3.16 The Imamate: The Twelve Imams and Their Role in Shia Belief: 10-minute Pack

AQA 8062 · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

1 Which one of the following best describes the Shia belief in the Imamate as taught about the Twelve Imams in Twelver Shia Islam?

- ☐ A A human political office elected by the community each year
- ☐ B Spiritual and political successors to Muhammad chosen by God from Ali's descendants
- ☐ C A revival movement that appears every century to renew the faith
- ☐ D A set of laws that replace the Quran

(Total for Question 1 is 1 mark)

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2 Give two facts about the Twelve Imams that are commonly taught in Twelver Shia belief, in the context of the Imamate doctrine.

(Total for Question 2 is 2 marks)

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3 Give three ways the idea of the Imamate differs from the Sunni idea of a khalifah, in the context of leadership after Muhammad.

(Total for Question 3 is 3 marks)

4 State two features of belief about the role of the Imams that help maintain religious authority in Twelver Shia Islam, and for each briefly explain its effect.

(Total for Question 4 is 4 marks)

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Mark scheme · 3.16 The Imamate: The Twelve Imams and Their Role in Shia Belief: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

selecting B, God-chosen spiritual and political successors from Ali's descendants, cao **B1**

Answer: B

Question 2

fact 1: they are descendants of Ali and Fatima, the family of the Prophet, oe **B1**

fact 2: the Twelfth Imam is believed to be in occultation and will return as the Mahdi, oe **B1**

Answer: Any two: descendants of Ali and Fatima; the Twelfth Imam is in occultation and will return as the Mahdi.

Question 3

difference 1: Imams are seen as divinely appointed and from the Prophet's family, while a khalifah is chosen by the community, oe **B1**

difference 2: Imams are believed to have Ismah, sinlessness or infallibility, whereas Sunni caliphs are not considered infallible, oe **B1**

difference 3: the Twelfth Imam is believed to be in occultation and will return as the Mahdi, a concept not found in the Sunni understanding of caliphal leadership, oe **B1**

Answer: Any three: Imams divinely appointed from Prophet's family vs elected khalifah; Imams have Ismah vs caliphs not infallible; occultation and awaited Mahdi in Twelver belief vs Sunni leadership model.

Question 4

feature 1: belief in Ismah, oe **B1**

meaning 1: makes their teachings and judgments authoritative and trustworthy, oe **B1**

feature 2: belief in lineage from Ali and the Prophet, oe **B1**

meaning 2: links leadership to the Prophet's family, giving Imams special status and legitimacy, oe **B1**

Answer: E.g. Ismah (gives authoritative, trustworthy guidance); descent from Ali and Fatima (gives legitimacy and special status).

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