

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: 2013

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.

maktaba.tetea.org



1. Critically Assessing Six Reasons Disbelievers Deny the Existence of God

Disbelievers often present several arguments to refute the existence of a divine creator. Critically examining these reasons provides insight into the ongoing debate between theism and atheism.

One prominent argument is the existence of evil and suffering in the world. Disbelievers contend that an omnipotent, omnibenevolent God would not permit such afflictions. However, this perspective may overlook the possibility that suffering serves a greater purpose, such as moral development or the exercise of free will. The coexistence of God and evil is a central topic in theodicy, exploring how divine goodness aligns with worldly suffering.

Skeptics argue that there is no empirical evidence to substantiate God's existence, relying on the principle that beliefs should be grounded in observable data. While empirical evidence is foundational in scientific inquiry, the existence of God may transcend sensory experience, residing in philosophical, metaphysical, or personal domains. Thus, the absence of empirical evidence does not conclusively negate God's existence.

The diversity of religious beliefs and contradictory revelations across cultures lead some to question the validity of any single deity. Disbelievers argue that if one true God existed, there would be a unified, consistent message. This argument, however, may not consider the complexities of human interpretation, cultural contexts, and the possibility that multiple revelations serve different purposes within God's overarching plan.

Advancements in science have provided natural explanations for phenomena once attributed to divine intervention. Disbelievers claim that as science progresses, the need for a God diminishes. However, scientific explanations address the mechanisms of the universe, not necessarily the underlying purpose or cause. The existence of natural laws and order can be interpreted as indicative of a divine lawgiver.

The argument from divine hiddenness posits that if an all-loving God existed, His existence would be more evident to everyone. The perceived absence of clear divine presence leads some to disbelief. This perspective may not account for the notion that God's subtlety allows for genuine free will and the development of faith without coercion.

Disbelievers present logical dilemmas, such as the omnipotence paradox, questioning whether an all-powerful God can create tasks He cannot perform. These paradoxes challenge the coherence of divine attributes. However, such arguments often stem from human limitations in understanding omnipotence, and theologians have offered various resolutions that reconcile these apparent contradictions.

2. Evaluating Five Arguments Disbelievers Use to Deny Life After Death

The concept of an afterlife is a cornerstone in many religious traditions, yet disbelievers raise several objections.

Skeptics argue that there is no empirical proof of life after death, as no one has verifiably returned to confirm its existence. This reliance on empirical evidence may overlook subjective experiences and accounts suggesting consciousness beyond physical death.

Neuroscientific findings indicate that consciousness is closely tied to brain activity. Disbelievers assert that when the brain ceases to function, consciousness does as well. However, this perspective may not consider theories proposing that consciousness could exist independently or continue in a different form beyond physical demise.

Some propose that beliefs in an afterlife are evolutionary byproducts, offering psychological comfort and social cohesion. Disbelievers suggest that these beliefs are constructs rather than reflections of an actual afterlife. While evolutionary perspectives provide one explanation, they do not necessarily negate the possibility of an afterlife's existence.

The varied and sometimes contradictory depictions of the afterlife across different cultures and religions lead some to question their validity. Disbelievers argue that if an afterlife were real, there would be a consistent account. This argument may not consider that diverse cultural contexts can influence interpretations of a singular truth.

3. Artifacts from the Life of Prophet Nuhu (a.s) Demonstrating the Existence of Allah (s.w)

The narrative of Prophet Nuhu (Noah) in Islamic tradition offers several elements that believers interpret as evidence of Allah's existence.

Prophet Nuhu received guidance from Allah, warning his people of impending consequences for their transgressions. This communication signifies a direct link between the divine and humanity, underscoring Allah's active involvement in guiding His creation.

Under Allah's instruction, Nuhu built an ark to save the faithful and pairs of animals from the forthcoming flood. The successful completion and purpose of the ark reflect divine wisdom and mercy in preserving life.

The occurrence of the flood, as a manifestation of divine will, served as both a punishment for the disbelievers and a means of cleansing the earth. This event illustrates Allah's power and justice in responding to human actions.

Those who heeded Nuhu's message and boarded the ark were spared from the disaster. Their survival demonstrates Allah's protection and favor towards the obedient, reinforcing the principle of divine recompense.

