Revision

Look at the list of ‘I can’ statements below, and think carefully about how confident you are. Use the following code to rate each of the statements.

Be honest!

Green – very confident. What is your evidence for this?
Orange – quite confident. What is your target? Be specific:
Red – not confident. What is your target? Be specific:

I can…

- Describe the six beliefs of Sunni Islam and explain why they are important for Muslims
- Give examples of how the six beliefs are expressed in Muslim communities
- Describe the five roots of Usul ad-Din and explain why they are important for Shi’a Muslims
- Give examples of how the five roots of Usul ad-Din are expressed in Shi’a communities
- Explain Allah’s characteristics: Tawhid, Adalat, omnipotence, beneficence, immnearence, transcendence, mercy, fairness and justice.
- Give quotations from the Qur’an which show Allah’s characteristics
- Give reasons why the characteristics of Allah are important
- Give my own opinion and alternative viewpoints about the nature of God
- Explain the nature and importance of prophethood for Muslims
- Describe key roles carried out by prophets, including reference to Adam, Ibrahim, Isma’il, Musa, Dawud, Isla and Muhammad
- Describe the nature and history of Muslim holy books, including the Qur’an, Tawrat (Torah), Zabur (Psalms) Injil (Gospel), and Sahifah (Scrolls)
- Explain why Muslim holy books are important for Muslims today
- Explain the nature and importance of angels for Muslims
- Explain why Jinbi, Izra’il and Mikail are shown in the Qur’an
- Explain why angels are significant for Muslims today
- Explain predestination, and why it is important for Muslims
- Explain how al-Qadr and human freedom relates to the Day of Judgement
- Explain what belief in al-Qadr means for Muslims today
- Describe Muslim teachings about life after death
- Explain the nature of judgement, paradise and hell
- Give examples of how judgement, paradise and hell are shown in the Qur’an
- Explain how Muslim teachings about life after death affect the life of a Muslim
- Describe the nature and importance of angels for Muslims
- Explain the link between Allah and Tawhid
- Explain the nature and importance of prophethood for Muslims
- Describe the six beliefs of Sunni Islam and explain why they are important for Muslims
- Give examples of how the six beliefs are expressed in Muslim communities
- Describe the five roots of Usul ad-Din and explain why they are important for Shi’a Muslims
- Give examples of how the five roots of Usul ad-Din are expressed in Shi’a communities
- Explain Allah’s characteristics: Tawhid, Adalat, omnipotence, beneficence, immnearence, transcendence, mercy, fairness and justice.
- Give quotations from the Qur’an which show Allah’s characteristics
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- Explain the nature and importance of prophethood for Muslims
- Describe key roles carried out by prophets, including reference to Adam, Ibrahim, Isma’il, Musa, Dawud, Isla and Muhammad
- Describe the nature and history of Muslim holy books, including the Qur’an, Tawrat (Torah), Zabur (Psalms) Injil (Gospel), and Sahifah (Scrolls)
- Explain why Muslim holy books are important for Muslims today

Exam practice

On these exam practice pages you will see example answers for each of the exam question types: a, b, c, and d. You can find out more about these on page 8.

• Question ‘a’

Question a is AO1 – it tests your knowledge and understanding.

Student response

Muslims believe in Tawhid. They also believe that Allah is kind and compassionate.

Improved student response

Muslims believe that Allah is One (this is known as Tawhid). They also believe that Allah is kind and Compassionate.

Over to you! Give yourself three minutes on the clock and have a go at answering this question.

• Question ‘b’

Question b is AO1 – it tests your knowledge and understanding.

Student response

There are a number of ways that Muslims can show their commitment. One way is by saying the Shahadah, which is the declaration of faith and must be repeated by all Muslims. This is one of the pillars of Islam. Another way is by paying the Khums which all Sunnis and Shi’as are expected to do. This is one of the ten obligatory acts.

Improved student response

Two ways that a Muslim can show commitment are:

1. By saying the Shahadah, which is the declaration of faith and must be repeated by all Muslims. This is one of the pillars of Islam.
2. By paying Khums. This is specific to Shi’a Muslims and requires them to give 20% of their savings for religious causes. This is one of the ten obligatory acts in Shi’a Islam.

Over to you! Give yourself four minutes on the clock and have a go at answering this question.
(d) “There are more similarities than differences between Sunni and Shi’a Muslims.”

Evaluate this statement, considering more than one perspective. You must refer to Islam in your answer. (15)

Student response

I believe this is a true statement because the basic beliefs of Sunnis and Shi’as are the same – including Tawhid, Rasalah, Hijji and many others. They might differ on certain aspects, such as who should have led the Muslim community after the Prophet’s death, but these issues were largely driven by politics which had nothing to do with faith. Others might say that both have developed their own separate paths because of some fundamental disagreements like the importance given to al’-al-bayt and Sunnis do not accept the authority of Shi’a Imams or vice versa and this affects unity within Islam.

Improved student response

I believe this is a true statement because the basic beliefs of Sunnis and Shi’as are the same. This is because they have a shared history and both believe in the Qur’an and the prophethood of Muhammad, from where Muslim teachings come. Therefore, tenets such as Tawhid, Rasalah, Hijji unite Sunnis and Shi’a Muslims, and they are often seen praying and going to pilgrimage together.

However, they do also differ on certain aspects, such as who should have led the Muslim community after the Prophet’s death. Sunni Muslims believe in all four caliphs after the death of Muhammad, but Shi’a Muslims do not accept the first three, and consider Ali to have been the rightful leader of Muslims. Many feel that these issues were largely driven by politics which had nothing to do with beliefs.

As a result of this split, both groups have developed their own separate paths because of some fundamental disagreements – like the importance given to al’-al-bayt – and Sunnis do not accept the authority of Shi’a Imams, or vice versa. This affects unity within Islam, and has often led to violent clashes including today. Overall, I still believe that there are more similarities than differences because the five pillars and six beliefs of Sunni Muslims are accepted by Shi’a Muslims too.

Over to you! Give yourself 12 minutes on the clock and have a go at answering this question. Spend three extra minutes checking your spelling, punctuation and grammar.