3.6 Muhammad as the Seal of the Prophets and the Finality of Risalah: 10-minute Pack

AQA 8062 · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

1 Explain two contrasting Islamic responses to modern movements or individuals who claim new revelation after Muhammad. Refer to a source of wisdom or authority in your answer.

(Total for Question 1 is 5 marks)

2 Explain the significance of distinguishing between Nabi and Rasul for understanding the role of Muhammad in Islam.

(Total for Question 2 is 6 marks)

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Mark scheme · 3.6 Muhammad as the Seal of the Prophets and the Finality of Risalah: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

response 1: the mainstream Muslim view rejects such claims and labels them false because Muhammad is the Seal of the Prophets, oe — **B1**

development: this rejection is supported by Surah 33:40 and by Hadith that affirm finality, oe — **B1**

response 2: a small number of groups accept a later figure as a prophet or reformer and reinterpret finality, oe — **B1**

development: such groups often appeal to different readings of scripture or to extra-Quranic claims, and face opposition from mainstream scholars, oe — **B1**

reference: a correct reference to a sacred text or Hadith is made, oe — **B1**

Answer: Contrast: mainstream rejection based on Surah 33:40 and Hadith versus minority groups who reinterpret finality or accept a later claimant, with reference to scripture or Hadith.

Question 2

Level 3 A well-developed response that explains clearly how the Nabi/Rasul distinction shapes understanding of Muhammad's role, with accurate examples and logical links. — **5-6**

Level 2 An answer that explains some relevant ways the distinction affects understanding of Muhammad, with limited development or examples. — **3-4**

Level 1 Limited points about the distinction with little explanation or exemplification. — **1-2**

Indicative content:

- As Rasul Muhammad is seen as the bearer of a final revelation and law, so he has authority to teach and the community treats his teachings as normative.
- Understanding Muhammad as Rasul rather than only Nabi explains why his words and actions in the Sunnah influence legal and moral rulings beyond private inspiration.
- The distinction helps explain why Muslims accept the Quran as universal guidance and view Muhammad's role as governance of a community under divine law.
- The Nabi/Rasul distinction also clarifies why some figures in Islamic history are honoured as messengers with scripture while others are respected as prophets without new scripture.
- Different Islamic groups may emphasise the distinction differently, affecting how they apply the prophetic example to law and theology.

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