The continuation of humanity through Nuhu's lineage after the flood signifies Allah's plan for human existence and the renewal of life. This aspect highlights divine foresight and the perpetuation of creation.

The story of Nuhu serves as a timeless lesson for future generations, emphasizing themes of faith, obedience, and divine justice. This enduring relevance points to a purposeful design by Allah in conveying moral and spiritual guidance.

4. How the Five Pillars Help Believers Realize the Objective of Life

The Five Pillars of Islam serve as the foundation for a Muslim's faith and practice, guiding believers toward fulfilling their purpose in life.

The Shahada, or declaration of faith, asserts the oneness of Allah and the prophethood of Muhammad. This affirmation shapes a Muslim's identity and aligns their life purpose with the worship and acknowledgment of a singular divine entity.

Salah, the performance of five daily prayers, establishes a routine that fosters discipline and mindfulness. Regular engagement in prayer reinforces a constant connection to Allah, reminding believers of their spiritual objectives amidst daily activities.

Through Zakat, or almsgiving, Muslims fulfill their social responsibility by supporting those in need. This act of charity purifies wealth and cultivates empathy, aligning personal objectives with communal welfare and justice.

Observing Sawm, fasting during the month of Ramadan, instills self-control and spiritual reflection. Abstaining from worldly pleasures heightens awareness of life's transient nature, prompting believers to focus on spiritual growth and their ultimate purpose.

The Hajj pilgrimage to Mecca, required once in a lifetime for those able, symbolizes unity and submission to Allah. Participating in this profound act reinforces a sense of global Muslim identity and underscores the transient nature of worldly life, guiding believers toward their spiritual objectives.

5. Six Reasons Underpinning the Rationale of Islamic Inheritance Law

Islamic inheritance laws are meticulously designed to ensure justice, equity, and social harmony within the Muslim community.

Firstly, these laws are divinely ordained, as outlined in the Quran and Hadith. Adhering to them signifies obedience to Allah's commands, fostering a sense of spiritual fulfillment among believers.

Secondly, the system promotes fair distribution of wealth by allocating shares to a wide range of relatives, including women and children. This inclusivity prevents the concentration of wealth and mitigates economic disparities within society.

Thirdly, by specifying clear inheritance shares, Islamic law aims to prevent familial disputes. The predetermined guidelines reduce ambiguity and potential conflicts among heirs, preserving family unity.

Fourthly, the inheritance framework provides financial security for dependents, ensuring that vulnerable family members, such as minors and widows, receive their rightful portions. This safety net upholds social welfare and responsibility.

Fifthly, the principle of granting males a share equivalent to that of two females is balanced by the financial obligations placed upon men in Islam. Men are required to provide for their families, justifying their larger share to fulfill these responsibilities effectively.

Lastly, the inheritance laws encourage circulation of wealth within the community. By distributing assets among multiple heirs, the system prevents hoarding and stimulates economic activity, contributing to societal prosperity.

6. Justifying the Permissibility of Polygamy in Islam for Human Welfare

Polygamy, as permitted in Islam, is often viewed through the lens of social welfare and ethical considerations.

Firstly, polygamy addresses the imbalance in gender ratios that may arise due to various circumstances, such as war or higher mortality rates among men. Allowing men to marry multiple women ensures that widows and unmarried women have the opportunity for companionship and support.

Secondly, it offers a solution for women seeking protection and financial stability, especially in societies where single women may face economic hardships. Through polygamous marriages, women can secure their livelihood and social standing.

Thirdly, polygamy can be a means to safeguard moral standards by providing lawful outlets for men's desires, thereby reducing instances of extramarital affairs and associated social issues. This framework promotes family integrity and societal morality.

Fourthly, in cases where a wife is unable to bear children, polygamy allows the husband to have offspring with another wife without resorting to divorce. This practice ensures the continuation of lineage while maintaining the original marital bond.

Fifthly, polygamous arrangements can strengthen communal ties by uniting different families and tribes through marriage. These alliances foster social cohesion and collective support networks.

Lastly, Islam regulates polygamy with strict conditions, emphasizing justice and equal treatment among wives. This ensures that the practice is not based on personal whims but is conducted responsibly, upholding the dignity and rights of all parties involved.

