

# Marking Schemes of Quranic passages

Q. Choose any two of the following passages from the Qur'an, and:

(a) briefly describe the main theme(s) in each passage [4]

(b) briefly explain the importance of these themes in a Muslim's life today. [4]

## Note: Themes

The answers given below are not the only answers that could be presented. Candidates should be allowed to develop/show other relevant themes of the passage. They could also give comparisons with themes of other passages. The highest level should be kept for well written answers offering a variety of themes.

## Note: Importance of themes

Given points are not the only points candidates can mention, and personalizing the passages to their own/Muslims' lives will take them higher up the levels.

## Allah in Himself

### (1) Ayatul Kursi 2.255

Allah. There is no god but He, the living, the self-subsisting, eternal. No slumber can seize Him nor sleep. His are all things in the heavens and on earth. Who is there can intercede in His presence except as He permits? He knows what is before or after or behind them. Nor shall they compass any of His knowledge except as He wills. His Throne extends over the heavens and the earth, and He feels no fatigue in guarding and preserving them for He is the Most High, the Supreme.

### Themes

This passage talks about tawhid and some of the attributes specific to God alone. Candidates could talk about how God is different to humans. The theme of the throne is central to this passage. Candidates could say what that is; His majesty, uniqueness, knowledge and being totally unlike other beings. It emphasises how He is the only one who can make decisions about His creation, as He has knowledge over all things.

### Importance of Theme

Candidates could talk about how this passage presents the themes of God's self-subsistence by comparing Him to humans using basic attributes that affect humans, e.g. sleep. Candidates could talk about how these verses allow Muslims to learn and understand something about God in a way relevant to them. It is a passage that is also used as a prayer for protection and was said by the Prophet to be one of the best passages of the Qur'an, so Muslims might recite it daily for protection.

### (2) Sura Ikhlas 112

1. Say: He is Allah, the one and only; 2. Allah, the eternal, absolute; 3. He does not beget, nor is He begotten; 4. And there is none like Him. (a) What are the main teachings?

**Theme:** The main themes are: God as one: tawhid; God being eternal; God being unique. Candidates will develop these themes in their own way, e.g., by saying this is the main sura relating to tawhid, although there are others. This one was

specifically revealed to describe tawhid; it describes how God is the only One god and that He does not have a beginning nor end; God is unlike anyone or anything in creation. He has no partners or family; it forms one of the suras of protection.

### **Importance of Themes**

The importance of stressing the Oneness of God is so that people do not take other people or created things as their Lord, so should not replace God with things like famous

People/saints or the sun or moon. It ensures they know that God does not have family, so they will avoid making the mistake of believing in God having children or a partner, or anyone to share in His authority.

Gives them clarity and allows them to develop a relationship with God. Candidates can mention other points with examples or personalizing passages to their own/Muslims' lives, could take them higher up the levels.

### **(3) Sura Shura 42: 4–5**

4. To Him belongs all that is in the heavens and on earth: and He is most high, most great. 5. The heavens are almost rent asunder from above them, and the angels celebrate the praises of their Lord, and pray for forgiveness for beings on earth: Behold! Verily Allah is He, the oft-forgiving, the most merciful.

#### **Theme**

The main themes are that God is the greatest, the most high; God is the Creator; forgiveness and guidance are given from God to humanity. Candidates will develop these themes in their own way, e.g., saying the heavens are almost torn apart due to His greatness above them and associating partners with Him; He is the owner of everything because He created it; the angels pray for the guidance of humans on earth, as it is God who is the forgiving, the merciful.

### **Importance of Themes**

The importance here is that God tells humankind of his power and control over all things so they should remember that they do not have any power in comparison. God is Merciful, so Muslims have someone to turn to in times of need, when they are worried about exams, having an operation, etc. As God is Merciful to humankind, they in turn should be grateful and also try to be forgiving of others, even if they have been hurt or injured.

### **(4) Sura Fussilat 41: 37**

37. Among His signs are the night and the day, and the sun and the moon. Adore not the sun and the moon, but adore Allah, who created them, if it is Him you wish to serve.

