a) Give an account of how the Qur'an was compiled in the years following the Prophet's death. [10]
- (b) Explain why the first community of Muslims thought it was necessary to compile the Qur'an. [4]

**Q** N2009/P1/2

- (a) Write an account of the ways in which the Qur'an was revealed to the Prophet between the years 610 and 632. [10]
- (b) What does the Prophet's first experience of revelation tell us about the nature of prophethood in Islam? [4]

**Q** J2009/P1/2

- (a) How are the Qur'an and Hadiths used together in Islamic legal thinking? [10]
- (b) Why do some legal scholars reject the use of analogy (*qiyas*)? [4]

**Q** Specimen 2009/P1/2

- (a)** Trace the main stages in the compilation of the Qur'an in the time of the caliphs Abu Bakr and 'Uthman. [10]
- (b)** Discuss the most important features of the teachings in the Qur'an about the Messengers of God. [4]

## The Life and Importance of the Prophet Muhammad

Q N2011/P1/3

- (a) Write about the Prophet Muhammad's interaction with the Quraysh while he lived in Makka, before and after revelation. [10]
- (b) Why did the Quraysh feel they needed to reject the Prophet's message? [4]

Q N2011/P1/4

- (a) Describe the Prophet's conduct as leader in two of the battles he fought in. [10]
- (b) What can Muslim leaders today learn from the Prophet's conduct in their relations with other states? [4]

Q J2011/P1/3

- (a) Give an account of the events of the Prophet's night journey and ascension ['Isra wa-mi'raj]. [10]
- (b) Explain the importance of this event to the Prophet himself. [4]

Q N2010/P1/3

- (a) Describe the main difficulties encountered by the Prophet himself during his time in Makka after his call to prophethood. [10]
- (b) How does his conduct in one of these difficulties provide an example for Muslims today? [4]

Q N2010/P1/5

- (a) Outline the main events of the Prophet's journey from Makka to Madina. [10]
- (b) What was the significance of this journey for the Muslims? [4]

Q J2010/P1/3

- (a) Write about the life of the Prophet up until the first revelation. [10]
- (b) Why was his relationship with his wife Khadija important for him? [4]

Q J2010/P1/4

- (a) Describe the events relating to the Prophet's experiences in caves. [10]
- (b) Explain the significance of one of these experiences for the development of Islam. [4]

Q N2009/P1/3

- (a) Describe **two** events from the life of the Prophet that illustrate the way he treated non-Muslims. [10]
- (b) How can these examples help Muslims today in their relationships with non-Muslims? [4]

Q N2009/P1/5

- (a) Trace the events that led up to the Prophet's migration (*hijra*). [10]  
(b) Explain the importance of the Pledges of 'Aqaba to the Prophet in the period leading up to the migration. [4]

Q J2009/P1/3

- (a) Describe the events of **two** of the battles fought by the Prophet while he was leader of the community at Madina. [10]  
(b) How does his conduct in **one** of these battles provide a model for Muslims today when they face difficulties? [4]

Q J2009/P1/4

- (a) Write an account of the first migration (*hijra*) of the Muslims to Abyssinia. [10]  
(b) Why did the people of Makka pursue these Muslims? [4]

Q Specimen 2009/P1/3

- (a) Give an account of the Prophet's first experience of receiving revelation. [10]  
(b) Explain the meaning of the title 'Seal of the Prophets'. [4]

Q Specimen 2009/P1/4

- (a) Give examples from what the Prophet did and said that show his attitude towards **two** of the following: partners in marriage, friends, and enemies. [10]  
(b) From **one** of your choices, explain how Muslims today can follow the Prophet's example. [4]

Q Specimen 2009/P1/5

- (a) Describe the main events that involved the Prophet with Abu Talib and Abu Sufyan. [10]  
(b) Explain why the death of Abu Talib threatened the Prophet's security in Makka. [4]

## The First Islamic Community

**Q** N2011/P1/5

(a) Write about the life of Aisha during the Prophet's lifetime. [10]

(b) How can she be seen as a role model for Muslims now? [4]

**Q** J2011/P1/4

(a) Write an account of the following figures during the lifetime of the Prophet: Hamza, 'Abu Bakr and 'Ali. [10]

(b) Explain why one of these figures was important in the development of the Islamic community. [4]

**Q** J2011/P1/5

(a) Describe the difficulties faced by the followers of the Prophet in Makka. [10]

(b) What can these stories teach Muslims in their everyday lives today? [4]

**Q** N2010/P1/4

(a) Write about the major contributions made to Islam by Abu Bakr during the Prophet's lifetime. [10]

(b) Why was Abu Bakr given the title 'Saviour of Islam'? [4]

**Q** J2010/P1/5

(a) Describe the teachings of Islam about the position of women as wives, mothers and daughters. [10]

(b) What do these teachings tell us about the relationship between men and women? [4]

**Q** N2009/P1/4

(a) Write briefly about the conversion to Islam of Abu Bakr, 'Umar, 'Uthman and 'Ali. [10]

(b) In what ways did the conversion of 'Umar help the young Muslim community? [4]

**Q** J2009/P1/5

(a) Write accounts of the lives of the Prophet's two grandsons al-Hasan and al-Husayn. [10]

(b) Explain why they each died in the way they did. [4]

### The History and Importance of the Hadiths

**Q** N2011/P2/2

- (a) Outline the main teachings of the Hadiths you have studied, from the passages set for special study, about the responsibilities of individual Muslims. [10]
- (b) Explain by giving an example how a Hadith has been used together with the Qur'an in working out an Islamic law. [4]

