

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: 2016

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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1. Practical Values of Belief in Allah's Qadar

Belief in Allah's Qadar (Divine Decree) profoundly influences a Muslim's life, offering several practical benefits:

Firstly, it fosters contentment and peace of mind. Recognizing that all events unfold according to Allah's will helps individuals accept outcomes, reducing anxiety and fostering inner tranquility.

Secondly, this belief enhances resilience and determination. Understanding that challenges are part of Allah's plan encourages Muslims to persevere through difficulties, knowing that their efforts align with a greater purpose.

Thirdly, it cultivates humility. Acknowledging that successes and failures are decreed by Allah prevents arrogance, as individuals realize their achievements are not solely due to personal merit.

Fourthly, belief in Qadar promotes reliance on Allah. While taking necessary precautions and striving for goals, Muslims trust in Allah's wisdom, balancing personal effort with spiritual dependence.

Fifthly, it encourages gratitude. Recognizing that all blessings are from Allah leads to a thankful attitude, enhancing personal satisfaction and social harmony.

Lastly, this belief guides ethical decision-making. Knowing that actions are within Allah's decree motivates adherence to moral principles, as individuals are aware of their accountability in both this life and the hereafter.

2. Refuting Dogmatism in Belief in Allah

Islamic theology emphasizes a balanced approach to belief, countering dogmatism through several arguments:

Firstly, Islam encourages the use of reason and reflection. The Quran repeatedly invites believers to ponder over creation and seek knowledge, promoting an informed and thoughtful faith.

Secondly, the faith acknowledges the complexity of divine attributes. Scholars like Abu Bakr al-Baqillani have articulated nuanced understandings, avoiding literalism and promoting interpretations that transcend anthropomorphic conceptions.

Thirdly, Islam promotes humility in theological matters. Recognizing human limitations in fully comprehending the divine fosters an open-minded and inquisitive attitude, rather than rigid dogmatism.

Fourthly, the tradition of scholarly debate in Islam showcases a history of diverse interpretations and discussions, reflecting a dynamic and non-dogmatic engagement with theological concepts.

Fifthly, Islamic teachings emphasize that true belief is accompanied by righteous actions and good character, suggesting that mere dogmatic assertion without ethical conduct is insufficient.

Lastly, the Quran warns against blind imitation, urging believers to seek understanding and not merely follow ancestral or societal beliefs without scrutiny, thereby discouraging dogmatic adherence.

3. Weaknesses in Disbelievers' Argument Against the Hereafter

The skepticism regarding resurrection, as highlighted in Quranic verses like 70:10-11, can be addressed through several points:

Firstly, the argument underestimates divine omnipotence. If Allah has the power to create life initially, recreating it after death is logically consistent with His capabilities.

Secondly, observable natural phenomena, such as the revival of barren land with rain, serve as analogies for resurrection, demonstrating cycles of death and renewal in the world.

Thirdly, the disbelief often stems from a materialistic perspective, neglecting the spiritual dimension of existence that transcends physical decay.

Fourthly, numerous religious traditions and scriptures affirm the concept of an afterlife, providing a historical and cross-cultural basis for belief in life after death.

Lastly, the argument fails to consider the moral implications; without an afterlife, concepts of ultimate justice and accountability become undermined, challenging the foundation of ethical behavior.

4. Analyzing Six Drawbacks in the Implementation of Polygamy among Tanzanian Muslims

Polygamy, while culturally and religiously significant in Tanzania, faces several challenges in its contemporary practice:

Firstly, economic constraints pose a significant hurdle. Maintaining multiple households requires substantial financial resources, and many men lack the means to provide equitable support to all wives, leading to disparities and familial discord.

Secondly, legal ambiguities complicate polygamous unions. Tanzania's legal system encompasses customary, religious, and statutory laws, which sometimes conflict, creating uncertainties regarding the recognition and rights of polygamous marriages.

Thirdly, women's rights activists argue that polygamy can perpetuate gender inequalities. Some women in polygamous marriages report insufficient support from their husbands, who may provide for one wife while neglecting others, leading to emotional and financial hardships.

Fourthly, societal perceptions are shifting due to increased education and awareness. Many educated women are less inclined to enter polygamous marriages, viewing them as outdated or incompatible with modern values, which can lead to social tensions within communities.

Fifthly, the potential for familial conflicts increases in polygamous settings. Jealousy and competition among co-wives can lead to a lack of harmony within the household, adversely affecting children and overall family dynamics.

Lastly, health concerns arise, as polygamous relationships can complicate sexual health dynamics, potentially increasing the risk of sexually transmitted infections if not managed responsibly.

5. Evaluating Six Practical Values of Prayer for Contemporary Muslims

Prayer (Salah) holds profound significance in the lives of Muslims today, offering numerous practical benefits:

Firstly, it serves as a constant reminder of Allah, fostering mindfulness and spiritual awareness amidst daily activities.