#### **Theme**

The main themes are: God as Creator; God's signs; tawhid/Lord of mankind. Candidates will develop these themes in their own way, e.g., saying God creates and controls everything; the order of the sun and the moon are God's signs for humankind. They are signs of His power; only He should be worshipped; no-one is equal to Him. It is a negation of paganism; the sun and moon are not to be worshipped.

### **Importance of Themes**

The importance is that it creates a strong link with God so Muslims do not look up to anything/anyone else, famous people, money, etc., and they worship only Him. Stops them from committing shirk. God's signs invite Muslims to observe their environment. Creates awe and wonder to help get closer to Him. Reminds humankind that He is the creator of all things.

The themes are important in this passage by presenting God's creation of things in nature, in particular the sun and moon and day and night. Good answers will talk about why humans should worship Him and not His creation, and about how the

things He creates have an order and harmony, and so Muslims can find signs of His existence in the world around them which should help them to keep their faith.

www.learnalislam.com

## **(5) Sura al Anaam 6:101–103**

101. To Him is due the primal origin of the heavens and the earth: how can He have a son when He has no consort? 102. He created all things, and He has full knowledge of all things. That is Allah, your Lord! There is no god but He, the Creator of all things: then worship Him: and He has the power to dispose of all affairs. 103. No vision can grasp Him, but His grasp is over all vision: He is above all comprehension, yet is acquainted with all things.

### **Theme**

Good answers to this passage will talk about God's power and knowledge over all things. He is the only one to control the heavens and the earth and so emphasises the theme of tawhid.

Candidates could talk about the importance of God being the only creator, not sharing authority with anyone else. They could also mention God's knowledge and power. He has knowledge about all His creation, and He has power over all His creation. He is not perceivable and mankind should worship Him.

### **Importance of Themes**

These teachings emphasise the importance of tawhid for Muslims. The only relationship God has is with His creation, and candidates could write about how man is asked to worship Him as it says in this passage that only He can fulfil their needs. He also sees and hears all that human kind does, so Muslims should keep this in mind. In a world where there are lots of distractions, this sura could remind Muslims that they should always remember their Creator as He is the ultimate authority over their affairs.

## **Allah's Relations with the created world**

### **(1) Surah Al-Fatiha 1**

1. In the name of Allah, most gracious, most merciful. 2. Praise be to Allah, the cherisher and sustainer of the worlds; 3. Most gracious, most merciful; 4. Master of the day of judgement. 5. You we worship, and your aid we seek. 6. Show us the straight way, 7. The way of those to whom You have given your grace, not those who earn your anger, nor those who go astray.

### **Themes**

Lord of creation: It is God who presides over judgement and controls the worlds. Guidance: God gives guidance to those who ask. This is used as a prayer. Mercy: He is the one to ask for forgiveness, and it is He who grants forgiveness to His humble servants. Tawhid: God as one, Master of all creation. Only He is deserving of worship.

### **Importance of Themes**

This is recited in every prayer. 'No prayer is accepted without Fatiha' It is a conversation with God and he is the Creator, and God is replying to each verse. Through it humans communicate with God. Muslims use this to ask for guidance (given in the Qur'an and sunna), mercy and help, even outside the prayer. Submitting to God brings humbleness into lives, and because Muslims are accountable to God they pray to be guided on the straight path.

### **(2) Sura Al-Nas 114**

1. Say: I seek refuge with the Lord of mankind, 2. The King of mankind, 3. The God of Mankind, 4. From the mischief of the whisperer who withdraws, 5. Who whispers into the hearts of mankind, 6. Among jinns and among mankind.

## Themes

God as refuge: Only He can help in times of need, in this case from jinn and men. Seek help only from Him. God as Lord: He created everything so controls everything, even mischief makers. It's a warning of those who whisper evil/bad ideas to humans, and then disappear and leave them on their own. Protector: God is a protector from these things; it is one of the suras of protection.

