3.4 Barzakh and the Bridge of Sirat: The Journey After Death: 30-minute Pack

AQA 8062 · about 30 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

1 Give three examples of actions that might help a Muslim be confident of crossing As-Sirat, based on common Islamic teaching about deeds and faith.

(Total for Question 1 is 3 marks)

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2 Evaluate the statement, 'Belief in the stages Barzakh, questioning, Al-Mizan and As-Sirat is the most important reason Muslims try to live a good life.' 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 and reach a justified conclusion.

(Total for Question 2 is 15 marks)

3 Explain two reasons why Muslims believe the deceased are questioned in the grave by the angels Munkar and Nakir, referring to the purpose of this trial in Barzakh.

(Total for Question 3 is 4 marks)

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4 Explain two ways belief in the Bridge of Sirat might influence how a practising Muslim chooses to behave in daily life.

(Total for Question 4 is 4 marks)

5 Explain two possible experiences of a soul on As-Sirat according to Islamic tradition, and link each experience to a feature of the persons life.

(Total for Question 5 is 4 marks)

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Mark scheme · 3.4 Barzakh and the Bridge of Sirat: The Journey After Death: 30-minute Pack

Question 1

performing the five daily prayers regularly, oe **B1**

giving zakat or charity to those in need, oe **B1**

showing sincere repentance and following the teachings of the Prophet, oe **B1**

Answer: Any three: regular prayer, giving zakat/charity, sincere repentance and following the Prophets teachings.

Question 2

Level 4 A well-developed, balanced evaluation that offers clear reasons for and against the statement, refers to Islamic beliefs and teachings, engages with different religious arguments, and reaches a justified conclusion. **10-12**

Level 3 A clear evaluation with some balanced argument, reference to Islamic beliefs, and a supported conclusion, though coverage may be less thorough. **7-9**

Level 2 A partly developed argument offering reasons for or against the statement, with some reference to religious belief, but limited balance or depth. **4-6**

Level 1 Simple, short responses that make one or two basic points about the statement with little development or reference to religious teaching. **1-3**

Level 0 No relevant content. **0**

Indicative content:

- For: belief in these stages provides a clear framework of accountability after death, creating strong motivation to avoid sin and perform good deeds because consequences are taught to be experienced after death.
- For: specific features such as As-Sirat and Al-Mizan personalise the afterlife and make divine judgement feel imminent, encouraging continuous moral behaviour, prayer, charity and repentance.
- For: religious teachings and hadiths describing the grave trial and the bridge create fear of punishment and hope of reward, which are powerful behavioural motivators.
- Against: other reasons also motivate Muslims, such as love of Allah, desire to obey out of devotion, community and family expectations, and striving for spiritual closeness rather than fear of punishment.
- Against: some Muslims emphasise God's mercy and compassion as the primary motive for good behaviour, not fear of post-death stages; theological views that stress intention and inner faith may downplay literal stages.
- Against: social, cultural and ethical reasons, including upbringing, law, education and empathy, also influence moral behaviour independently of specific eschatological beliefs.
- Conclusion: a judgement weighing the strength of afterlife-based motivation against other religious and social motives, recognising diversity within the Muslim community and the role of both fear and love in ethical life.

Question 3

point 1: the questioning tests the persons faith and core beliefs, oe **B1**

development: this shows that holding correct belief in Allah and the Prophethood matters after death and affects the persons state in Barzakh, oe **B1**

point 2: the questioning examines the persons sincerity and practice in life, oe **B1**

development: truthful and sincere answers are believed to bring peace to the grave, while failure results in discomfort or punishment, oe **B1**

Answer: E.g. the questioning tests belief and examines sincerity of practice, linking a persons life choices to comfort or suffering in Barzakh.

Question 4

point 1: belief in a dangerous crossing motivates people to follow moral teachings and avoid major sins, oe **B1**

development: fear of failing to cross As-Sirat may encourage repentance, charity and obedience to Allah, oe **B1**

point 2: the promise that the righteous will cross easily encourages positive actions such as prayer and good deeds, oe **B1**

development: hope of ease on the bridge can lead to increased worship, kindness and care for others, oe **B1**

Answer: E.g. motivation to avoid major sins and repent, and encouragement to perform prayer and good deeds to be among the righteous who cross easily.

Question 5

point 1: the righteous may pass over quickly and safely, oe **B1**

development: this is linked to sincere faith and good deeds in life, such as prayer and charity, oe **B1**

point 2: wrongdoers may fall from the bridge or be delayed, oe **B1**

development: this is linked to a life of major sin without repentance, showing the moral consequences of actions, oe **B1**

Answer: E.g. righteous pass quickly due to faith and good deeds; wrongdoers fall or are delayed because of unrepented major sins.

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