



Rewarding Learning

ADVANCED SUBSIDIARY (AS)
General Certificate of Education
January 2012

Religious Studies

Assessment Unit AS 8

assessing

An Introduction to the Study of Islam

[AR181]

WEDNESDAY 25 JANUARY, AFTERNOON



TIME

1 hour 20 minutes.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Write your Centre Number and Candidate Number on the Answer Booklet provided.
Answer **one** question from Section A and **one** question from Section B.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The total mark for this paper is 100.

Quality of written communication will be assessed in **all** questions.

Figures in brackets printed down the right-hand side of pages indicate the marks awarded to each question or part question.

ADVICE TO CANDIDATES

You are advised to take account of the marks for each question or part question in allocating the available examination time.

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Section A

Answer **one** question from Section A

- 1 (a) Describe and explain the central beliefs of the Qur'an. [35]
- (b) Comment on the claim that the language and structure of the Qur'an causes problems for Muslims. Justify your answer. [15]
- 2 (a) Explain the reasons for the rapid spread and success of Islam in the first two centuries. [35]
- (b) Explore the view that pre-Islamic Arabia needed leadership and change. Justify your answer. [15]

Section B

Answer **one** question from Section B

- 3 (a) Give an account of the context of Eid ul Adha and explain how it is celebrated. [35]
- (b) With reference to other aspects of human experience, explore the view that the celebration of festivals is essential for the survival of the religious community. Justify your answer. [15]
- 4 (a) Explain the importance of the Pillars for the individual and the community in Islam. [35]
- (b) With reference to other aspects of human experience, explore the claim that it is the observance of ritual that marks out the genuine religious believer. Justify your answer. [15]

