

Mark Scheme (Results) Summer 2008

GCE

GCE Religious Studies (6584) Paper 1F

6584 - Unit 4F: Islam Mark Scheme

Question 1f		
Level	Mark	AO1 Examiners should be aware than any valid approach must be credited.
4	19-24	<i>Comprehensive understanding of the argument/interpretation of the passage, with clear and critical analysis and proficient use of religious language, discussed within a wider context.</i>
		It is likely candidates may stress the thrust of interpretation in this passage that philosophical thought in Islam is grounded in revelation but is also intelligible to human reason. Candidates may present an exposition that moves from an account of the closure of revelation in the Qur'an to the view that this could be understood in relation to various intellectual contexts but not tied to classical philosophy or religious dogma. Candidates may provide an Islamic context in terms of the quest for knowledge, its support during the period of the Caliphs and the geographical expansion of Islam into various cultures. Candidates may refer to scholarly contributions from traditions such as the Mutazila and Ishmaili. There may be evidence of conceptual analysis of terms such as closure of revelation, classical antecedents and falsafa.
3	11-18	<i>Clear understanding of the main point(s) and key idea(s) of the argument/interpretation of the passage, set in an appropriate context, with some analysis of key concepts; use of relevant religious terms.</i>
		Candidates may clarify the main line of reasoning regarding the development of Islamic philosophy from the revelations of Muhammad through to a type of natural theology. Candidates may examine ideas such as revelation, human reason, classical philosophy. Candidates may refer to key beliefs in the Qur'an being understood by the use of human reason. Some candidates may examine the kalam contributions to beliefs such as the existence of God.
2	7-12	<i>Presentation of a selection of relevant material which reflects a basic understanding of the argument/interpretation of the passage; some use of specialised religious language in appropriate contexts.</i>
		Candidates may provide a basic understanding of the passage about the development of Islamic thought from the revelation in the Qur'an to its understanding via human reason. There may be a basic exposition of the passage.
1	1-6	<i>Uncritical presentation of the argument/interpretation of the passage; limited ability to identify and select the most relevant/important information and, therefore, reflecting little understanding; over reliance on repetition of the chosen passage.</i>
		Candidates may provide a simple summary of the passage with limited attention to the revelation of Muhammad and its status.

Level	Mark	A02
4	13-16	<p><i>Coherent and comprehensive analysis of a range of implications of the expressed viewpoint and a careful analysis of their relationship to human experience and religion; a sustained and critical line or argument, including a balanced discussion of alternatives; substantiated conclusions drawn with full justification of viewpoint; expressed accurately, fluently, using a range of technical terms.</i></p> <p>It is likely candidates may debate the interpretation in this passage weighing up strengths and weaknesses. Candidates may argue using exemplar material from Islamic traditions about the overriding priority of the Qur'an but also the evidence of Islamic philosophical traditions such as kalam. Candidates may indicate a clear line of reasoning and it is likely this will be supported by evidence. This may refer to support for a type of natural theology as seen in the work of various exponents and traditions such as the role of the Imam in Shia. In contrast there may be discussions about the various differences between Islamic philosophical traditions. Candidates may evaluate the implications for religion such as the relationship between theology based on revelation and natural theology and the status given to human reason. From the perspective of human experience candidates may debate the views for and against the view that the closure of revelation is the definitive point for belief and practice.</p>
3	9-12	<p><i>Evidence of understanding of a range of implications of the expressed viewpoint in their broader context and in relation to aspects of human experience and religion; a clear line of argument and comparison of relative strengths/weaknesses of a point of view; a structured argument, clearly expressed and accurately using some technical terms, giving a clear justification of a point of view.</i></p> <p>Candidates may debate the implications of this passage about the place of reason in the context of revelation. They may compare some views for and against the interpretation in the passage and come to their own line of reasoning. They may argue for the unique basis of revelation in the Qur'an compared to the relativity of philosophical reasoning. On the other hand there may be views about the universalism of philosophy compared to sectarian interests.</p> <p>In terms of implications for religion candidates may argue that Islam portrays Muhammad as the seal of the prophets and there is no necessity for further enquiry. In terms of human experience candidates may argue for the opportunities Islamic philosophy provides for the development of understanding via reason and adapting Qur'anic teachings to diverse and changing contexts.</p>
2	5-8	<p><i>An attempt to consider the implications of the expressed viewpoint for its broader context and in relation to aspects of human experience and religion; a basic attempt to discuss and evaluate a point of view and justify opinions at a simple level; sufficient clarity of meaning.</i></p> <p>Candidates may argue in support of this passage at a simple level. They may consider that the passage leads to a respect for human reasoning on Qur'anic beliefs with an example such as the existence of God.</p>

1	1-4	<i>Limited awareness of the implications of the expressed viewpoint for its broader context and relation to aspects of human experience and religion; a limited attempt to discuss and evaluate a point of view, imprecisely expressed.</i>
		Candidates may present a superficial account of a view against this passage that the Qur'an is the final revelation with no requirement for further development.