3.3 Minor and Major Signs of the Last Day: 10-minute Pack

AQA 8062 · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

1 Give two ways scholars warn about using weak hadith when teaching minor signs of the Last Day, in the context of responsible religious teaching.

(Total for Question 1 is 2 marks)

2 Explain the importance of belief in the signs of the Last Day for Muslim personal hope and community behaviour today.

(Total for Question 2 is 6 marks)

3 State two ways Muslim scholars disagree about interpreting minor signs of the Last Day, and for each give a brief explanation of the disagreement, in the context of Islamic theology and hermeneutics.

(Total for Question 3 is 4 marks)

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Mark scheme · 3.3 Minor and Major Signs of the Last Day: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

one way named, e.g. 'scholars advise checking chains of transmission', oe	**B1**
a second way named, e.g. 'scholars recommend teaching only reports accepted as sahih or reliable', oe	**B1**

Answer: Any two such cautions, for example: check chains of transmission; teach only hadith accepted as sahih or reliable.

Question 2

Level 3 A detailed, well-organised answer that explains several reasons why belief in the signs matters for hope and behaviour, supported by accurate reference to Islamic teaching or hadith, with clear links between belief and practice.	**5-6**
Level 2 An answer that explains some reasons why belief in the signs matters, with relevant supporting detail, though links between belief and practice may be limited.	**3-4**
Level 1 One or two isolated relevant points about the importance of the signs, with little supporting detail or explanation.	**1-2**
Level 0 No relevant content.	**0**

Indicative content:

- Belief in the signs can strengthen hope in divine justice because it reassures believers that God will intervene before the Last Day.
- Belief can motivate ethical behaviour and increased worship as preparation for judgment, including prayer, charity and repentance.
- Community responses such as education and social support may be encouraged to resist moral decline and ignorance.
- Different interpretations, literal or symbolic, affect how urgently individuals and communities respond, leading to practical variations.
- Some Muslims may find comfort and resilience in the narrative of eventual restoration under Isa, while others may focus on present moral duties.
- Belief in signs links to the wider Islamic teaching about accountability and the need to live righteously in expectation of Gods judgement.

Question 3

point 1: disagreement over literal versus symbolic interpretation of some signs, oe	**B1**
explanation 1: some scholars read descriptions literally while others see them as metaphorical indicators of moral or social states, oe	**B1**
point 2: disagreement over the reliability or authenticity of certain hadith about minor signs, oe	**B1**
explanation 2: scholars assess chains of transmission and may accept some reports and reject others as weak, affecting which signs they teach, oe	**B1**

Answer: Two disagreements: literal versus symbolic interpretation; disputes about hadith authenticity affecting which minor signs are accepted.

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