

---

# GCSE

# RELIGIOUS STUDIES

8062/15 Paper 1 Islam  
Report on the Examination

---

8062/15  
June 2023

---

Version: 1.1

---

---

Further copies of this Report are available from [aqa.org.uk](http://aqa.org.uk)

Copyright © 2023 AQA and its licensors. All rights reserved.  
AQA retains the copyright on all its publications. However, registered schools/colleges for AQA are permitted to copy material from this booklet for their own internal use, with the following important exception: AQA cannot give permission to schools/colleges to photocopy any material that is acknowledged to a third party even for internal use within the centre.

## **General comments**

Overall students demonstrated good knowledge and understanding of Islam. Responses to the Beliefs section of the paper were better than those to the Practices section. Students appeared to find the questions straightforward and there were very few who did not answer all the questions.

## **Question-based comments**

### **1.1**

Nearly a two thirds of students gave the correct response, 'Immanent', to the question about a term for the idea of God being involved in the world. This suggests that some students are sometimes not familiar with technical terms and need to include key terms in the specification in their learning and revision programmes.

### **1.2**

It is pleasing to note that nearly 90% of students achieved full marks on this 2 mark response question. Generally, this question was well answered with the most common responses including angels being made of light, being sinless and the naming angels. Some students confused this with prophets but overall good knowledge of angels was demonstrated.

### **1.3**

There was variation in the responses seen to this question about ways in which the revelation of the Qur'an influences Muslims today. Most common answers included the Qur'an being the direct word of God, so they obey it and follow it. Many referred to the Night of Power and Muhammad. However, many students wrote too much for 4 marks and used additional pages to complete some very detailed responses. This is not a requirement as two detailed influences are sufficient.

### **1.4**

Generally, this question, concerning beliefs about the Day of Judgment, was well answered with responses showing a clear understanding of what happens on the Day of Judgement. However, too many students did not refer to a source of authority and lost a mark for not correctly identifying this. Some included well-chosen quotes which could be credited for development but did not reference the source and therefore lost the opportunity for the fifth mark. Common correct responses included, Israfil blowing a trumpet, angels involvement generally, references to the Sirat bridge and judgement resulting in heaven or hell. Some students discussed at length the signs leading up to the Day of Judgement and this clearly was not the focus of the question and gained no marks.

### **1.5**

Many students produced a really good discussion on whether Tawhid (the Oneness of God) was the most important Muslim belief. Some of the best responses focused on a comparison with Articles of Faith or the nature of Allah himself. The overwhelming majority made links to the Shahadah as well as other Five Pillars and discussed, thoughtfully, the various arguments around which are more important.

**2.1**

Approximately 85% knew that the name for Friday prayers was Jummah. This was clearly well known.

**2.2**

Generally, this question on ways in which a Muslim prepares for Salah (prayer) was very well answered. Most common responses referred to ablution or laying down of a prayer mat or clean quiet space. Several students missed out on marks because they referred to actions after prayer and during prayer.

**2.3**

This was a well answered question on ways in which Muslims celebrate Id-ul-Adha. The most common responses linked Id-ul-Adha to Ibrahim, sacrifice of an animal and the distribution of meat. Some students were confused about which of the festivals was being asked about. Responses referred to Ashura and Id ul fitr and also a few students did not appreciate that Ramadan is not a festival. Many included general answers such as pray, eat, celebrate with friends / family- with little indication that students knew the specifics of the festival.

**2.4**

This question on why Muslims give Zakah was one of the best answered question overall. Most students knew it was alms-giving or charity and was one of the Five Pillars (making the reference to source of authority straightforward). Some very detailed responses showed depth of knowledge and understanding. However, some answers were too long; students could have written less and still gained full marks.

**2.5**

This was another very well answered question which required evaluation of the statement, 'Following Muslim practices is difficult in the modern world', and allowed students to draw upon their broader understanding of the daily struggles faced by Muslims. Many students will have prepared for questions on the Five Pillars and this showed in the discussion around the practicalities of performing the Five Pillars in the modern world. Whilst some students discussed themed approaches such as linking to the cost of living and the distribution and use of wealth and these were all creditworthy.

## **Mark Ranges and Award of Grades**

Grade boundaries and cumulative percentage grades are available on the [Results Statistics](#) page of the AQA Website.