

# ISLAMIYAT

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Paper 0493/11

Paper 1

## General comments

Generally speaking, candidates were well prepared for this examination in that they were able to answer the four required questions in the time allocated. A significant minority missed out a complete question.

Overall Examiners noted that the performance of the candidates was good for this session, and again many candidates gave the main points in an outline in most of the answers but did not give enough details to achieve the highest level.

## Comments on specific questions

### Question 1

Candidates are showing that they understand the difference between part (a) and part (b) answers, but there are a significant number who still repeat in part (b) what they have said in part (a). Part (b) should be seen as a question where candidates can interpret the themes in the everyday lives of Muslims, rather than focusing on what the sura says or its background. Candidates can reach the higher levels if they elaborate their answers rather than giving short statements such as “this is about the knowledge of Allah.”

(a) This part was generally well answered. Candidates were able to pick out themes of God’s creation, that He is in control of all things as well as His Oneness and mercy.

There were a few candidates who answered this part by paraphrasing the suras, and there were others who wrote general answers that could be applied to all suras.

(b) Good answers to this part tried to show how the themes are relevant to the Muslims themselves. For example, “Similarly if we Muslims face difficulties in life, such as during preaching of Islam by missionaries, they should retain hope in Allah and ask His mercy.” Answers needed more than just a comment such as “if we read these suras it will help us.”

### Question 2

(a) This question focused on the experiences of two prophets that the candidates have studied. It was a generally well answered question, with candidates giving a lot of information about the two prophets they had chosen to write about as well as the relevant quotations and references to these stories in the Qur’an.

Candidates needed to include details, not mix up the stories of the prophets they had chosen and know the names of the prophets they were writing about.

(b) Most candidates gave answers related to being patient and having faith in God. Better answers were able to relate the prophet’s experience to the experiences of Muslims, e.g. “Similarly a true believer is never left by God...best example is Muslim missionaries who retain hope when rejected.”