Secondly, regular prayer instills discipline and time management, as adhering to the five daily prayers requires organizing one's schedule effectively.

Thirdly, the physical movements involved in Salah promote physical health, enhancing flexibility and circulation.

Fourthly, prayer provides a structured opportunity for reflection and stress relief, contributing to mental well-being and resilience against life's challenges.

Fifthly, congregational prayers strengthen community bonds, fostering a sense of belonging and mutual support among Muslims.

Lastly, consistent engagement in prayer reinforces ethical consciousness, guiding individuals toward moral decision-making and righteous conduct.

6. Explaining Six Evils of Adultery from an Islamic Perspective

Adultery (Zina) is severely condemned in Islam due to its detrimental effects on individuals and society:

Firstly, it undermines the sanctity of marriage, eroding trust and commitment between spouses, which are foundational to family stability.

Secondly, adultery can lead to familial disintegration, causing emotional trauma to spouses and children, and disrupting the cohesive family unit.

Thirdly, it poses significant health risks, including the spread of sexually transmitted diseases, which can have long-term consequences for individuals and public health.

Fourthly, engaging in adultery often involves deceit and betrayal, leading to a loss of personal integrity and moral decay.

Fifthly, it contributes to social instability, as the breakdown of families can lead to increased crime rates, poverty, and a decline in communal harmony.

Lastly, from a spiritual standpoint, adultery distances individuals from Allah, incurring His displeasure and leading to spiritual impoverishment.

7. Analyzing Three Levels of Misconceptions About Worship in Islam and Their Corrections

Misunderstandings about the concept of worship in Islam often arise at various levels, leading to misconceptions that can affect both Muslims and non-Muslims. Addressing these misconceptions is crucial for a proper understanding of Islamic practices.

a) Worship Confined to Ritual Acts

Many believe that worship in Islam is limited to ritualistic practices such as the five daily prayers, fasting during Ramadan, giving zakat (charity), and performing the Hajj pilgrimage. While these are fundamental pillars, Islam's concept of worship encompasses all actions done in accordance with Allah's guidance and with the intention to please Him. Everyday activities like honest business dealings, seeking knowledge, and even acts of kindness are considered forms of worship when performed with the right intention.

b) Worship Directed Towards Entities Other Than Allah

A common misconception is that Muslims worship entities other than Allah, such as the Prophet Muhammad or the Ka'bah. In reality, Islam strictly emphasizes monotheism, and all acts of worship are directed solely to Allah. The Prophet Muhammad is revered as the final messenger, but he is not worshipped. Similarly, the Ka'bah serves as a unified direction for prayer (qibla) but is not an object of worship. This distinction is fundamental in Islamic theology.

c) Worship as a Means to Worldly Gains

Some perceive worship in Islam as a transactional act aimed at securing worldly benefits or avoiding hardships. While certain acts of worship may lead to personal and communal benefits, the primary purpose is to attain spiritual closeness to Allah and fulfill one's duties as His servant. This selfless devotion transcends mere worldly motivations, aiming for spiritual elevation and the pleasure of Allah.

8. Assessing Seven Forms of Trade and Transactions Outlawed in Islam

Islamic economic principles are designed to promote justice, transparency, and mutual benefit. Certain business practices are prohibited to prevent exploitation and harm.

a) Riba (Usury or Interest)

The practice of charging or paying interest is strictly prohibited in Islam. Riba is seen as exploitative, leading to unjust enrichment and social inequality. Islam encourages profit-sharing and risk-sharing arrangements as ethical alternatives.

b) Gharar (Excessive Uncertainty)

Transactions involving excessive uncertainty or ambiguity are forbidden. This includes selling goods or services that are not in one's possession or whose existence is uncertain, as it can lead to unjust outcomes and disputes.

c) Maysir (Gambling)

Engaging in games of chance for monetary gain is prohibited. Gambling promotes reckless behavior, dependency, and can lead to financial ruin, which is detrimental to individual and societal well-being.

d) Trading in Prohibited (Haram) Items

The sale of items explicitly forbidden in Islam, such as alcohol, pork, and illicit drugs, is not allowed. Profiting from goods that are harmful or prohibited undermines the ethical foundations of Islamic commerce.

e) Fraud and Deception

Misrepresenting products, such as hiding defects or falsifying information, is strictly forbidden. Honesty and transparency are essential components of Islamic trade ethics, ensuring trust and fairness in transactions.

f) Hoarding (Ihtikar)

Deliberately accumulating essential goods to create artificial scarcity and inflate prices is prohibited. Hoarding exploits consumers and disrupts market equilibrium, leading to social harm.

g) Coercive Sales

Forcing someone into a transaction against their will is not permissible. All parties in a business deal must engage in mutual consent, ensuring that agreements are made without compulsion or undue pressure.

By adhering to these prohibitions, Islamic commerce aims to foster an ethical, equitable, and socially responsible economic system.