2.3 In-depth study: Islam

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ **Total: 30 marks**

KEY WORDS Hijra • Hadith • Sunnah • Sharia • ummah • Sunni • Shi'a

Objective

Study **Islam** in depth: the life of the **Prophet Muhammad**, the **Qur'an** and **Hadith**, the **Five Pillars** and the **Six Articles of Faith**, and the differences between **Sunni** and **Shi'a** Muslims.

You must be able to:

- outline the life of the Prophet and its importance
- explain the Six Articles of Faith
- explain the Qur'an, Hadith and Sharia as sources of guidance
- explain the origins of the Sunni and Shi'a branches
- evaluate the role of the ummah in Muslim life

1 Key knowledge and worked examples

The Prophet

Muhammad was born in Mecca around 570 CE. Muslims believe the first revelation came in 610 CE through the angel Jibril (Gabriel), and continued for about 23 years. In 622 CE he and his followers moved to Medina: the **Hijra**, the start of the Islamic calendar. He returned to Mecca in 630 and died in 632.

Beliefs and guidance

Six Articles of Faith (Sunni): belief in God (Allah), angels, the revealed books, the prophets, the Day of Judgement, and God's decree (*al-qadr*). **Sources of guidance**: the **Qur'an** (God's word), the **Hadith** (reports of the Prophet's words and actions; the **Sunnah** is his example), and **Sharia** , the way of life drawn from them by scholars.

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Sunni and Shi'a

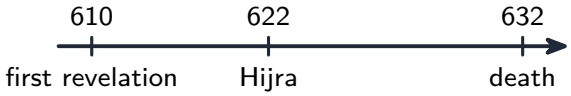
After 632, Muslims disagreed on who should lead. **Sunni** Muslims accepted Abu Bakr, chosen by the community, as the first caliph. **Shi'a** Muslims believe leadership belonged to the Prophet's family through his cousin and son-in-law **Ali** and his descendants, the Imams. The killing of Ali's son **Husayn** at **Karbala** (680 CE) is remembered by Shi'a Muslims at Ashura. Sunni Muslims are the large majority (about 85–90 % of Muslims).

The ummah : the worldwide community of Muslims, seen most clearly at Hajj, when millions of pilgrims wear simple white clothing, showing equality before God.

2 Practice

2.1 Explain the meaning of the **Hijra**. [2]

2.2 The first revelation came in 610 CE and the Prophet died in 632 CE. Calculate the length of the period of revelation, and explain why the Qur'an was revealed **gradually**, according to Muslim teaching. [3]



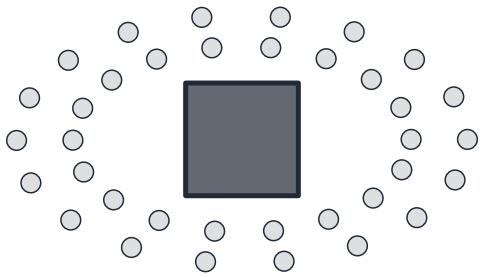
2.3 Explain how the **Qur'an** and the **Hadith** work together as sources of guidance. [4]

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2.4 Explain the origins of the division between **Sunni** and **Shi'a** Muslims, and **one** difference in practice today. [6]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 *(Paper 2 style.)* To what extent is the **ummah** central to the life of Muslims? [15]



pilgrims circle the Ka'ba

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Solutions

Marking: **M1** a correct method, **A1** the correct answer, **B1** an independent mark.

Each answer shows the steps, then the **result**.

2.1

the move of the Prophet and his followers from Mecca to Medina in 622 CE; it marks the start of the Islamic calendar and of the first Muslim community

2.2

$632 - 610 =$ **22** years (about 23 lunar years); gradual revelation answered the needs of the community as events happened; it made the message easier to learn, remember and practise

2.3

the Qur'an is the primary source: God's word; the Hadith record the Prophet's sayings and actions; they explain and give detail to the Qur'an, e.g. how to perform salah; scholars judge the reliability of each hadith by its chain of narrators

2.4

after the Prophet's death in 632, Muslims disagreed on who should lead; Sunni: accepted Abu Bakr, chosen by the community, as caliph; Shi'a: leadership belonged to Ali and the Prophet's family; Karbala (680): the death of Husayn; difference in practice, e.g. Shi'a commemoration of Ashura; the role of Imams and religious scholars; some details of prayer; shared beliefs remain, e.g. the Qur'an, the Five Pillars

3.1

Mark with the markbands: [13-15] clearly focused on the question, accurate knowledge of beliefs, practices and texts, different views within the tradition, academic (not devotional) analysis, well-developed critical analysis, different perspectives evaluated, a reasoned conclusion; [10-12] focused, mostly accurate knowledge, analysis with some evaluation; [7-9] some focus, relevant knowledge, mostly narrative or description with limited analysis; [4-6] little focus, limited knowledge, mostly narrative; [1-3] little understanding of the question. Points that may be included: ummah defined; the Five Pillars as communal acts: congregational prayer, Friday prayer; zakat binds rich and poor; Ramadan and Eid shared worldwide; Hajj: equality and unity of millions of pilgrims; individual faith: Tawhid and the personal relationship with God; diversity: Sunni and Shi'a, cultures and countries; modern challenges and the internet as new forms of ummah; academic, balanced tone; a reasoned conclusion

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