

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

115/2

ISLAMIMC KNOWLEDGE 2

(For Both School and Private Candidates)

Time: 3 Hours

ANSWERS

Year: 2010

Instructions

1. This paper consists of section A, and B with total of nine questions.
2. Answer all questions in section A, and two questions in section B.
3. Section A carries sixty marks and section B carries forty marks.

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Apologies for any earlier misunderstandings. Here are the responses to questions 1, 2, and 3, with each question restated and answered in detail, providing at least five points for each:

1. What does the Qur'anic history prior to the prophethood of Muhammad (s.a.w) confirm in Islam?

The Qur'anic narrative concerning periods before the prophethood of Muhammad (s.a.w) serves to affirm several foundational aspects within Islam:

1. Continuity of Monotheistic Message: The Qur'an recounts the missions of earlier prophets, such as Noah, Abraham, Moses, and Jesus, highlighting their consistent call towards the worship of one God. This underscores the unbroken chain of monotheistic teachings leading up to Muhammad (s.a.w).
2. Validation of Previous Scriptures: By referencing the Torah, Psalms, and Gospel, the Qur'an acknowledges the divine origin of earlier revelations, confirming their initial guidance while also addressing subsequent alterations.
3. Lessons from Past Communities: The narratives of ancient civilizations, like the people of 'Ad and Thamud, serve as moral lessons, illustrating the consequences of rejecting divine guidance and emphasizing the importance of obedience to God.
4. Prophecies of Muhammad's Coming: The Qur'an indicates that previous scriptures contained prophecies about the advent of Muhammad (s.a.w), positioning his prophethood as a fulfillment of earlier divine promises.
5. Universal Message: By encompassing stories from various cultures and regions, the Qur'an emphasizes that the message of Islam is universal, transcending geographical and temporal boundaries.

2. Discuss the training which early Muslims received from Prophet Muhammad (s.a.w) during the Meccan period.

During the Meccan period, Prophet Muhammad (s.a.w) focused on building a strong spiritual and moral foundation among his followers through various means:

1. Private Gatherings at Dar al-Arqam: To avoid persecution and to provide a safe space for learning, early Muslims convened secretly at the house of al-Arqam, where the Prophet imparted teachings on monotheism and righteous conduct.
2. Emphasis on Tawhid (Oneness of God): The Prophet instilled a deep understanding of monotheism, urging believers to abandon idolatry and to dedicate their worship solely to Allah.
3. Moral and Ethical Development: Teachings during this period emphasized honesty, compassion, and social justice, aiming to reform personal character and societal norms.
4. Patience and Perseverance: Facing significant opposition, the Prophet encouraged his followers to remain steadfast, fostering resilience through prayer and reliance on God.

5. Recitation and Memorization of Revelations: As new verses of the Qur'an were revealed, the Prophet ensured that his companions memorized and understood them, facilitating the preservation and propagation of the message.

3. Examine the role of the initial Islamization principles given to the Prophet in the making of Islam. The foundational principles revealed to Prophet Muhammad (s.a.w) played a crucial role in shaping the early Islamic community and its core tenets:

1. Establishment of Monotheism: The unequivocal emphasis on the oneness of God served to unify the believers under a single creed, distinguishing Islam from the prevalent polytheistic practices.

2. Social Justice and Equity: Early revelations addressed issues like economic disparity and exploitation, advocating for the fair treatment of orphans, the poor, and the marginalized, thereby promoting a just society.

3. Community Solidarity (Ummah): The principles encouraged the formation of a cohesive community bound by faith, transcending tribal affiliations and fostering a sense of collective responsibility.

4. Personal Accountability: Believers were taught that each individual is accountable to God for their actions, instilling a sense of moral responsibility and encouraging ethical behavior.

5. Gradual Implementation of Laws: The initial focus was on building a strong spiritual foundation before introducing specific legal injunctions, allowing the community to internalize core values prior to the establishment of a comprehensive legal framework.

These foundational principles were instrumental in transforming the early followers into a unified and morally conscious community, setting the stage for the broader expansion and establishment of Islamic teachings.

4. Why was the Madinah charter significant for the establishment of an Islamic State in Madinah?

The Madinah Charter, also known as the Constitution of Medina, was pivotal in laying the foundation for the first Islamic state in Medina.

Firstly, it established a formal agreement between the diverse communities in Medina, including Muslims, Jews, and other tribes, promoting peaceful coexistence and mutual cooperation.

Secondly, the charter delineated the political structure of the nascent Islamic state, designating Prophet Muhammad (s.a.w) as the central authority, thereby unifying the previously fragmented society under a single leadership.

Thirdly, it instituted a collective security pact, wherein all signatories agreed to defend Medina against external threats, fostering a sense of shared responsibility and solidarity.

Fourthly, the document outlined principles of justice and dispute resolution, ensuring that conflicts were addressed through a standardized legal framework, which enhanced social order and trust in the governance system.

Lastly, the charter recognized and respected the religious freedoms of non-Muslim communities, allowing them to practice their faiths without interference, which helped in building an inclusive society and reducing potential religious tensions.

5. Review the forces which worked against the Islamic State in Madinah during the life period of Muhammad (s.a.w).

During Prophet Muhammad's (s.a.w) time in Medina, the Islamic state faced opposition from various quarters.

