6.2 Vegetarianism, Veganism and Religious Rules on Eating Animals: 30-minute Pack

AQA 8062 · about 30 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

1 Give two features of the halal slaughter method (dhabihah) used by many Muslims when preparing animals for food.

(Total for Question 1 is 2 marks)

2 Give two typical arguments used by religious vegans who avoid all animal products on the grounds of faith and conscience.

(Total for Question 2 is 2 marks)

3 Give three reasons why some Muslims and other religious people support the halal method or similar humane slaughter methods rather than factory methods.

(Total for Question 3 is 3 marks)

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4 Explain two ways Christian ideas about stewardship might affect decisions about eating animals today, in the context of environmental concern and animal welfare.

(Total for Question 4 is 4 marks)

5 Explain two religious reasons why some believers choose vegetarianism for reasons of faith and conscience, in the context of Christianity and general religious stewardship.

(Total for Question 5 is 4 marks)

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6 Explain the importance of scripture and religious teaching in shaping a believer's choices about eating meat in the context of Genesis and the Qur'an.

(Total for Question 6 is 6 marks)

7 Religious believers should not eat meat. Evaluate this statement. 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 7 is 12 marks)

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Mark scheme · 6.2 Vegetarianism, Veganism and Religious Rules on Eating Animals: 30-minute Pack

Question 1

feature 1: a swift cut to the throat to sever major blood vessels, oe **B1**

feature 2: the name of Allah is invoked at the time of slaughter and the blood is drained, oe **B1**

Answer: Any two: a swift cut to the throat; invoking the name of Allah; draining the blood.

Question 2

argument 1: avoiding all animal products prevents supporting industries that cause animal suffering, oe **B1**

argument 2: veganism reduces environmental harm linked to animal agriculture, showing stewardship, oe **B1**

Answer: Any two: prevents supporting animal suffering; reduces environmental harm as an act of stewardship.

Question 3

it is believed to be quicker and so may reduce suffering, oe **B1**

it involves an ethical or religious ritual, such as invoking Allah, bringing spiritual meaning and respect, oe **B1**

it ensures blood is drained which some believe makes the meat cleaner and aligns with religious law, oe **B1**

Answer: Any three: quicker cut reduces suffering; religious ritual shows respect; draining blood aligns with law and perceived cleanliness.

Question 4

point 1: stewardship may lead Christians to reduce meat consumption to lower environmental harm, oe **B1**

development: giving examples such as reduced greenhouse gases, less land use and protecting biodiversity, oe **B1**

point 2: stewardship may lead to insisting on higher welfare standards or choosing free range or ethically sourced meat, oe **B1**

development: Christians may campaign for better farming methods because caring for animals is part of caring for creation, oe **B1**

Answer: E.g. reducing meat to protect the environment; choosing higher welfare and ethically sourced meat as part of caring for creation.

Question 5

point 1: compassion towards animals, that causing suffering is morally wrong and animals should be protected, oe **B1**

development: some Christians cite Jesus teaching love and compassion as a reason to avoid meat that causes suffering, oe **B1**

point 2: stewardship of creation, the belief humans must care for the world and avoid environmentally damaging farming, oe **B1**

development: choosing a vegetarian diet is seen as a way to fulfil the duty in Genesis to care for creation and reduce harm, oe **B1**

Answer: E.g. compassion for animals linked to Christian ethics of love, and stewardship of creation from Genesis leading believers to avoid environmentally harmful meat production.

Question 6

Level 3 A detailed answer that explains how scripture and teaching shape choices, with several accurate supporting points, developed reasoning and specific reference to Genesis and/or the Qur'an. **5-6**

Level 2 An answer that explains a few ways scripture or teaching influence decisions, with some supporting detail but limited development. **3-4**

Level 1 One or two simple relevant points about scripture or teaching influencing choices, with little explanation. **1-2**

Level 0 No relevant content. **0**

Indicative content:

- Scripture such as Genesis 1:29-30 and Genesis 9:3 is used by different groups to justify either vegetarianism or permitted meat-eating.
- Qur'an 5:3 and other Islamic teachings give clear rules about lawful and unlawful foods, directly shaping Muslim practice.
- Religious teachings provide moral principles such as stewardship, compassion and gratitude that influence dietary choices.
- Believers may interpret scripture in historical context and so adapt practice, for example permitting meat after the Flood but emphasising humane treatment.
- Religious authorities, traditions and communities help to apply scripture to modern issues like factory farming and environmental impact.
- Practical religious obligations such as halal rules or fasting practices can regulate what and how believers eat, showing scripture in action.

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Question 7

Level 4 A convincing, well-structured evaluation that offers coherent arguments for and against the statement, uses relevant religious teachings and scripture appropriately, addresses counter-arguments, and reaches a justified conclusion.	**10-12**
Level 3 A clear evaluation that offers several developed arguments on both sides, includes relevant religious material, and gives a supported conclusion.	**7-9**
Level 2 A balanced response with some arguments for and against the statement, some reference to religion, but limited development and a partial conclusion.	**4-6**
Level 1 One or two simple assertions for or against the statement with minimal development and little or no use of religious teaching.	**1-3**
Level 0 No response or no relevant content.	**0**

Indicative content:

- Arguments supporting the statement: compassion for animals, citing Genesis 1:29-30 as an ideal of plant based diet at creation and Christian teaching on love and nonviolence.
- Arguments supporting the statement: stewardship of creation and environmental concerns, arguing meat production harms ecosystems and the poor.
- Arguments against the statement: scripture permits meat eating, for example Genesis 9:3 shows God permitting meat after the Flood, and many religious traditions include sacrificial or communal meat practices.
- Arguments against the statement: religious laws such as halal provide ethical frameworks for eating meat responsibly rather than forbidding it, emphasising gratitude and proper treatment.
- Counter-arguments: even if scripture permits meat, religious teachings about compassion and justice can require restrictions or ethical sourcing rather than an absolute ban.
- Consideration of context and diversity: not all believers interpret scripture the same way, and cultural, economic and nutritional factors may make meat-eating acceptable or necessary for some communities.
- A justified conclusion should weigh religious authority, ethical concerns about welfare and environment, and practical implications before reaching a reasoned judgement.

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