

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
NATIONAL EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL
ADVANCED CERTIFICATE OF SECONDARY EDUCATION
EXAMINATION

151/2

ISLAMIC KNOWLEDGE 2

(For Both School and Private Candidates)

Time: 3 Hours

SOLUTIONS

Year: 2006

Instructions

1. This paper consists of **eight (8)** questions.
2. Answer **five (5)** questions choosing **two (2)** questions from section A and **three (3)** questions from section B.
3. Each question carries **twenty (20)** marks.
4. Cellular phones are **not** allowed in the examination room.
5. Write your **Examination Number** on every page of your answer booklet(s).



Bismillahir-Rahmanir-Rahim

ISLAMIC HISTORY AND HADITH

1. Analyze the role of divine revelation in shaping the mission of Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W).

Divine revelation shaped the mission of Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W) by defining the source and authority of his message. Revelation made it clear that his mission was not self-appointed or culturally driven but commanded directly by Allah, as stated, “Nor does he speak from his own desire. It is only a revelation revealed” (53:3–4). This established the Prophet as a messenger conveying Divine will rather than personal opinion.

Revelation also provided the moral and spiritual framework of the mission. Through the Qur'an, the Prophet was guided on matters of belief, worship, ethics, and social conduct. Verses addressing justice, compassion, patience, and accountability shaped how the mission was to transform individuals and society. Without revelation, the mission would have lacked consistent moral direction.

Divine revelation shaped the method of the mission by emphasizing gradual reform and wisdom. Early revelations focused on Tawhid, accountability, and moral purification before introducing detailed laws. This approach allowed hearts to be prepared before social and legal reforms were implemented.

Revelation also strengthened the Prophet psychologically and emotionally. During moments of hardship and rejection, revelation provided reassurance and support, such as, “Your Lord has not forsaken you, nor has He detested you” (93:3). This sustained the Prophet's resolve and perseverance.

Finally, revelation ensured universality and continuity of the mission. The Qur'an addressed all humanity and linked the Prophet's mission to that of earlier Prophets, making Islam a continuation of Divine guidance rather than a localized reform movement.

2. Discuss the significance of secrecy and gradualism in the early propagation of Islam.

Secrecy was significant in the early propagation of Islam because it protected the small Muslim community from immediate persecution. During the first years in Makkah, Islam was preached privately to trusted individuals, allowing faith to take root without provoking violent opposition from Quraysh.

Gradualism allowed believers to be trained spiritually and morally before facing public hostility. The Prophet focused on building strong faith in a small group who could withstand pressure. This produced committed individuals such as Abu Bakr, Khadijah, and Ali, who became pillars of the community.

Secrecy also enabled strategic planning. Meetings such as those at Dar al-Arqam provided safe spaces for teaching the Qur'an and strengthening unity. This preparation was essential before public declaration.

Gradualism ensured that Islamic teachings were absorbed deeply rather than superficially. Core beliefs like Tawhid, the Hereafter, and moral accountability were emphasized before legal obligations, making acceptance sincere and lasting.

Finally, this method reduced internal confusion and hypocrisy. By allowing belief to grow naturally, early Muslims developed resilience and clarity of purpose, which later enabled Islam to spread openly and confidently.

3. Examine the educational methods used by Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W) to train his companions.

One major educational method was teaching by example. The Prophet embodied the values he taught, making his life a practical lesson in honesty, patience, humility, and justice. Companions learned not only through words but by observing his conduct.

The Prophet used gradual instruction, teaching according to the readiness of learners. He prioritized core beliefs before details, ensuring that understanding preceded obligation. This method prevented overload and confusion.

Dialogue and questioning were central to his teaching. He encouraged companions to ask questions and reflect, creating an interactive learning environment. This developed critical thinking and deep understanding rather than blind imitation.

The Prophet also used repetition and reminders. Important teachings were repeated in different contexts to reinforce learning and ensure retention.

Practical training was another key method. Companions were assigned responsibilities, leadership roles, and missions, allowing them to apply knowledge in real situations. This transformed them into confident leaders and teachers of Islam.

4. Why was Madinah suitable as the first Islamic State?

Madinah was socially suitable because its population was accustomed to coexistence between different tribes and religions. This made it receptive to the inclusive governance model introduced by Islam.

Politically, Madinah lacked a centralized authority, creating space for the Prophet to assume leadership without overthrowing an existing state. The community accepted him as an arbitrator and leader.

The pledge of Aqabah demonstrated readiness of the people of Madinah to support and defend the Prophet. This commitment provided political legitimacy and security necessary for state formation.

Geographically, Madinah was strategically located, offering relative security from Quraysh attacks while still maintaining trade connections.

Spiritually and morally, the people of Madinah were seeking guidance and unity after years of tribal conflict, making them receptive to Islamic principles of brotherhood and justice.

5. “Indeed in the Messenger of Allah you have an excellent example.” (33:21). Examine how leadership by example contributed to Islamic success.

The Prophet’s leadership by example established trust and credibility. His honesty before prophethood and integrity afterward made people confident in his message and leadership.

He demonstrated patience under persecution, teaching followers endurance through action rather than command. This inspired resilience during hardship.

His humility as a leader, living simply despite authority, prevented class divisions and promoted equality. This strengthened unity within the community.

The Prophet showed mercy even to enemies, particularly during the Conquest of Makkah. This moral superiority attracted people to Islam and reduced resistance.

Finally, leadership by example ensured continuity. Companions internalized values through lived experience, enabling them to lead effectively after his death.

6. Assess the judicial system during the period of the Rightly Guided Caliphs.

The judicial system was founded on the Qur'an and Sunnah, ensuring consistency with Divine law. Judges were appointed based on knowledge, integrity, and fairness rather than status.

Equality before the law was strictly upheld. Caliphs themselves could be questioned or judged, demonstrating true justice.

Judges exercised independence and were protected from political pressure, allowing impartial rulings.

The system emphasized evidence, witnesses, and due process, preventing arbitrary judgments.

Justice was accessible and simple, ensuring public confidence and social stability.

7. Examine the contribution of Islamic taxation systems to social welfare.

Zakat functioned as a mandatory welfare system, redistributing wealth to the poor, needy, and vulnerable.

Kharaj and Ushr supported state services such as infrastructure, defense, and administration.

Jizyah provided protection and social services to non-Muslims while exempting them from military duty.

Revenue supported education, healthcare, and public works, improving quality of life.

The system reduced inequality and prevented extreme poverty, promoting social cohesion.

8. Discuss the causes of political fragmentation in the later Caliphate period.

Leadership disputes weakened unity after the early Caliphs.

Tribal and regional loyalties resurfaced, undermining central authority.

Wealth concentration and corruption eroded moral legitimacy.

Weak succession systems led to power struggles.

External pressures exploited internal divisions, accelerating fragmentation.

9. Analyze the challenges facing Islamic institutions in post-colonial Africa.

Colonial legacies disrupted traditional Islamic education and governance structures.

Secular state systems marginalized religious institutions.

Economic hardship limited institutional development and outreach.

Internal divisions weakened collective influence.

Globalization and cultural pressures challenged Islamic identity and values.