**Q** J2011/P2/2

- (a) What part do Hadiths play in Islamic legal thinking? [10]
- (b) What is the importance of consensus (*ijma*) in Islam? [4]

**Q** N2010/P2/2

- (a) How have the Hadiths of the Prophet been used as a source of guidance by Muslims? [10]
- (b) 'Truly, My mercy overcomes My wrath.' This is a Hadith Qudsi. What is special about Hadiths of this kind? [4]

**Q** J2010/P2/2

- (a) How did the compilers of Hadiths (*muhaddithun*) judge between acceptable and unacceptable Hadiths? [10]
- (b) How are the Qur'an and Hadith employed in working out Islamic law? [4]

**Q** N2009/P2/2

- (a) Describe the methods employed by the compilers of the major books of Hadith to ensure the Hadiths they collected were authentic. [10]
- (b) Why is it important for Muslims to have collections of authentic Hadiths? [4]

**Q** J2009/P2/2

- (a) Outline the main teachings of the Hadiths you have studied about the importance of Muslim communal life. [10]
- (b) Explain the main differences between *musnad* and *musannaf* Hadiths. [4]



**Q** Specimen 2009/P2/2

**(a)** Outline the main teachings of the Hadiths you have studied about the responsibilities of individual Muslims. [10]

**(b)** Explain the importance of the *isnad* and the *matn* in deciding that a Hadith is authentic. [4]

## The Rightly Guided Caliphs

**Q** N2011/P2/3

**(a)** Briefly describe the main events of the caliphate of any two of the rightly guided caliphs given below:

**(i)** Abu Bakr

**(ii)** 'Umar

**(iii)** 'Uthman

[10]

**(b)** In your opinion what was the most important task that faced Abu Bakr on becoming caliph? Briefly discuss. [4]

**Q** J2011/P2/3

**(a)** Write a detailed account of the administrative measures put in place by 'Umar during his caliphate. [10]

**(b)** "Umar's caliphate is regarded as the golden period of early Islamic history". Discuss. [4]

**Q** N2010/P2/5

**(a)** What were the main events of the caliphate of 'Ali? [10]

**(b)** Why do you think Mu'awiya refused to accept 'Ali as caliph? [4]

**Q** J2010/P2/3

**(a)** What major events took place during the caliphate of 'Uthman? [10]

**(b)** Explain why 'Uthman encountered difficulties in the later years of his caliphate and was assassinated. [4]

**Q** N2009/P2/3

**(a)** Describe Abu Bakr's activities against the false prophets and apostate tribes. [10]

**(b)** Why is Abu Bakr called the Saviour of Islam? [4]

**Q** J2009/P2/3

**(a)** Trace the expansion of the Islamic empire under the rule of the caliph 'Umar. [10]

**(b)** What does the way he died tell us about his character? [4]

**Q** J2009/P2/4

**(a)** Describe the main events of the caliphate of 'Ali. [10]

**(b)** Explain why Talha and Zubayr opposed 'Ali. [4]

**Q** Specimen 2009/P2/3

**(a)** Write an account of the major challenges that faced Abu Bakr during his caliphate. [10]

**(b)** Explain why he was known as the Honest One (al-Siddiq), and the Saviour of Islam. [4]

## The Articles of Faith

**Q** N2011/P2/5

(a) Give a full account of the Muslim belief in prophets. [10]

(b) Briefly explain why Allah revealed different books from time to time. [4]

**Q** J2011/P2/4

(a) What does the statement 'There is no ability or power except through Allah' tell you about Muslim belief in Allah's predestination and decree? [10]

(b) To what extent does this belief affect the daily living of Muslims? [4]

**Q** N2010/P2/4

(a) Give a descriptive account of the Muslim belief in revealed books. [10]

(b) Discuss the importance of Jibra'il in comparison to other angels. [4]

**Q** J2010/P2/4

(a) What are Muslim beliefs about angels? [10]

(b) Why is the belief in resurrection important to Muslims in their daily living? [4]

**Q** J2009/P2/5

(a) Write about Muslim beliefs in prophets. [10]

(b) Explain how this belief influences the daily living of a Muslim. [4]

**Q** Specimen 2009/P1/4

(a) Give an account of the Muslim belief in angels and God's predestination and decree. [10]

(b) Explain the importance to the community of Muslims of congregational prayers on Fridays and pilgrimage. [4]

## The Pillars of Islam

Q N2011/P2/4

- (a) Give descriptions of the way in which fasting and almsgiving are carried out among Muslims. [10]
- (b) Show how these two pillars keep the Islamic community together. [4]

Q J2011/P2/5

- (a) What **beliefs** and **practices** are involved in:
- (i) stoning the Jamarat
  - (ii) performing sa'y
  - (iii) assembling at Arafat [10]
- (b) Explain the main differences between *hajj* and *umrah*. [4]

Q N2010/P2/3

- (a) What are the daily observances of the Ramadan fast? [10]
- (b) Explain why the Ramadan fast is important to Muslims. [4]

Q J2010/P2/5

- (a) What are the conditions of prayer (*salat*) that must be fulfilled before performing them? [10]
- (b) Explain the importance of mosques in Muslim communities. [4]

Q N2009/P2/4

- (a) Describe the particular features of congregational prayers on Fridays (*jum'a*). [10]
- (b) Why do Muslims regard these prayers as important? [4]

Q N2009/P2/5

- (a) Describe the main events of the annual pilgrimage (*hajj*). [10]
- (b) Explain the significance of the prophet Abraham in the observances of the pilgrimage. [4]

Q Specimen 2009/P2/5

- (a) Give brief descriptions of the ways in which fasting and almsgiving are carried out. [10]
- (b) Show how observance of these two pillars keeps the community together. [4]