The above answers are not the only answers that could be presented. Candidates should be allowed to develop/show other relevant themes of the passage. The highest level should be kept for well written answers offering a variety of themes.

### The importance of these themes.

Through these verses Muslims get to know the kind of evils/mischief they have to be wary of. This means they should be aware of what's happening to them so they can recognise the signs of mischief. Praying and doing good deeds strengthens reliance on God. Reciting this sura with the other 'qul's' is a source of protection. God is the King so it is Him who people should seek refuge with.

### (3) Sura Zilzaal 99

When the earth is shaken to her utmost convulsion, 2. And the earth throws up her burdens, 3. And man cries out: 'What is the matter with her?' 4. On that day will she declare her tidings: 5. For that your Lord will have given her inspiration. 6. On that day will men proceed in companies sorted out, to be shown their deeds. 7. Then shall anyone who has done an atom's weight of good see it! 8. And anyone who has done an atom's weight of evil shall see it.

## Themes

This passage is about God's power over all things and the Last Day. Answers to this sura could include God's control of all things He's created. They could also elaborate by saying that human beings will be at a state of loss and confusion. Humankind will be sorted out into groups and all their actions, however big or small, will be shown to them. The earth is treated like a person who will speak out. The above answers are not the only answers that could be presented. Candidates should be allowed to develop/show other relevant themes of the passage. They could also give comparisons with themes of other passages. The highest level should be kept for well written answers offering a variety of themes.

God's Power: The earth is shaken, destroying what He created; He has the power to give life/death. Last Day: Everything will be destroyed. God gives the earth a voice to say what has been done on her. Responsibility: people will be responsible for their actions on earth and given their accounts. Justice: God will give people their accounts, which will take them to Heaven/Hell.

### Importance of Themes

These teachings tell humans that everyone will be judged on the Last Day. Candidates could also talk about how humankind will be shown all their deeds so should be careful about how they live their lives, e.g. it reminds them about their accountability. They could also talk about the Earth's relationship with humans and how humankind needs to look after the Earth. Better answers will be able to reflect on these teachings using examples. [www.learnalislam.com](http://www.learnalislam.com)

The Last Day creates a fear of accountability, reminding Muslims to stay on the straight path. Good deeds will be rewarded encouraging Muslims to do good at all times, e.g. praying, being honest and helping others. It keeps them away from displeasurable things like lying, cheating, gossiping, not fasting etc. It helps Muslims understand the temporary nature of the world which stops them being distracted by worldly things, fashion or money, etc. Muslims feel comforted by God's justice that no good deed will go unnoticed, or bad deed unpunished. [Nov.14]

## **(4) Sura Al-Baqarah 2.21–22**

21. O people! Adore your Guardian-Lord, who created you and those who came before you, so that you may have the chance to learn righteousness; 22. Who has made the earth your couch, and the heavens your canopy; and sent down rain from the heavens; and by it brought forth fruits for your sustenance; then do not set up rivals to Allah, when you know.

### **Themes**

Tawhid: emphasises that God is the Creator of everything. Partners/rivals should not be set up with God, for He is the only Creator and Sustainer. Visit: [www.oalevelnotes.wix.com](http://www.oalevelnotes.wix.com) for Islamiyat past papers, topical marking schemes & notes  
Benefits for mankind: these include guidance, fertile earth, shade and water from sky, which are given to mankind to live off and to remain humble and close to God.

### **Importance of Themes**

The importance of these teachings show the relationship between God and His creation. The passage reflects upon the natural world and the benefits it holds for Muslims. They can also see this from the guidance that came before them from prophets. Humans should acknowledge who their sustenance has come from as He is the only creator of everything.

## **(5) Surah Al Alaq 96:1-5**

1. Read! in the name of your Lord, who created, 2. Created man out of a clot of congealed blood:  
3. Proclaim! And your Lord is most bountiful, 4. He who taught by the pen, 5. Taught man what he did not know.