By considering these aspects, it becomes evident that the permissibility of polygamy in Islam is rooted in pragmatic solutions aimed at enhancing human welfare and societal harmony.

7. Bottlenecks Hindering the Thriving of an Islamic Political System in Tanzania

The establishment and flourishing of an Islamic political system in Tanzania face several significant challenges rooted in historical, legal, and socio-political contexts.

Historically, Tanzania has embraced a secular governance model, especially since the union of Tanganyika and Zanzibar in 1964. This secular foundation is enshrined in the nation's constitution, which emphasizes the separation of religion and state affairs. This constitutional commitment to secularism inherently limits the integration of religious-based political systems, including an Islamic one.

The legal framework in Tanzania does not accommodate the implementation of religious laws within its political system. While personal laws concerning marriage, divorce, and inheritance for Muslims are recognized, the broader application of Sharia law in governance is not permitted. This legal restriction poses a significant barrier to the establishment of an Islamic political system.

Politically, the dominance of the Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) party has been a defining feature of Tanzanian governance. This political landscape leaves limited space for alternative political ideologies, including those based on religious principles. Efforts to introduce an Islamic political system would face substantial opposition from the entrenched political establishment.

Socially, Tanzania is characterized by its religious diversity, with significant populations of Christians, Muslims, and practitioners of indigenous beliefs. Implementing an Islamic political system in such a pluralistic society could lead to tensions and divisions, as it may be perceived as favoring one religious group over others, potentially disrupting the nation's social harmony.

Additionally, there is a prevailing mistrust among some Muslim communities toward democratic processes, particularly in regions like Zanzibar. This skepticism stems from historical grievances and perceptions of political marginalization, which complicates the pursuit of an Islamic political system within the existing democratic framework.

Internationally, Tanzania is a signatory to various global agreements that advocate for secular governance and human rights. Transitioning to an Islamic political system could conflict with these commitments, leading to diplomatic and economic repercussions on the global stage.

In summary, the pursuit of an Islamic political system in Tanzania is impeded by constitutional secularism, restrictive legal frameworks, political dominance by existing parties, religious diversity, internal community mistrust, and international obligations. These factors collectively present substantial challenges to the integration of an Islamic political model within the Tanzanian context.

8. The Rationale of Fasting in Practical Life

Fasting, particularly during the holy month of Ramadan, holds profound significance in Islam, extending beyond spiritual devotion to encompass various practical benefits that enhance a believer's daily life.

One of the primary practical benefits of fasting is the promotion of self-discipline. Abstaining from food, drink, and other physical needs during daylight hours requires considerable willpower. This practice strengthens an individual's ability to control impulses and desires, fostering greater personal restraint and discipline in everyday activities.

Fasting also cultivates empathy and compassion for those less fortunate. Experiencing hunger and thirst firsthand heightens awareness of the struggles faced by impoverished individuals, encouraging acts of charity and social responsibility. This empathetic outlook fosters a more cohesive and supportive community.

From a health perspective, fasting can offer several benefits. It provides the digestive system with a period of rest, potentially improving metabolic functions. Some studies suggest that intermittent fasting may aid in weight management and reduce the risk of certain chronic diseases. However, it is essential to approach fasting with proper nutritional practices to ensure overall well-being.

Fasting serves as a means of spiritual purification and renewal. The heightened focus on prayer, reflection, and reading of the Quran during fasting periods fosters a deeper connection with Allah. This spiritual rejuvenation can lead to increased inner peace and a more purposeful approach to life.

The practice of fasting enhances gratitude and appreciation for everyday blessings. The temporary deprivation of basic necessities like food and water leads individuals to recognize and value these essentials more profoundly, fostering a sense of thankfulness and contentment.

Fasting also encourages social solidarity and unity. Communal activities, such as breaking the fast together (Iftar) and participating in collective prayers, strengthen bonds among community members. This collective observance reinforces a shared identity and mutual support within the community.

In essence, fasting in Islam transcends mere abstention from physical needs; it is a multifaceted practice that promotes self-discipline, empathy, health consciousness, spiritual growth, gratitude, and social cohesion. These practical benefits collectively contribute to the holistic development of individuals and the betterment of society.