The Quraysh tribe of Mecca emerged as a primary adversary, initiating several military confrontations, including the battles of Badr, Uhud, and the Trench, aiming to suppress the growing influence of Islam.

Certain Jewish tribes within Medina, despite initial agreements, engaged in acts of treachery, such as colluding with enemy forces during critical moments, which undermined the internal security of the Muslim community.

The hypocrites (Munafiqun), individuals who outwardly professed Islam while secretly opposing it, sowed discord and attempted to destabilize the Muslim community from within, posing challenges to the unity and morale of the believers.

Various Bedouin tribes in the Arabian Peninsula, wary of the rising power of the Islamic state, either refrained from forming alliances or actively opposed the Muslims, leading to skirmishes and necessitating strategic diplomacy.

Additionally, economic sanctions and social ostracism imposed by opposing factions aimed to isolate Medina, disrupt trade routes, and weaken the economic stability of the Islamic state, thereby challenging its sustainability and growth.

6. What led to the triumph of Islam?

The success and widespread acceptance of Islam during Prophet Muhammad's (s.a.w) era can be attributed to several key factors.

The unwavering faith and resilience of the early Muslim community, who remained steadfast despite facing severe persecution and hardships, showcased a compelling commitment that attracted others to the faith.

Strategic alliances and treaties, such as the Treaty of Hudaibiyyah, provided periods of peace, allowing for the propagation of Islamic teachings and the consolidation of the Muslim community without the immediate threat of conflict.

The exemplary character and leadership of Prophet Muhammad (s.a.w), marked by honesty, compassion, and wisdom, earned him respect and trust, leading many to embrace Islam based on his personal conduct and judgments.

The inclusive and comprehensive nature of Islamic teachings, which addressed spiritual, social, economic, and legal aspects of life, offered a holistic framework that appealed to a wide audience seeking guidance and justice.

Divine assistance, as believed by Muslims, played a crucial role, with events such as the victory at the Battle of Badr and the peaceful conquest of Mecca seen as manifestations of God's support for the believers, reinforcing their mission and encouraging conversions.

These factors, among others, synergistically contributed to the rapid expansion and enduring establishment of Islam during and beyond the Prophet's (s.a.w) lifetime.

7. Conduct an assessment of Muhammad (s.a.w) as a successful military leader.

Prophet Muhammad (s.a.w) demonstrated exceptional military leadership, which was instrumental in the establishment and expansion of the early Islamic state.

Firstly, his strategic acumen was evident in battles such as Badr, Uhud, and the Trench, where he employed innovative tactics to overcome numerically superior foes. For instance, during the Battle of the Trench, he adopted the unconventional strategy of digging a trench around Medina, effectively neutralizing the enemy's cavalry advantage.

Secondly, his emphasis on intelligence gathering and reconnaissance ensured that his forces were well-prepared and could anticipate enemy movements, allowing for informed decision-making on the battlefield.

Thirdly, Prophet Muhammad (s.a.w) prioritized the morale and welfare of his troops, leading by example and sharing in their hardships. This fostered a strong sense of loyalty and unity among his followers, enhancing their effectiveness in combat.

Fourthly, his diplomatic skills complemented his military endeavors. He forged alliances with various tribes and negotiated treaties, such as the Treaty of Hudaibiyyah, which provided strategic advantages and periods of peace conducive to the spread of Islam.

Lastly, his ethical conduct during warfare set him apart as a compassionate leader. He established rules of engagement that prohibited unnecessary violence, protected non-combatants, and respected enemy combatants, thereby upholding moral standards even in conflict situations.

These facets of his leadership underscore Prophet Muhammad's (s.a.w) success as a military leader who combined strategic prowess with ethical considerations.

8. "Prophets were essentially raised so as to establish justice." (57:25). Show how the rights of non-Muslims were preserved in the Islamic State.

In the early Islamic state, the rights of non-Muslims were safeguarded through various measures that ensured their protection and integration within the society.

Firstly, the Constitution of Medina, instituted by Prophet Muhammad (s.a.w), was a pioneering document that outlined the rights and duties of all citizens, including non-Muslims. It guaranteed them religious freedom, security, and a role in the collective defense of the state, fostering a sense of communal harmony.

Secondly, non-Muslims, referred to as "dhimmis," were granted autonomy in personal matters such as marriage, divorce, and inheritance, allowing them to govern these aspects according to their religious laws. This respect for their legal traditions exemplified the inclusive nature of the Islamic state.

Thirdly, the payment of the jizya tax by non-Muslims was a means of ensuring their protection and exemption from military service. In return, the state assumed responsibility for their safety and welfare, integrating them into the societal framework without imposing undue burdens.

Fourthly, Prophet Muhammad (s.a.w) emphasized the ethical treatment of non-Muslims, stating that anyone who wrongs a non-Muslim under Muslim protection would not experience the fragrance of Paradise. This directive underscored the moral obligation to uphold justice and kindness towards all citizens.

Lastly, historical records indicate that non-Muslims held various positions within the Islamic state, contributing to its administrative, economic, and cultural development. Their active participation reflected the inclusive policies that recognized and valued the contributions of all community members.

These measures collectively highlight the commitment of the early Islamic state to uphold justice and preserve the rights of non-Muslims, aligning with the prophetic mission to establish a just and equitable society.

