3.8 The Night Journey: Isra and Mi'raj and Their Significance for Muslims: 30-minute Pack

AQA 8062 · about 30 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

1 Give three practical ways the story of Isra and Mi'raj influences Muslim belief or worship today, referring to daily life or communal practice in the Islamic context.

(Total for Question 1 is 3 marks)

2 Explain two reasons why some Muslims hold the Isra and Mi'raj as a sign confirming Muhammad's prophethood, in the context of evidence used within Islam.

(Total for Question 2 is 4 marks)

3 Explain two contrasting Muslim responses to questions about whether the Isra and Mi'raj happened literally or should be read mainly as spiritual teaching. Refer to Islamic approaches but keep the answer at GCSE level.

(Total for Question 3 is 5 marks)

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4 Explain the importance of the Isra and Mi'raj story for the development of Salah, the five daily prayers, in Muslim worship today.

(Total for Question 4 is 6 marks)

5 Evaluate whether the Isra and Mi'raj is the most convincing evidence that Muhammad was a true prophet, using religious arguments and reaching a justified conclusion. Include SPaG for up to 3 marks.

(Total for Question 5 is 15 marks)

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Mark scheme · 3.8 The Night Journey: Isra and Mi'raj and Their Significance for Muslims: 30-minute Pack

Question 1

observance of the five daily prayers as a central practice, oe **B1**

celebration or remembrance of the Isra and Mi'raj on special dates by some Muslim communities, oe **B1**

strengthened belief in the unseen, encouraging faith in angels and the afterlife, oe **B1**

Answer: E.g. five daily prayers; community remembrance of Isra and Mi'raj; stronger belief in the unseen, angels and life after death.

Question 2

point 1: the miraculous nature of being taken from Makkah to Jerusalem and then ascended supports the claim that Muhammad received special revelations from God, oe **B1**

development 1: miracles are a common form of prophetic confirmation in Islamic teaching, so Isra and Mi'raj function as such a sign, oe **B1**

point 2: the receipt of an important practical command, the prayers, during the event demonstrates Muhammad's role as a lawgiver and messenger, oe **B1**

development 2: receiving obligations from God through the Prophet is evidence to believers that he is the chosen recipient of divine guidance, oe **B1**

Answer: E.g. the miraculous journey acts as a prophetic sign; receiving the command about prayer shows Muhammad as God's messenger conveying revealed duties.

Question 3

response 1: some Muslims accept a literal, physical miracle and see the events as factual historical occurrences, oe **B1**

development 1: this view emphasises the miraculous power of God and supports the event as direct evidence of prophecy, oe **B1**

response 2: other Muslims focus on the spiritual meanings and moral lessons of the story, reading it as primarily teaching about faith and worship, oe **B1**

development 2: this approach stresses the narrative's theological and devotional significance without engaging in historical debates, oe **B1**

for: both contrasting responses explained with development, oe **B1**

Answer: E.g. literalist view sees Isra and Mi'raj as historical miracles proving prophecy; symbolic view emphasises spiritual teaching about worship and belief, without focusing on historicity.

Question 4

Level 3 A detailed, well structured answer that explains several ways Isra and Mi'raj led to the obligation and practice of Salah, supported by reference to scripture or Hadith and clear links to contemporary worship. **5-6**

Level 2 An answer that explains some ways the Night Journey influenced Salah with some supporting detail, though links to contemporary practice may be limited. **3-4**

Level 1 One or two simple points are made about a connection between Isra/Mi'raj and prayer, with little development or supporting reference. **1-2**

Level 0 No relevant content. **0**

Indicative content:

- Tradition records that during the Mi'raj Muhammad was instructed about the prayers and initially given fifty daily prayers, later reduced to five after consultation with Musa, explaining both the obligation and mercy in their number.
- Hadith literature records the negotiation and reduction in number, showing the origin of the five daily prayers as tied to the Mi'raj event.
- The story therefore provides a direct link between Muhammad's experience and the practical structure of Muslim worship, giving religious authority to Salah.
- Because Salah is timed and performed collectively in mosques, the Mi'raj narrative underpins communal as well as personal prayer practices.
- For believers the miraculous context gives extra spiritual weight to the prayers, motivating regular observance and teaching about discipline and submission to God.

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Question 5

Level 4 A well argued, balanced evaluation that analyses reasons for and against the statement, uses religious arguments and evidence, and reaches a clear, justified conclusion. Arguments are organised and mostly precise.	**10-12**
Level 3 A balanced response with some analysis and religious argument, leading to a supported conclusion, though treatment may lack detail in places.	**7-9**
Level 2 A basic evaluation with some developed points for and against the statement, but limited use of religious argument or weak conclusion.	**4-6**
Level 1 Simple, often one-sided points for or against the statement, with little or no developed reasoning or religious argument.	**1-3**
Level 0 No relevant material.	**0**

Indicative content:

- Arguments supporting the statement: the miraculous nature of Isra and Mi'raj, including travel to Jerusalem and ascension through the heavens, is a unique supernatural sign that many believers find compelling evidence of divine favour and therefore prophethood.
- Supporters may argue that the event directly led to an essential practice, Salah, linking Muhammad's experience to authoritative religious law and showing his role as recipient of revelation.
- The presence of Quranic reference (Surah 17:1) and detailed Hadith narratives gives textual backing, strengthening the claim that the event is an authentic part of the prophetic corpus.
- Arguments against the statement: other forms of evidence for prophethood exist, such as the Quran itself as a linguistic and moral miracle, the consistency of Muhammad's character and leadership, and the long term spread of Islam, which some may find more persuasive than a single narrative.
- Some might prefer empirical or historical criteria and find miraculous accounts less convincing; others may point to the diversity of interpretations within Islam about the literal or symbolic nature of the event, weakening its force as conclusive proof for all.
- A balanced conclusion could weigh how the Isra and Mi'raj is powerful religious evidence for believers and has played an important role in shaping practice and belief, yet reasoned critics may find other evidence, such as the Quranic message and prophetic example, equally or more convincing. A justified personal judgement should be offered.

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