3.3 Minor and Major Signs of the Last Day: 30-minute Pack

AQA 8062 · about 30 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

1 Evaluate the view that belief in the signs of the Last Day makes the biggest difference to how Muslims live today. In your answer you should give reasoned arguments to support this statement, give reasoned arguments to support a different point of view, refer to religious arguments, reach a justified conclusion.

(Total for Question 1 is 15 marks)

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2 Explain two reasons why some Muslims accept the hadith reports about many minor signs of the Last Day, in the context of belief and practice.

(Total for Question 2 is 4 marks)

3 Explain two beliefs about Ya'juj and Ma'juj (Gog and Magog) and refer to an Islamic source in your answer, in the context of major eschatological events.

(Total for Question 3 is 5 marks)

4 Explain two contrasting beliefs about the Dajjal (the false messiah) and what he represents, and refer to an Islamic source in your answer.

(Total for Question 4 is 5 marks)

5 Explain two reasons why belief in the major and minor signs of the Last Day might affect how a Muslim chooses to live today, in the context of everyday practice and moral decision making.

(Total for Question 5 is 4 marks)

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Mark scheme · 3.3 Minor and Major Signs of the Last Day: 30-minute Pack

Question 1

Level 1 Simple, unbalanced evaluation with limited reasoning and little use of religious ideas. **1-3**

Level 2 Some balanced evaluation with relevant reasons on both sides, but arguments lack development or reference to religion is limited. **4-6**

Level 3 A balanced and developed evaluation, using religious ideas and examples, with a clear line of reasoning and a supported conclusion. **7-9**

Level 4 A thorough, balanced and well-developed evaluation, integrating religious arguments and evidence, addressing counter-arguments and reaching a justified and well-explained conclusion. **10-12**

Indicative content:

- Arguments supporting the statement: belief in the signs can strongly motivate personal piety, regular worship, charity and moral vigilance as preparation for the Last Day.
- Belief in signs can shape community priorities, such as focusing on religious education and resisting moral decline, because signs are seen as immediate warnings.
- Religious arguments: hadith and Quranic material give authority to the signs, making them an important part of lived faith and ethical urgency for some Muslims.
- Arguments against the statement: other beliefs, such as belief in God, the Five Pillars, or the reality of accountability on the Day of Judgment itself, may have a larger practical impact than signs.
- Many Muslims focus on everyday obligations like prayer, zakah and family duties for reasons independent of eschatological signs, so signs are not always primary.
- Practical counter-argument: differences in interpretation mean some Muslims treat signs symbolically and so their effect on behaviour is limited compared with core teachings.
- Consideration of diversity: different cultures and scholars emphasise different teachings, so the impact of belief in signs varies widely across the Muslim world.
- A reasoned conclusion might weigh the strong motivational power of signs for some believers against the central, constant influence of core obligations and teachings for others.

Question 2

point 1: hadith are seen as records of the Prophet Muhammad's words and actions and so are a source of guidance, oe **B1**

development: Muslims who accept sahih hadith trust them as evidence about future signs linked to prophetic authority, oe **B1**

point 2: belief in hadith about minor signs helps believers recognise moral decline and take corrective action, oe **B1**

development: this can lead to increased personal piety and community reform in response to perceived signs, oe **B1**

Answer: E.g. hadith are authoritative reports of the Prophet so trusted as guidance; believing in signs motivates moral reform and greater piety as a response.

Question 3

belief 1: many Muslims believe Ya'juj and Ma'juj will be released as peoples or forces that cause great corruption and destruction before the Last Day, oe **B1**

development: this belief is based on Quranic references such as Surah Al-Kahf 18 and hadith that describe their release and havoc, oe **B1**

belief 2: some interpret Ya'juj and Ma'juj symbolically as representing chaotic forces or invaders rather than specific tribes, oe **B1**

development: symbolic interpretations rely on broader readings of scripture and eschatological language, oe **B1**

reference to a source of wisdom and authority made accurately, e.g. Quran 18:83-101 or hadith descriptions, oe **B1**

Answer: Contrast literal belief that Ya'juj and Ma'juj will be released to cause destruction with symbolic readings seeing them as chaotic forces; include reference to Quran 18:83-101 or relevant hadith.

Question 4

belief 1: some Muslims accept a literal view that Dajjal will be an individual deceiver who appears before the Last Day, oe **B1**

development: this view is supported by hadith descriptions in collections such as Sahih Muslim that describe Dajjal performing false miracles and causing fitnah, oe **B1**

belief 2: other Muslims read Dajjal symbolically as representing widespread deceit, false ideologies or corrupt political systems, oe **B1**

development: symbolic readings draw on general Quranic warnings about falsehood and tests of faith rather than a literal single figure, oe **B1**

reference to a source of wisdom and authority made accurately, e.g. hadith in Sahih Muslim or Quranic warnings about falsehood, oe **B1**

Answer: Contrast literal belief in Dajjal as an individual deceiver described in hadith, with a symbolic interpretation seeing Dajjal as systems of deception; include a reference such as hadith material in Sahih Muslim or relevant Quranic warnings.

Question 5

point 1: belief in impending signs can motivate Muslims to increase worship and good deeds to prepare for judgment, oe **B1**

development: this may lead to more regular prayer, charity and avoidance of sin as practical preparation, oe **B1**

point 2: belief in signs can encourage moral vigilance and community reform in response to perceived decline, oe **B1**

development: communities may emphasise education in religion and ethical behaviour to resist corruption and falsehood, oe **B1**

Answer: E.g. increased worship and good deeds to prepare for judgment; moral vigilance and community action to counter decline.

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