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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
(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.  
(b) Explain by giving an example how a Hadith has been used together with the Qur'an in working out an Islamic law.

Q J2011/P2/2
(a) What part do Hadiths play in Islamic legal thinking?  
(b) What is the importance of consensus (ijma) in Islam?

Q N2010/P2/2
(a) How have the Hadiths of the Prophet been used as a source of guidance by Muslims?  
(b) ‘Truly, My mercy overcomes My wrath.’ This is a Hadith Qudsi. What is special about Hadiths of this kind?

Q J2010/P2/2
(a) How did the compilers of Hadiths (muhaddithun) judge between acceptable and unaccept-able Hadiths?  
(b) How are the Qur'an and Hadith employed in working out Islamic law?

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.  
(b) Why is it important for Muslims to have collections of authentic Hadiths?

Q J2009/P2/2
(a) Outline the main teachings of the Hadiths you have studied about the importance of Muslim communal life.  
(b) Explain the main differences between musnad and musannaf Hadiths.
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
(b) In your opinion what was the most important task that faced Abu Bakr on becoming caliph? Briefly discuss.

Q J2011/P2/3
(a) Write a detailed account of the administrative measures put in place by ‘Umar during his caliphate.
(b) “‘Umar’s caliphate is regarded as the golden period of early Islamic history’. Discuss.

Q N2010/P2/5
(a) What were the main events of the caliphate of ‘Ali?
(b) Why do you think Mu’awiya refused to accept ‘Ali as caliph?

Q J2010/P2/3
(a) What major events took place during the caliphate of ‘Uthman?
(b) Explain why ‘Uthman encountered difficulties in the later years of his caliphate and was assassinated.

Q N2009/P2/3
(a) Describe Abu Bakr’s activities against the false prophets and apostate tribes.
(b) Why is Abu Bakr called the Saviour of Islam?

Q J2009/P2/3
(a) Trace the expansion of the Islamic empire under the rule of the caliph ‘Umar.
(b) What does the way he died tell us about his character?

Q J2009/P2/4
(a) Describe the main events of the caliphate of ‘Ali.
(b) Explain why Talha and Zubayr opposed ‘Ali.

Q Specimen 2009/P2/3
(a) Write an account of the major challenges that faced Abu Bakr during his caliphate.
(b) Explain why he was known as the Honest One (al-Siddiq), and the Saviour of Islam.
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]