



Rewarding Learning

ADVANCED SUBSIDIARY (AS)  
General Certificate of Education  
2016

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# Religious Studies

Assessment Unit AS 8

*assessing*

An Introduction to the Study of Islam

[AR181]

MONDAY 27 JUNE, AFTERNOON

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## 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 how the religious and social conditions in pre-Islamic Arabia influenced the work of the prophet Muhammad. [35]
- (b) Explore the view that the rapid spread of Islam was due to its unique religious appeal. Justify your answer. [15]
- 2 (a) Explain the significance of the call of Muhammad for his life and prophetic ministry. [35]
- (b) Comment on the claim that Muhammad's military activities take away from his success as a prophet. Justify your answer. [15]

### Section B

Answer **one** question from Section B

- 3 (a) Explain the structure and themes of the Qur'an. [35]
- (b) With reference to other aspects of human experience, explore the view that for a life of faith, obedience to a sacred text is all that is required. Justify your answer. [15]
- 4 (a) Explain the importance of the pillar of Hajj (pilgrimage) and the festival of Eid ul Adha. [35]
- (b) With reference to other aspects of human experience, comment on the claim that religious festivals mean little in a secular age. Justify your answer. [15]

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