



RS.IP3 Sawm and Zakah: Fasting and Almsgiving

AQA 8062 · Calculators not allowed · about 40 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / ____

Answer ALL questions. Show all your working.

- 1** This question checks key vocabulary used in Muslim teaching about fasting and almsgiving.
- (a) State what is meant by sawm. (1)
- (b) State what is meant by zakah. (1)
- (c) State which month of the Islamic calendar Ramadan is. (1)
- (d) State what is meant by nisab. (1)
- (e) State what Eid al-Fitr celebrates. (1)

(Total for Question 1 is 5 marks)

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- 2** Explain two reasons why fasting during Ramadan is important for Muslims. Refer to the Qur'an in your answer.

(Total for Question 2 is 4 marks)

3 Give three groups of people who may be excused from fasting during Ramadan.

(Total for Question 3 is 3 marks)

4 Explain two contrasting Muslim beliefs and practices around obligatory charitable giving. Refer to a source of wisdom and authority in your answer.

(Total for Question 4 is 5 marks)

5 Explain two purposes of zakah for Muslims and for society. Refer to the Qur'an in your answer.

(Total for Question 5 is 4 marks)

6 Explain the importance of Ramadan for Muslims today.

(Total for Question 6 is 6 marks)

- 7 Give three things a Muslim who is fasting during Ramadan should avoid between dawn and sunset.

(Total for Question 7 is 3 marks)

- 8 Explain two ways giving zakah might affect the life of a Muslim believer.

(Total for Question 8 is 4 marks)

Mark scheme · RS.IP3 Sawm and Zakah: Fasting and Almsgiving

Question 1

- (a) **B1** fasting, especially during the month of Ramadan, oe
- (a) **Answer: Fasting, especially during Ramadan.**
- (b) **B1** obligatory almsgiving/charity, one of the Five Pillars of Islam, oe
- (b) **Answer: Obligatory almsgiving, one of the Five Pillars of Islam.**
- (c) **B1** the ninth month, oe
- (c) **Answer: The ninth month of the Islamic (lunar) calendar.**
- (d) **B1** the minimum amount of wealth/savings a Muslim must have before zakah becomes due, oe
- (d) **Answer: The minimum level of wealth before zakah becomes due.**
- (e) **B1** the end of the fast of Ramadan, oe
- (e) **Answer: The end of the Ramadan fast.**

Question 2

- **B1** point 1: fasting is a direct command from Allah, an act of obedience and worship, oe
- **B1** development: Qur'an 2:183 teaches that fasting was prescribed for believers so that they may attain taqwa (God-consciousness/righteousness), oe
- **B1** point 2: fasting builds empathy with those who are poor and go hungry, oe
- **B1** development: by experiencing hunger and thirst themselves, Muslims are encouraged to be more generous and grateful, and to give more charity during Ramadan, oe
- **Answer: E.g. obedience to Allah's command (Qur'an 2:183, developing taqwa); building empathy with the poor, encouraging generosity.**

Question 3

- **B1** the sick, oe
- **B1** the elderly, oe
- **B1** pregnant or breastfeeding women, oe (accept also: travellers, pre-pubescent children, menstruating women)
- **Answer: Any three: the sick; the elderly; pregnant or breastfeeding women; travellers; pre-pubescent children; menstruating women.**

Question 4

- **B1** belief/practice 1: Sunni Muslims give zakah, traditionally calculated as 2.5 per cent of savings/wealth above the nisab threshold each year, as one of the Five Pillars of Islam, oe
- **B1** development: this is based on repeated Qur'anic instruction to establish prayer and give zakah together, showing its importance alongside salah, oe
- **B1** belief/practice 2: Shi'a Muslims also give zakah, but additionally pay khums, a separate obligatory payment of one-fifth of certain surplus income, as one of their Ten Obligatory Acts, oe
- **B1** development: khums is traditionally shared between charitable and religious purposes, including support for scholars and descendants of the Prophet Muhammad, oe
- **B1** reference to a source of wisdom and authority made accurately, oe
- **Answer: Contrast: Sunni zakah (2.5 per cent of wealth above nisab, one of Five Pillars) vs Shi'a zakah plus khums (one-fifth of surplus income, one of Ten Obligatory Acts).**

Question 5

- **B1** point 1: zakah purifies a Muslim's remaining wealth, oe
- **B1** development: by giving away a set portion of wealth, a Muslim shows that their wealth is not held selfishly and remains obedient to Allah, oe
- **B1** point 2: zakah supports those in need in society, oe
- **B1** development: Qur'an 9:60 sets out categories of people zakah should support, including the poor and the needy, showing its role in social justice, oe
- **Answer: E.g. purifies wealth (obedience, not held selfishly); supports the poor and needy in society (Qur'an 9:60).**

Question 6

- **Level 3** (5-6): A detailed, well-organised answer that explains several reasons for Ramadan's importance, supported by accurate reference to Islamic teaching and/or the Qur'an, with clear links made between the reasons given.
- **Level 2** (3-4): An answer that explains some reasons for Ramadan's importance, with some relevant supporting detail, though links between points may be limited.
- **Level 1** (1-2): One or two isolated relevant points are made about Ramadan, with little supporting detail or explanation.
- **Level 0** (0): No relevant content.
- **Indicative content:**
 - Ramadan builds spiritual discipline and self-control through fasting from dawn to sunset.
 - It builds empathy for those who are less fortunate and go hungry, encouraging generosity and charity.
 - Muslims often gather to break the fast together at iftar, strengthening family and community bonds.
 - Increased prayer, including night prayers (tarawih), and increased Qur'an recitation deepen a believer's relationship with Allah.
 - Laylat al-Qadr (the Night of Power), commemorating the first revelation of the Qur'an, is considered especially significant during Ramadan.
 - The shared experience of fasting across the global Muslim community (the ummah) can strengthen a sense of belonging and identity.

Question 7

- **B1** food, oe
- **B1** drink, oe
- **B1** sinful or bad behaviour (e.g. arguing, gossiping), oe (accept also smoking)
- **Answer: Any three: food; drink; sinful or bad behaviour (e.g. arguing, gossiping); smoking.**

Question 8

- **B1** point 1: it can develop a sense of generosity and responsibility towards others, oe
- **B1** development: regularly setting aside money for zakah encourages a Muslim to think carefully about their wealth and their duty to help those in need, oe
- **B1** point 2: it can strengthen a Muslim's connection to the wider Muslim community (the ummah), oe
- **B1** development: knowing that their contribution supports others in the community can increase a believer's sense of belonging and shared responsibility, oe
- **Answer: E.g. develops generosity/responsibility towards others; strengthens connection to the ummah.**