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ADVANCED SUBSIDIARY (AS)
General Certificate of Education
January 2013

Religious Studies

Assessment Unit AS 8

assessing

An Introduction to the Study of Islam

[AR181]

THURSDAY 24 JANUARY, AFTERNOON

AR181

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) Explain the religious and cultural features of Arabia before the arrival of Muhammad. [35]

(b) Explore the view that the rapid spread of Islam was largely due to a highly committed army. Justify your answer. [15]

2 (a) Describe and explain the importance of the Qur'an, Sunnah and Hadith. [35]

(b) Comment on the claim that the Qur'an offers Muslims all the guidance required to fully submit to Allah. Justify your answer. [15]

Section B

Answer **one** question from Section B

3 (a) Describe the observance and explain the significance of the Pillars of Shahadah (Creed) and Zakat (Almsgiving). [35]

(b) With reference to other aspects of human experience, explore the view that for religious believers it is more important to do the right thing than to say the right thing. Justify your answer. [15]

4 (a) Explain the role of an Imam in Muslim worship and community life. [35]

(b) With reference to other aspects of human experience, comment on the claim that religious leaders are essential for encouraging faith in God. Justify your answer. [15]

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