3.4 Barzakh and the Bridge of Sirat: The Journey After Death: 10-minute Pack

AQA 8062 · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

1 This multiple-choice question checks basic vocabulary about the Islamic intermediate state called Barzakh, in the context of beliefs about life after death.

- ☐ A, the final Day of Judgement when all souls are raised
- ☐ B, the period between a person's death and the resurrection
- ☐ C, another name for Paradise, the reward for the righteous
- ☐ D, a ritual washing of the body before burial

(Total for Question 1 is 1 mark)

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2 Give two things Muslims commonly believe happen to the soul during Barzakh, the intermediate state after death, in the Islamic tradition.

(Total for Question 2 is 2 marks)

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3 Give three physical or symbolic features commonly associated with the Bridge of Sirat (As-Sirat) that every soul must cross in Islamic tradition, as taught in many hadiths and theological descriptions.

(Total for Question 3 is 3 marks)

4 Explain the importance of the stages Barzakh, questioning in the grave, Al-Mizan and As-Sirat for Muslims today.

(Total for Question 4 is 6 marks)

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Mark scheme · 3.4 Barzakh and the Bridge of Sirat: The Journey After Death: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

correct option B, Barzakh is the period between death and resurrection, cao **B1**

Answer: B, the period between a person's death and the resurrection

Question 2

the soul awaits resurrection in a state of comfort, oe **B1**

the soul may await resurrection in a state of suffering, oe **B1**

Answer: The soul awaits resurrection in comfort or in suffering, depending on the persons deeds and faith.

Question 3

it is described as a bridge laid across Jahannam, oe **B1**

it is described as very narrow or sharp, like a sword or thinner than a hair for some people, oe **B1**

it is crossed quickly and safely by the righteous but is dangerous or collapses for wrongdoers, oe **B1**

Answer: Any three: bridge across Jahannam; very narrow or sharp like a sword or thinner than a hair; crossed easily by the righteous but dangerous for wrongdoers.

Question 4

Level 3 A detailed, well-organised answer that explains several reasons why these stages are important for Muslims today, supported by accurate reference to Islamic teaching and/or scripture or tradition, with clear links between beliefs and practical effects. **5-6**

Level 2 An answer that explains some reasons for the importance of these stages with some supporting detail, though links between belief and practice may be limited. **3-4**

Level 1 One or two relevant points are made about the importance of the stages with little supporting detail or explanation. **1-2**

Level 0 No relevant content. **0**

Indicative content:

- These stages teach moral accountability, showing that belief and actions have consequences after death and so encourage ethical living.
- Questioning in the grave highlights the importance of correct belief and sincerity, which can shape daily religious practice and lifelong commitments.
- Al-Mizan emphasises divine justice and the idea that good deeds matter, motivating acts of worship, charity and repentance.
- As-Sirat underlines both fear of punishment and hope of reward, producing both deterrent effects and positive encouragement to follow Allahs commands.
- Belief in Barzakh provides comfort to some believers that the soul is in an intermediate state and links death to eventual resurrection, affecting attitudes to death and bereavement.
- Different interpretations within Islam, literal or symbolic, influence how individuals prioritise ritual, ethics and personal relationship with God.

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