4.3 Laylat al-Qadr and the Last Ten Nights of Ramadan: 30-minute Pack

AQA 8062 · about 30 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

1 Give three practical reasons why some Muslims choose to spend the last ten nights in the mosque rather than at home.

(Total for Question 1 is 3 marks)

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2 Evaluate the view that Laylat al-Qadr is the most important night in the Muslim calendar. 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 Explain two ways the worship and practices in the last ten nights of Ramadan may differ from the rest of Ramadan, focusing on intensity and setting.

(Total for Question 3 is 4 marks)

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4 Explain two reasons why Laylat al-Qadr is significant for Muslims today, giving one development for each reason.

(Total for Question 4 is 4 marks)

5 Explain two benefits that believers may gain from observing i'tikaf during the last ten nights of Ramadan.

(Total for Question 5 is 4 marks)

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Mark scheme · 4.3 Laylat al-Qadr and the Last Ten Nights of Ramadan: 30-minute Pack

Question 1

to remove distractions and focus wholly on worship, oe **B1**

to join a community engaged in collective prayers and support, oe **B1**

to increase the chance of being present for Laylat al-Qadr whenever it occurs in the last ten nights, oe **B1**

Answer: Any three: fewer distractions; communal encouragement for prayer; greater likelihood of being present on Laylat al-Qadr.

Question 2

Level 1 A few basic statements about Laylat al-Qadr or other important nights with little development, showing limited evaluation and few, if any, religious arguments. **1-3**

Level 2 Some developed points for and against the view, with some use of religious ideas or examples, but analysis is partial and the conclusion, if present, is not fully justified. **4-6**

Level 3 Clear arguments for and against the view, with relevant religious examples and reasoning. The conclusion is supported though it may lack synthesis or full evaluation of counterarguments. **7-9**

Level 4 A well-developed, balanced evaluation that considers strong religious reasons on both sides, uses relevant examples such as Qur'anic and hadith evidence, and arrives at a justified, well-explained conclusion. **10-12**

Indicative content:

- Arguments that Laylat al-Qadr is most important: it commemorates the first revelation of the Qur'an (Surah 97:1-5) and so marks the beginning of divine guidance for humanity; worship on the night is believed to carry multiplied reward, making it uniquely meritorious; historical practice of the Prophet Muhammad seeking the night supports its centrality.
- Arguments against the claim: other events and times are also central, for example the whole month of Ramadan with its commanded fast, or the Day of Arafah during Hajj which many Muslims consider supremely important for forgiveness and prayer; obligatory acts like the five daily prayers and the two Eids have communal and legal significance that some may place above a single night.
- Religious arguments and evidence: citing Surah 97 and hadith about the Prophet's practice on the last ten nights supports the pro view; references to the Qur'an's repeated commands about prayer, charity and the yearly cycle of worship can support the alternative view.
- Consideration of different Muslim perspectives: some Muslims emphasise personal spiritual experience and rank Laylat al-Qadr highest, while others emphasise the institutional obligations of Islam and the importance of communal rites.
- A justified conclusion that weighs the spiritual significance of Laylat al-Qadr against the broader, ongoing obligations and events in Islam, and that recognises legitimate diversity of view among Muslims.

Question 3

difference 1: worship is often intensified in the last ten nights with more night vigils and longer prayers than typical nights earlier in Ramadan, oe **B1**

development 1: this is because of the search for Laylat al-Qadr and the belief in multiplied rewards, oe **B1**

difference 2: some believers take up i'tikaf and stay in the mosque, changing the setting from home-based observance to a mosque-centred retreat, oe **B1**

development 2: staying in the mosque reduces normal family and work duties and concentrates time on communal and individual worship, oe **B1**

Answer: E.g. increased intensity of prayer and night vigils due to seeking Laylat al-Qadr; change of setting where some perform i'tikaf in the mosque rather than worshipping at home.

Question 4

reason 1: it marks the night when the first revelation of the Qur'an began, so it is seen as the beginning of God communicating guidance to humanity, oe **B1**

development of reason 1: this gives the night special spiritual authority and prompts Muslims to seek guidance by reading the Qur'an and reflecting on its message, oe **B1**

reason 2: it is believed that worship on this night has greater reward than at other times, including mercy and forgiveness of sins, oe **B1**

development of reason 2: this belief motivates Muslims to increase prayer, supplication and repentance on that night in the hope of securing multiplied blessings, oe **B1**

Answer: E.g. it commemorates the first revelation of the Qur'an so Muslims focus on reading and reflecting on the text; worship is believed to be more rewarded, encouraging extra prayer and repentance.

Question 5

benefit 1: deeper spiritual focus and closeness to Allah through extended prayer and reflection, oe **B1**

development 1: removing distractions in the mosque can help a believer concentrate on repentance and seeking forgiveness, oe **B1**

benefit 2: strengthening knowledge and understanding of the Qur'an through concentrated recitation and study, oe **B1**

development 2: this study can increase personal faith and guide moral behaviour after Ramadan, oe **B1**

Answer: E.g. increased closeness to Allah and focused repentance; improved understanding of the Qur'an which can strengthen faith and behaviour.

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