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Question	Answer	Marks
1	Candidates must attempt Question 1, Question 2 and two other Questions. Choose any two of the following passages from the Qur'an, and (a) briefly describe the main theme(s) in each passage; (b) briefly explain the importance of these themes in a Muslim's life today. (1) Sura 41.37 37. Among His signs are the night and the day, and the sun and the moon. Adore not the sun and the moon, but adore Allah, who created them, if it is Him you wish to serve. (2) Sura 1 1. In the name of Allah, most gracious, most merciful. 2. Praise be to Allah, the cherisher and sustainer of the worlds; 3. Most gracious, most merciful; 4. Master of the day of judgement. 5. You we worship, and your aid we seek. 6. Show us the straight way, 7. The way of those to whom You have given your grace, not those who earn your anger, nor those who go astray. (3) Sura 93 1. By the glorious morning light, 2. And by the night when it is still, 3. Your Lord has not forsaken you, nor is He displeased. 4. And truly the Hereafter will be better for you than the present. 5. And soon your Lord will give you so that you will be pleased. 6. Did He not find you an orphan and give you shelter? 7. And He found you wandering, and He gave you guidance. 8. And He found you in need, and made you independent. 9. Therefore, do not treat the orphan with harshness, 10. Nor drive the beggar away; 11. But tell about the bounty of your Lord!	4

Question	Answer	Marks
1(a)	What are the main themes? (1) Sura 41.37 The main themes are: God as Creator; God's signs; <i>Tawhid</i>/Lord of mankind Candidates will develop these themes in their own way, e.g., saying God creates and controls everything; the order of the sun and the moon are God's signs for humankind. They are signs of His power; Only He should be worshipped; no-one is equal to Him. It is a negation of paganism; the sun and moon are not to be worshipped. (2) Sura 1 The main themes are that God is the Lord of creation, He is One; Praise is due to Him alone; He gives guidance to humans; He is the Merciful. Candidates will develop these themes in their own way, e.g., it is God who presides over judgment and controls the worlds. God gives guidance to those who seek it. This sura is used as a prayer. He is the one to ask for help, and it is He who can grant help and guidance for anything. He is Master of all creation, so only He is deserving of worship. (3) Sura 93 The main themes are: God as companion; He helps His prophets, in this case the Prophet Muhammad; teaches being grateful to God. Candidates will develop these themes in their own way, e.g., it is God who helps in need so when distressed, Muslims should turn to Him; this sura is directed to the Prophet (pbuh) himself showing how God helped him, in this case with shelter, guidance and independence; gives message of being kind and helpful to others in need, like orphans and beggars, and realising that a person's benefits all come from thanking God.	

Question	Answer	Marks
1(b)	The importance of these themes. (1) Sura 41.37 The importance is that it creates a strong link with God, so Muslims do not look up to anything/anyone else, famous people, money, etc, and they worship only Him. It stops them from committing shirk. It shows Muslims how God guided His messengers, in this case Ibrahim. God's signs invite Muslims to observe their environment. It creates awe and wonder to help get closer to Him, which strengthens their belief in tawhid. It reminds humankind that He is the creator of all things. (2) Sura 1 This is recited in every prayer. 'No prayer is accepted without Fatiha'. It is a conversation with God as He is the Creator, and God is replying to each verse. Through it humans communicate with God. Muslims use this to ask for guidance (given in the Qur'an and sunna), for mercy and help, even outside the prayer. Submitting to God brings humbleness into lives, and because Muslims are accountable to God they pray to be guided on the straight path. (3) Sura 93 These themes tell Muslims to be steadfast and strong when others mock them; God gave blessings to the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), despite people saying that he had been forgotten by God. Muslims should look at their own lives to see their blessings and not think they have been given nothing; they should not constantly want more than what they have. They should be grateful to God through prayers, giving charity and helping those less fortunate than themselves and they should make people aware of the ways in which God helps them.	

