3.15 Sunni and Shia Islam: The Historical Origins of the Split: Test Pack

AQA 8062 · about 15 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer all questions. Short-answer responses may be phrases; the evaluation question requires full sentences. Time guidance: 15 minutes for the whole pack.

1 Which one of the following best describes the immediate cause of the Sunni-Shia split after the death of Muhammad in 632 CE, in the historical succession context?

- ☐ A: A disagreement over the correct recitation of the Quran
- ☐ B: A dispute about who should succeed Muhammad as leader
- ☐ C: A debate over whether to accept the Byzantine emperor
- ☐ D: A disagreement about pilgrimage routes to Mecca

(Total for Question 1 is 1 mark)

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2 Give two differences between how Sunni and Shia Muslims traditionally believed religious leadership should be decided after Muhammad's death.

(Total for Question 2 is 2 marks)

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3 Give three features of the events at Karbala in 680 CE that made the martyrdom of Husayn especially important for Shia identity, stating each feature briefly.

(Total for Question 3 is 3 marks)

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4 Explain two effects that the succession dispute had on the political development of the early Muslim community, referring to historical outcomes.

(Total for Question 4 is 4 marks)

5 Explain two contrasting Muslim beliefs about a historical source used in arguments about Ali's right to leadership. Refer to a named source of wisdom and authority in your answer, for example the Hadith of Ghadir Khumm.

(Total for Question 5 is 5 marks)

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Mark scheme · 3.15 Sunni and Shia Islam: The Historical Origins of the Split: Test Pack

Question 1

selecting B, a dispute about who should succeed Muhammad as leader, cao **B1**

Answer: B

Question 2

many Sunni Muslims believed leadership should go to the most capable and pious member of the community, chosen through consultation among leading companions, oe **B1**

many Shia Muslims believed leadership belonged by right to Muhammad's family, beginning with Ali, through a line of appointed Imams rather than by community choice, oe **B1**

Answer: E.g. Sunni: leadership decided by community consultation among qualified companions; Shia: leadership belongs by right to Ali and his descendants, appointed rather than chosen.

Question 3

feature 1: Husayn was killed and martyred while resisting the ruling authority, oe **B1**

feature 2: the event involved suffering and injustice, which are commemorated annually in mourning rituals like Ashura, oe **B1**

feature 3: Husayn's death became a symbol of standing for rightful leadership and moral truth against oppression, oe **B1**

Answer: Husayn was killed resisting the ruling authority; the event involved suffering and injustice commemorated in Ashura; his death symbolises standing for rightful leadership and moral truth.

Question 4

effect 1: the dispute led to periods of civil conflict and fits into the larger series of early civil wars, weakening unity, oe **B1**

development: examples include disputes over loyalty and armed conflict in later generations, oe **B1**

effect 2: different political models developed, with some groups accepting dynastic or elected rule while others supported leadership tied to the Prophet's family, oe **B1**

development: these models influenced the form of later Muslim states and rival claims to legitimacy, oe **B1**

Answer: Civil conflict and weakened unity; development of different political models such as dynastic or elected rule versus leadership tied to the Prophet's family.

Question 5

belief 1: Shia Muslims often interpret the Hadith of Ghadir Khumm as Muhammad appointing Ali as his successor, oe **B1**

development: Shia use this hadith as evidence that leadership should remain within the Prophet's family, supporting the Imamate, oe **B1**

belief 2: many Sunni Muslims interpret the same event or hadith differently, seeing it as praise for Ali but not as a formal appointment to political leadership, oe **B1**

development: Sunnis therefore do not view the hadith as overturning the legitimacy of the elected caliphs, oe **B1**

reference to the named source, the Hadith of Ghadir Khumm, made accurately, oe **B1**

Answer: Contrast: Shia read Ghadir Khumm as an appointment of Ali to leadership; many Sunnis read it as praise of Ali without political appointment, both positions reference the same named hadith.

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