### **Themes**

This passage is about God as Creator and Teacher. Answers to this sura could include God's control of all things He has created, including mankind, and that He is the one who teaches mankind. It describes mankind's origins and God's favours upon him. Compiled by sir BG

### **Importance of Themes**

The importance of these teachings show the relationship between God and humankind. Candidates could talk about word Iqra and the way it is used to show God's relationship with man. They could also talk about creation and the way God describes in this passage how He creates mankind and also how He teaches him (by the pen, by sending revealed scriptures). Excellent answers will also be able to comment on how knowledge is a link between man and God. First revelation and its significance.

## **Allah's relations with the Messengers**

### **(1) Sura Al Baqara 2: 30–37**

30. Behold, your Lord said to the angels: 'I will create a vicegerent on earth.' They said: 'Will You place there one who will make mischief there and shed blood?— whilst we celebrate your praises and glorify your holy (name)?' He said: 'I know what you do not know.' 31. And He taught Adam the names of all things; then He placed them before the angels, and said: 'Tell me the names of these if you are right.' 32. They said: 'Glory to You, of knowledge we have none, save what You have taught us: In truth it is You who are perfect in knowledge and wisdom.' 33. He said: 'Adam! Tell them their names.' When he had told them, Allah said: 'Did I not tell you that I know the secrets of heaven and earth, and I know what you reveal and what you conceal?' 34. And behold, We said to the angels: 'Bow down to Adam'. And they bowed down. Not so Iblis: he refused and was haughty: he was of those who reject faith. 35. We said: 'Adam! You and your wife dwell in the Garden; and eat of the bountiful things in it as You wish. But do not approach this tree, or you will run into harm and transgression.' 36. Then Satan made them slip from there, and got them out of what they had been in. We said: 'Go down, with enmity between

yourselves. On earth will be your dwelling-place and your means of livelihood, for a time.' 37. Then Adam learnt from his Lord words of inspiration, and his Lord turned towards him; for He is often-returning, most merciful.

## Themes

The main themes are: God as Creator; his relationship and care of His prophets; God giving knowledge and status to whom He wishes. Candidates will develop these themes in their own way, e.g., saying God created Adam, as well as everything else (angels, etc.), and granted him a high position; God gives knowledge to who he wants and he gives the special status of prophet hood to whom he wishes. When Satan misled Adam, God did not leave him or allow any obstacle to prevent him from making Adam his representative on earth, in other words God looks after His prophets.

## Importance of Themes

The importance is that Adam was the first prophet of God, who was made his representative on earth. This gives Muslims a sense of their connection to God as Adam is called the father of humankind and everyone is descended from him. God showed Adam's importance by making the angels bow to him, and forgiving him when he disobeyed. This should make humankind understand their status, they should seek forgiveness from God and worship Him. It also shows God's care and direct relationship with every individual.

## (2) Sura Al Maida 5: 110

Then will Allah say: 'Jesus son of Mary! Recount my favour to you and to your mother. Behold! I strengthened you with the Holy Spirit, so that you spoke to the people in childhood and in maturity. Behold! I taught you the Book and Wisdom, the Law and the Gospel. And behold! You make out of clay, as it were, the figure of a bird, by my leave, and you breathe into it and it becomes a bird by my leave, and you heal those born blind, and the lepers, by my leave. And behold! You bring forth the dead by my leave. And behold! I restrained the Children of Israel from you when you showed them the clear signs, and

## Themes

The main themes are: God and His prophets; that humans need God; that God gives signs to humankind.

Candidates will develop these themes in their own way, e.g., saying that God gives to His prophets to help them, in this case Jesus got the holy spirit, the Book and the wisdom, the Law and the Gospel; humans can do great things but only with God's permission, "by my leave"; God gives humankind signs through prophets of His existence, which separates those who believe and those who don't. ! Compile by Sir BG

## Importance of Themes

These teachings reaffirm for Muslims the prophethood of Jesus and the power of God. Humans are capable of great feats but it is God who gives permission for these; moon landings, space travel, etc. Compiled by sir BG

Muslims should use these as signs of God's grace, and believe in His power to control everything and allow things to happen. They should therefore remember Him often, by praying, supplicating or doing good deeds, etc. to ensure they are counted as believers.