Question	Answer	Marks
2(a)	The Qur'an has been preserved in writing for over 1400 years. Give an account of the way in which it was compiled in the written format. Candidates should give some details on the different stages of compilation, and how it was then brought together into a book. During the time of the Prophet (pbuh) the Qur'an was written on pieces of animal skin and on parts of bone but mainly was memorised by the companions; during Abu Bakr's caliphate, many companions who had memorised the Qur'an died at the Battle of Yamama; 'Umar, worried that the words of the Qur'an would be lost due to companions dying of old age/in battle, suggested to Abu Bakr that the Qur'an should be compiled into one book; Abu Bakr hesitated saying he could not do something the Prophet (pbuh) had not done; he eventually agreed and called Zayd ibn Thabit to collect all the verses that had been written; Zayd was a hafiz himself, yet he only included a verse into the master copy once he had verified its authenticity; 'Umar was part of the process to get companions to come with any part of the mushaf they had in their possession; the verses were written in the order that the Prophet (pbuh) had given, but the suras were written on separate sheets; this copy was verified by the committee and was kept with Abu Bakr during his lifetime, after which it passed to 'Umar, and then to 'Umar's daughter Hafsa. During 'Uthman's time as caliph, Islam had spread to other areas. Hudhaifa reported to 'Uthman that people were reciting the Qur'an in a different dialect in different parts. 'Uthman called Zayd back and they formed a committee, ordering the companions to compile one book in the Qurayshi dialect, using the mushaf of Hafsa. Zayd ibn Thabit was recalled to check it. 'Uthman then checked and approved the final version. This new copy was sent around the various provinces of the expanding Muslim world. He ordered for any other copies to be collected and burnt. For this he is known as 'Jami al-Qur'an'.	10

Question	Answer	Marks
2(b)	Do you think, for Muslims nowadays, having the Qur'an in a written format outweighs the benefits of having the oral tradition? Give reasons for your answer. Candidates can offer a variety of answers to this question, but marks should be given for the quality of the reasoning given for their answer. Candidates could say that yes it does outweigh the oral tradition because e.g. it gives Muslims around the world access to the Qur'an that they would not otherwise have if they are not in a position to memorise it. Or that old Qur'ans such as the one that was found in Birmingham, allow Muslims to authenticate that the written copies of the early Muslims are the same as the ones now. It gives a greater sense of connection to the faith when you can see things from that time. As Islam has spread, the written Qur'an can be read by those whose first language is not Arabic. Candidates could say that no it does not because the oral tradition was how the Qur'an was revealed and passed on in the beginning and this is a more authentic way of ensuring accuracy. Or Candidates could say that both are equally beneficial for Muslims now because e.g. they both have a role to play now that Islam has spread and covers many different regions and languages. The written tradition gives access to people where they are no longer able to memorise or prefer to read, and the oral tradition gives access to people in places where education is scarce and learning orally from a hafiz also gives them a direct connection back to the Prophet (pbuh).	4

Question	Answer	Marks
3(a)	The Prophet went to Ta'if to teach the people there about one God. Write about his experience of this event. The Prophet (pbuh) had been preaching to the people of Makka for ten years and they had faced many hardships; the number of Muslims was relatively small; his greatest supporters Khadija and Abu Talib had passed away; he looked towards Makka to preach his message and went to Ta'if with Zayd bin Haritha; he thought people would be favourable to his message but they were hostile towards him; he stayed several days there delivering the message to the people, but he was abused and jeered; they were chased out by being pelted with stones till blood flowed down the Prophet's legs; Zayd was injured too; they took refuge in an orchard a few miles away; seeing his condition, 'Utbah and Shaybah sent their servant with a tray of grapes; their servant saw true prophethood in him; Jibril later appeared with another angel and asked the Prophet (pbuh) for permission to bury the city; the Prophet (pbuh) refused and instead prayed for believers to be born from their progeny.	10
3(b)	The Prophet showed great forgiveness despite the cruelty of the people of Ta'if. Do you think Muslims now can follow this example? Candidates could say e.g. yes, people can follow his example because they may face rejection for many reasons, whether they are preaching about Islam to others who mock and ridicule them, or it may be that someone is being bullied at school, or people are being tormented by those occupying their lands; by remembering the Prophet's forgiveness and being steadfast in faith, would help forgive those who are hurting/rejecting you. Or they could say no, it is not possible, e.g. because this kind of mercy is only for those of a high status or closeness to God, and for most people they are not able to control their anger or they want to seek revenge if someone has done something small to them, and so they would not be able to forgive anything as big as this.	4

