3.6 Muhammad as the Seal of the Prophets and the Finality of Risalah: 30-minute Pack

AQA 8062 · about 30 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

1 Explain two reasons some Muslims place strong emphasis on studying Hadith collections when defending the finality of Muhammad's prophethood.

(Total for Question 1 is 4 marks)

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2 Evaluate the statement, 'Muhammad's finality as the Seal of the Prophets is the most important quality of his prophethood.' 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 Give three reasons why the finality of Muhammad's prophethood is important for most Muslim communities today.

(Total for Question 3 is 3 marks)

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4 Explain the importance of the belief that Muhammad is the final prophet for a Muslim's understanding of scripture and law.

(Total for Question 4 is 6 marks)

5 State two types of evidence, other than Surah 33:40, that Muslims use to support Muhammad's finality, and briefly explain each.

(Total for Question 5 is 4 marks)

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Mark scheme · 3.6 Muhammad as the Seal of the Prophets and the Finality of Risalah: 30-minute Pack

Question 1

point 1: Hadith provide sayings and explanations of Muhammad which clarify Quranic phrases like Seal of the Prophets, oe — **B1**

development: scholars use authenticated Hadith to show how companions and early Muslims understood finality, oe — **B1**

point 2: Hadith help establish the Prophet's practical example so claims of later revelation can be compared and tested, oe — **B1**

development: the Hadith record allows jurists to judge whether new teachings fit the prophetic example, reinforcing rejection of false claims, oe — **B1**

Answer: E.g. Hadith clarify the meaning of Quranic phrases and show early Muslim understanding; Hadith allow comparison of later claims with the prophetic example.

Question 2

Level 4 A well-structured, well-argued response that evaluates both sides in depth, uses relevant religious argument and evidence accurately, and reaches a justified conclusion. — **10-12**

Level 3 A balanced response that gives clear arguments for and against, with some religious support and a conclusion, though depth or balance may be limited. — **7-9**

Level 2 Some attempt to evaluate with basic arguments for and against, limited use of religious evidence, and an undeveloped conclusion. — **4-6**

Level 1 Simple or brief points with little evaluation and little or no religious evidence or conclusion. — **1-3**

Indicative content:

- Arguments supporting the statement: finality secures the completeness and authority of the Quran and Sunnah, preventing later false claims and preserving unity; it underpins legal and theological continuity.
- Religious evidence for supporting view: Surah 33:40 and Hadith are used as scriptural foundations that affirm Muhammad as khatim al-nabiyyin, suggesting finality is central.
- Arguments against the statement: other qualities of Muhammad may be more important, such as his role as exemplar of moral conduct, his compassion, or his role as a messenger who brought guidance and salvation; these qualities shape daily practice and personal faith.
- Religious evidence for alternative views: Quranic verses describing Muhammad as an excellent example to believers (for example Surah 33:21) and numerous Hadith emphasising his character and mercy.
- Consideration of nuance: finality is important for communal identity and authority, while prophetic moral example is crucial for individual piety and ethics, so importance may vary by perspective.
- Conclusion: a justified judgement weighing communal and individual priorities, showing awareness that both finality and prophetic example are significant and the answer may prioritise one over the other with reasons.

Question 3

it preserves the authority of the Quran as complete guidance, oe — **B1**

it upholds the centrality of the Sunnah and Hadith as sources of guidance linked to Muhammad, oe — **B1**

it prevents claims of later prophets that might split the community, maintaining unity, oe — **B1**

Answer: Any three: preserves the Quran's authority; upholds the Sunnah and Hadith linked to Muhammad; prevents later prophetic claims and so supports unity.

Question 4

Level 3 A detailed, well-organised answer that explains several ways finality affects understanding of scripture and law, with accurate use of Islamic concepts and clear links between reasons. — **5-6**

Level 2 An answer that explains some ways finality affects understanding of scripture and law, with some relevant supporting detail, though links may be thin. — **3-4**

Level 1 Limited content with one or two relevant points about the effect of finality on scripture and law, little development. — **1-2**

Indicative content:

- Belief in finality supports the idea that the Quran is the complete and preserved revelation, so Muslims treat it as the ultimate legal and moral source.
- It gives the Sunnah and Hadith authority as explanations of Muhammad's practice implementing the Quranic guidance, so law is derived from both sources.
- If no prophet can come after Muhammad, new teachings must be interpreted within the framework of what Muhammad taught, limiting innovation in sharia.
- Finality helps maintain unity and a common reference point for interpretation across Muslim communities, though different schools may still disagree on detail.
- Some Muslims see finality as providing stability in law and morality in changing times, while others debate how to apply fixed texts to new situations.

Question 5

evidence 1: Hadith literature that describes Muhammad as the last prophet, oe — **B1**

explain 1: Hadith record sayings and practices where companions refer to finality, supporting Quranic reading, oe — **B1**

evidence 2: the belief that the Quran completes earlier scriptures, oe — **B1**

explain 2: if the Quran is complete and preserved, Muslims argue there is no need for further prophetic correction, oe — **B1**

Answer: Hadith statements supporting finality, and the doctrinal idea that the Quran completes earlier revelations, each briefly explained.

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