4.2 Umrah and Exemption from the Obligation of Hajj: 30-minute Pack

AQA 8062 · about 30 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

1 Evaluate the view that Umrah is just as important as Hajj for Muslims. 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, reach a justified conclusion. Up to 3 marks are available for SPaG, making this question worth 15 marks in total.

(Total for Question 1 is 15 marks)

2 Define the term 'Umrah' as it is used in Islamic practice, naming the context of pilgrimage to Makkah.

(Total for Question 2 is 1 mark)

© Revision Library | revisionlibrary.co.uk

3 Outline three circumstances in which a Muslim may be exempted from the obligation to perform Hajj. Name the context as grounds for exemption.

(Total for Question 3 is 3 marks)

4 Give two ways in which performing Umrah is different from performing Hajj, stating the pilgrimage context in each difference.

(Total for Question 4 is 2 marks)

5 Explain two similarities between the rites performed during Umrah and some of the rites performed during Hajj. Name the pilgrimage context in your answer.

(Total for Question 5 is 4 marks)

6 Give one reason why a Muslim who is exempt from Hajj might still try to visit Makkah for Umrah, naming the pilgrimage context.

(Total for Question 6 is 1 mark)

© Revision Library | revisionlibrary.co.uk

7 State one practical difference for a pilgrim between performing Umrah and attempting Hajj when they are in poor health, naming the context of health and pilgrimage.

(Total for Question 7 is 1 mark)

8 Give three reasons why performing Umrah might still be considered valuable even when a Muslim cannot perform Hajj. Name the pilgrimage context in each reason.

(Total for Question 8 is 3 marks)

© Revision Library | revisionlibrary.co.uk

Mark scheme · 4.2 Umrah and Exemption from the Obligation of Hajj: 30-minute Pack

Question 1

Level 4 A well-developed response that evaluates the view from both perspectives, uses religious arguments and evidence accurately, and reaches a justified conclusion. Arguments are balanced and show a clear understanding of the significance of both Umrah and Hajj. **10-12**

Level 3 A clear response that gives arguments for and against the view with some use of religious evidence, and reaches a reasonable conclusion. **7-9**

Level 2 A limited response that offers some reasoned points for or against the view, but with limited balance or weak use of religious evidence; conclusion may be implicit. **4-6**

Level 1 A brief response with simple assertions for or against the view and little or no use of religious evidence or reasoning. **1-3**

Level 0 No relevant material. **0**

Indicative content:

- Arguments that Umrah is as important: it allows access to holy sites and can produce genuine spiritual renewal, repentance and closeness to Allah; for those who cannot afford or are unable to do Hajj, Umrah provides a meaningful form of pilgrimage.
- Arguments that Hajj is more important: Hajj is one of the Five Pillars of Islam and has unique, obligatory status and specific rites such as standing at Arafat that carry special spiritual significance which Umrah does not replicate.
- Religious evidence for Hajj's unique status: the emphasis in hadith and the long prophetic tradition about the importance of performing Hajj when able; Hajj is explicitly required once for those who are able in many classical juristic sources.
- Religious evidence for Umrah's value: hadith praising visitation to the Kaaba and the reward of lesser pilgrimage, and the practice of the Prophet in performing Umrah at times indicating its merit.
- Consideration of practical and ethical issues: the role of ability, health and finance in determining obligations, and the importance of intention (niyyah) in acts of worship.
- Balanced conclusion might weigh the theological obligation and unique rites of Hajj against the genuine spiritual worth of Umrah, concluding that Hajj holds a higher obligatory status but Umrah can be of great personal importance and spiritual benefit.

Question 2

a shorter 'lesser' pilgrimage to Makkah, not one of the Five Pillars (many scholars treat it as voluntary, while the Shafi'i and Hanbali schools hold it obligatory once), that can be performed at any time of year and includes some rites similar to Hajj, oe **B1**

Answer: A shorter 'lesser' pilgrimage to Makkah, not one of the Five Pillars (many scholars treat it as voluntary, while the Shafi'i and Hanbali schools hold it obligatory once), that can be done any time and includes some rites similar to Hajj, such as entering ihram, tawaf and sa'i.

Question 3

ill health or a medical condition that makes travel or the rites unsafe or impossible, oe **B1**

insufficient financial means to afford the journey and necessary expenses without causing hardship, oe **B1**

lack of a safe route or lack of a suitable companion, for example a woman who has no safe travel companion, oe **B1**

Answer: Any three: ill health/medical inability; not having enough money without causing hardship; lack of a safe route or suitable companion for a woman.

Question 4

Umrah can be performed at any time of year, whereas Hajj takes place on specific days in the month of Dhul Hijjah, oe **B1**

Umrah is not one of the Five Pillars (many scholars treat it as voluntary, while the Shafi'i and Hanbali schools hold it obligatory once), whereas Hajj is a Pillar and obligatory once in a lifetime for those who are able, oe **B1**

Answer: Umrah can be performed any time, Hajj takes place in Dhul Hijjah. Umrah is not one of the Five Pillars (many scholars treat it as voluntary, while the Shafi'i and Hanbali schools hold it obligatory once), whereas Hajj is a Pillar and obligatory for those who meet the conditions for ability.

Question 5

similarity 1: both include entering the state of ihram with associated rules of dress and behaviour, oe **B1**

development: explain that ihram requires ritual purity, simple dress and avoidance of certain actions, showing commitment to God in both pilgrimages, oe **B1**

similarity 2: both normally include tawaf, circling the Kaaba, as an act of worship, oe **B1**

development: explain that tawaf symbolises devotion and unity before God and is performed in both Umrah and during parts of Hajj, oe **B1**

Answer: Both include entering ihram, with its rules of dress and behaviour, and both include tawaf, circling the Kaaba as an act of worship; developments should explain the religious meaning of these rites.

Question 6

to seek spiritual reward and closeness to Allah by visiting the holy sites even when Hajj cannot be performed, oe **B1**

Answer: To seek spiritual reward and closeness to Allah by visiting the holy sites even when Hajj is not possible.

Question 7

Umrah is shorter and less physically demanding than Hajj, oe **B1**

Answer: Umrah is shorter and less physically demanding than Hajj.

© Revision Library | revisionlibrary.co.uk

Question 8

it provides an opportunity for repentance and forgiveness, oe	**B1**
it allows a Muslim to experience worship at the Kaaba and the Masjid al Haram, oe	**B1**
it can strengthen faith and resolve to perform Hajj when able, oe	**B1**

Answer: Any three: opportunity for repentance; experience of worship at the Kaaba; strengthens faith and intention to perform Hajj later.

© Revision Library | revisionlibrary.co.uk