Question	Answer	Marks
4(a)	Write about the battle of the Trench (<i>Khandaq</i>) fought in 627. Khandaq: Banu Nadir had broken their treaty agreements and planned to kill the Prophet (pbuh); they planned an attack with the Makkans and other Arab tribes, and gathered an army of 10 000; the Muslims gathered 3000 men; Salman al-Farsi suggested the Muslims dig trenches to keep the army out, wide enough and deep enough not to be crossed; hypocrites in Madina joined the Makkans; Banu Qurayza did not initially want to break their agreements with the Prophet, but later were convinced to help the Quraysh; there was little food and water; Jabir invited the Prophet (pbuh) to eat after slaughtering a sheep, and the prophet fed the whole army with this one animal; the Quraysh tried to cross the trench, a couple of riders managed to cross a part that was narrower; 'Ali fought them off; the siege ran into weeks; the Prophet (pbuh) used strategic skills to create mistrust between the alliances; they eventually gave up after a storm for three days which prevented them from lighting fires, cooking food and keeping warm; Banu Qurayza were punished for their treachery by their own laws.	10
4(b)	What can Muslims learn from the Prophet's involvement in the digging of the trench? Candidates can offer a variety of lessons but should give an explanation for their answer. The Prophet (pbuh) was the leader of the army and yet he took part in digging the trench, despite his severe hunger. This teaches Muslims that no matter what their position, whether heads of state or community leaders, they should take part in hard work required for the benefit of the community or others. It also provides a lesson in patience and perseverance, and that God will help if you don't give up. It also teaches humility, that you do not think yourself above certain types of work.	4

Question	Answer	Marks
5(a)	Khadija bint Khuwaylid was the Prophet's first wife. Write an account of her life in the period she knew the Prophet. Candidates should write a detailed narrative elaborating on the points mentioned below. Khadija was a successful businesswoman in her own right; she was twice widowed and had children from her previous marriages; she employed the Prophet (before prophethood) as a merchant for her; she sent her servant, Maysara, with him; after hearing of his trading skills and honesty as a merchant, she sent a marriage proposal to him through Nafeesa; he accepted after consulting his uncle; she was 40 and he was 25; they had six children together, her two sons dying in infancy; when the Prophet (pbuh) received revelation he came to Khadija trembling; she reassured him that God would not humiliate him; she took him to see her cousin who told the Prophet (pbuh) about the angel and that he is a messenger of God; she was the first to publicly accept Islam; she supported the Prophet (pbuh) financially; she died after the boycott to Shib-i-Abi Talib; the Prophet's love for her caused jealousy among his other wives (A'isha); Jibr'il is said to have sent greetings of peace to her, through the Prophet (pbuh), from God and himself; Khadija was Muhammad's first wife and he chose not to marry any other woman during her lifetime.	10
5(b)	The Prophet's employer was a woman who was successful in business. What lessons can be derived from this for Muslims now? Candidates can offer various lessons and should give reasons for their answer. They could say, e.g. that Muslims can learn that women can and should be allowed to work and can hold positions of stature in the workplace. That men working for them should not feel that they are inferior in any way, as how well a person does their job is more important than who employs them. Or that men and women can work together and can, and should, maintain integrity and respect between each other.	4