Exercise walk-through

2.3
In-depth study: Islam

International Baccalaureate · IB Diploma · World Religions · SL

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

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1 The method

Method — 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.

Exercises 2.1·2.2

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]



Exercises 2.1·2.2

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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

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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

Exercises 2.3·2.4

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

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

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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

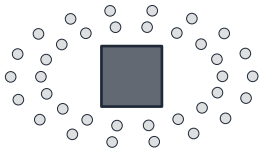
2.4 Explain the origins of the division between **Sunni** and **Shi'a** Muslims, and **one** difference in practice today. [6]

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

Exercise 3.1

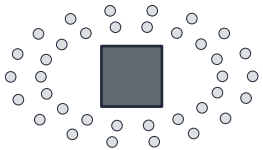
3.1 *(Paper 2 style.)* To what extent is the **ummah** central to the life of Muslims? [15]



pilgrims circle the Ka'ba

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pilgrims circle the Ka'ba

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