

The
Management
University
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UNDERGRADUATE UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION (SOE)

DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF EDUCATION ARTS

RES 114: INTRODUCTION TO ISLAM

DATE: 12TH AUGUST 2026

DURATION: 2 HOURS

MAXIMUM

MARKS: 70

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Write your registration number on the answer booklet.
2. **DO NOT** write on this question paper.
3. This paper contains **SIX (6)** questions.
4. Question **ONE** is compulsory.
5. Answer any other **THREE** questions.
6. Question **ONE** carries **25 MARKS** and the rest carry **15 MARKS** each.
7. **Write all your answers in the Examination answer booklet provided.**

QUESTION ONE

Read the case study below carefully and answer questions that follow:-

ISLAM A WORLD RELIGION

Islam is one of the popular monotheistic world religions. Etymologically the word Islam is derived from the Arabic root S-L-M which means peace, serenity, submission and surrender. Until the 20th century, Islam was referred to as 'Mohammedan' and the adherents were called 'Mohammedans'. These were rejected as was confusing the importance of Prophet Muhammad, and in Islam this was erroneously equating Muhammad to God. However, the Islamic adherents are called Muslims. Muslims consider Islam to be a complete way of life, one that forms, shapes and permeates their daily life. Muslims place the essential Islamic teachings on the unique Oneness of God. This principle is referred to as 'Tawhid'. It is the heart and the spirit of Islam. Muslims call God Allah.

Muslims do not consider Allah a different deity or a deity among other gods. This is where Islam contrasts with Christianity who believe in the Trinity. Rather Islam believes that there is only one God, 'Allah'. According to Islam, Allah is unique. He has no similarity to any person, thing or power. Allah is beyond the limitations of body, space, time, need or contingency. Islam was revealed to the adherents by God (Allah) to Prophet Mohammed. Before the revelation, Muslims were polytheistic and practiced paganism.

The revelation was a guide to what Allah wants Islam adherents to practice contrary to the pre-Islamic practices which were primitive and pagan in nature. The revelation is in the Holy Book the Qur'an. There are also other books on Islamic teachings, these are the Torah and *Injeel* (Gospel). The Quran the main book maintains an active and immediate role in the daily lives of Muslims. Muslims read and listen to the chapters in the Qur'an in Arabic, the original language of which it was revealed.

Muslims do not believe in altering the Qura'n. The first portion of the declaration of faith in Islam is 'There is no god but God'. Many Muslims have memorized the entire Qura'n and have earned the title "Hafez" 'a Muslim who knows the Quran by heart'.

The religion of Islam emphasis five pillars in their faith, Prayer plays a greater deal in Islamic faith. Islam religion emphasizes the idea of a unified collective of believers called Ummah. It is a practice in Islam to pray five times a day as a means to submission to Allah. There are varying interpretations of Islamic teachings found in the Muslim, these are called 'Hadith'. Muslims believe in Prophets as messengers. (Quran 30:47) mentions:

*'And certainly we sent before you (Muhammad)
messengers to their people so they came to
them
with clear proofs, then we gave punishment
to those who were guilty and helping the
believers
is ever incumbent to us'*

Islam as well has major themes on which the adherents practice. These are acts of mercy, justice, prophet hood, reflection, forgiveness, equity, nature, humanity. Other

themes are remembrance of God, revelation, love and respect for parents and death. After the death of Muhammad, Islam experienced massive splinter groups. This resulted out of leadership wraggles. This was the beginning of the Sunni and Shi'a Muslims. Their practices differed from the traditional practice, however, had some practices in common. Further splinter groups occurred such as Asharites and Mutazilites among others.

Though Islam emphasizes unified and collective believers (Ummah), they are not monolithic. A number of varying interpretations of Islam is noted in the Muslim world, in law, philosophy, theology family life and culture. This brings about differences in the Ummah.

Modern educationk emphasizes the study of Islam for the purpose of acquiring knowledge on how the religion plays its role in society.

Required:

- a) Examine five ways the phrase 'There is no god but God' 'is applied in Islam.

(5 marks)

- b) Assess any three applications of the following pillars of Islam to a Muslim.

- i) Ramadan (Fasting)
- ii) Zakat
- iii) Hajj

(9 marks)

- c) Daily prayer is emphasized in Islam and is linked with different stages of a day. Examine the unique times and their names.

(5 marks)

- d) Compare and contrast three Asharite and Muta'zilite doctrines in Islam.

(6 marks)

QUESTION TWO

- a) Assess any five pre-Islamic practices still being practiced in the modern society.

(5 marks)

- b) Evaluate any five significances of the Qura'n in Islam. **(10 marks)**

QUESTION THREE

- a) John invited his friend Rashid for lunch at his home, however Rashid declined food served. Based on Islamic concepts on foods

and drinks, suggest five reasons for the decline.

(5 marks)

b) Mary got a job in Saudi Arabia; she had to adhere to the dress code. Justify with five reasons to the adherence.

(5 marks)

c) Assess five significance of Friday in Islamic faith. **(5 marks)**

QUESTION FOUR

a) The Qura'n emphasizes themes, examine three ways the following themes are demonstrated in the modern Islamic society (Ummah).

- i. Love
- ii. Equity
- iii. Justice **(9 marks)**

b) Citing examples from Kenya, examine six contributions of Islam in political development. **(6 marks)**

QUESTION FIVE

a) Muslims consider Adam the first prophet and Mohammad the last and 'The seal of prophets'. Evaluate five concepts of prophet hood in Islam **(5 marks)**

b) Religious holidays and festivals (eid) are observed in Islam. Evaluate roles of five major holidays. **(10 marks)**

QUESTION SIX

- a) The Quran refers to humankind as children of Adam. Distinguish the concept of Adam and Eve in the Quran.

(10 marks)

- b) Prior to prayer, Muslims perform five rituals of ablutions. Analyze five reasons for the act.

(5 marks)