



RS.TB11 Vegetarianism, Veganism and Religious Rules on Eating Animals

Total Marks

AQA 8062 · Calculators not allowed · about 45 minutes

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / ____

Answer ALL questions. Show all your working.

- 1** Which one of the following best describes a key Quranic instruction about food in the context of Islamic dietary law from Qur'an 5:3?

- ☐ A: All animals are always forbidden to Muslims
- ☐ B: Food that is explicitly named as unlawful must not be eaten, for example pork
- ☐ C: Muslims must not eat any meat that was not first offered to an idol
- ☐ D: Meat should never be cooked

(Total for Question 1 is 1 mark)

- 2** Give two simple reasons why some Christians choose to be vegetarian for reasons of faith in the context of Genesis and stewardship.

(Total for Question 2 is 2 marks)

- 3** Identify one food that is explicitly forbidden to Muslims under Islamic dietary law, as taught in the context of Qur'an 5:3.

(Total for Question 3 is 1 mark)

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

(Total for Question 4 is 2 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)

- 6 Explain two contrasting religious teachings on eating animals, and include a clear reference to scripture to support one of the views, in the context of Genesis 1:29-30 and Genesis 9:3.

(Total for Question 6 is 5 marks)

- 7 Give three features of modern factory farming that cause concern to religious believers worried about animal welfare and stewardship.

(Total for Question 7 is 3 marks)

- 8 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 8 is 3 marks)

- 9** 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 9 is 6 marks)

- 10** 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 10 is 4 marks)

- 11** State two Islamic dietary rules other than the prohibition of pork, and for each briefly explain why it is followed, in the context of Qur'an 5:3 and Islamic practice.

(Total for Question 11 is 4 marks)

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

(Total for Question 12 is 2 marks)

- 13** 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 13 is 12 marks)

Mark scheme · RS.TB11 Vegetarianism, Veganism and Religious Rules on Eating Animals

Question 1

- **B1** correct choice B, pork and other explicitly unlawful foods are forbidden as stated in Qur'an 5:3, cao
- **Answer: B**

Question 2

- **B1** point 1: they believe in compassion for animals and so avoid causing harm, oe
- **B1** point 2: they feel stewardship of creation means protecting animals and the environment, oe
- **Answer: Any two: compassion for animals; stewardship of creation and environmental protection.**

Question 3

- **B1** identification of pork as forbidden to Muslims, cao
- **Answer: Pork.**

Question 4

- **B1** 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
- **Answer: Any two: a swift cut to the throat; invoking the name of Allah; draining the blood.**

Question 5

- **B1** 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
- **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

- **B1** teaching 1: some Christians point to Genesis 1:29-30 which describes plants as food given at creation, supporting a vegetarian ideal, oe
- **B1** development for teaching 1: this is used to argue that humans were intended to live without eating animals and should show compassion, oe
- **B1** teaching 2: other believers refer to Genesis 9:3 which permits eating animals after the Flood, showing that meat-eating is allowed, oe
- **B1** development for teaching 2: this is used to justify eating meat responsibly while still requiring gratitude and stewardship, oe
- **B1** accurate scripture reference provided as required, cao
- **Answer: Contrast: Genesis 1:29-30 supports a vegetarian ideal at creation, while Genesis 9:3 permits eating animals after the Flood; students should explain how each scripture is used in differing traditions.**

Question 7

- **B1** overcrowding or cramped living conditions for animals, oe
- **B1** use of intensive rearing methods that limit natural behaviour, oe
- **B1** routine use of antibiotics or rapid growth techniques that may harm animal health, oe
- **Answer: Any three: overcrowding; preventing natural behaviour; routine antibiotics or intensive growth methods.**

Question 8

- **B1** 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
- **Answer: Any three: quicker cut reduces suffering; religious ritual shows respect; draining blood aligns with law and perceived cleanliness.**

Question 9

- **Level 4** (10-12): A considered evaluation offering a supported judgement that uses scripture and teaching to explain how believers are guided, with sustained reasoning and clear lines of argumentation.
- **Level 3** (7-9): A detailed answer that explains how scripture and teaching shape choices, with several accurate supporting points and some developed reasoning.
- **Level 2** (4-6): An answer that explains a few ways scripture or teaching influence decisions, with some supporting detail but limited development.
- **Level 1** (1-3): One or two simple relevant points about scripture or teaching influencing choices, with little explanation.
- **Level 0** (0): No relevant content.
- **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.

Question 10

- **B1** 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
- **Answer: E.g. reducing meat to protect the environment; choosing higher welfare and ethically sourced meat as part of caring for creation.**

Question 11

- **B1** rule 1: animals must be slaughtered by a swift cut to the throat, oe
- **B1** for 1: to reduce suffering and follow the ritual requirements of halal slaughter, oe
- **B1** rule 2: the name of Allah should be invoked at the time of slaughter, oe
- **B1** for 2: to show that the act is religiously sanctioned and to express gratitude and obedience, oe
- **Answer: Any two rules and brief explanations: e.g. swift cut to reduce suffering; invoking Allah to sanctify the act and show obedience to religious law.**

Question 12

- **B1** 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
- **Answer: Any two: prevents supporting animal suffering; reduces environmental harm as an act of stewardship.**

Question 13

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