## (3) Sura Al-Kauthar 108

1. To you have We granted abundance. 2. So pray to your Lord and sacrifice. 3. For he who hates you, he will be cut off.

**Themes** : The main themes are: God's mercy; God's generosity; His relationship with the Prophet Muhammad.

Candidates will develop these themes in their own way, e.g., saying in His mercy, God granted the Prophet success, and because of this the Prophet and all Muslims should continue to worship God even in times of difficulty. God remains near to His prophets. It was also revealed as a consolation to the Prophet and foretold the destruction of his opponents. These are

Visit: [www.learnalislam.com/www.oalevelnotes.wix.com](http://www.learnalislam.com/www.oalevelnotes.wix.com) for Islamiyat past papers, topical marking schemes & notes

examples candidates can write about, they should be credited for other, relevant answers. Candidates should show how the theme(s) they choose is distinctive in that passage. The best answers will have a few themes with development.

## Importance of Themes

The teachings give an insight into how the relationship between God and the Prophet has lessons for Muslims. Muslims today are that future generation of followers that was given to the Prophet, and so this sura gives hope to people in times of need. Future hope is also given with the promise of the Kawthar in paradise – Shi'i candidates may refer to this future hope as being Fatima. Visit: [www.oalevelnotes.wix.com](http://www.oalevelnotes.wix.com) for Islamiyat past papers, topical marking schemes & notes

God always intervenes in times of difficulty so Muslims should always remember to look to Him for help and support, and not feel disheartened in times of difficulty, e.g. during illness or oppression. Muslims should remain steadfast despite the difficulties or mockeries that they face.

## (4) Sura Al-Anaam 6:75-79

75. So also did We show Abraham the power and the laws of the heavens and the earth, so that he might have certainty.

76. When the night covered him over, he saw a star: He said: 'This is my Lord.' But when it set, he said: 'I do not love things that set.' 77. When he saw the moon rising in splendour, he said: 'This is my Lord.' But when the moon set, he said: 'Unless my Lord guides me, I will surely be among those who go astray.' 78. When he saw the sun rising in splendour, he said: 'This is my Lord; this is the greatest.' But when the sun set, he said: 'O my people! I am indeed free from your giving partners to Allah.' 79. 'For me, I have set my face firmly and truly towards Him who created the heavens and the earth, and never shall I give partners to Allah.'

## Themes

This passage is about God's power over all things and His relationship with his prophets. These are signs of God in creation. These verses tell Muslims to worship God alone. They strengthen belief in His Oneness

## Importance of Themes

These verses strengthen belief by showing that created things are not permanent. The Prophets have asked God for guidance and so Muslims should take this guidance too. They should realise they need to look to one God for their answers.

## (5) Sura Al-Duha 93

1. By the glorious morning light, 2. And by the night when it is still, 3. Your Lord has not forsaken you, nor is he displeased. 4. And truly the Hereafter will be better for you than the present. 5. And soon your Lord will give you so that you will be pleased. 6. Did He not find you an orphan and give you shelter? 7. And He found you wandering, and He gave you guidance. 8. And He found you in need, and made you independent. 9. Therefore, do not treat the orphan with harshness, 10. Nor drive the beggar away; 11. But tell about the bounty of your Lord

## Themes

This is a consolation to the Prophet. God shows how He helps His prophets. He is there for those in need. It tells humankind to be grateful to God for what they have been given. The above answers are not the only answers that could be presented. Candidates should be allowed to develop/show other relevant themes of the passage. They could also give comparisons with themes of other passages. The highest level should be kept for well written answers offering a variety of themes.

## Importance of Themes

God gave blessings to the Prophet Muhammad, despite people saying that he had been forgotten by God. Muslims should then also look at their lives to see their blessings and not think they have been given nothing. They should be grateful to God through prayers and worship and they should make people aware of the ways in which God helps them.

Visit: [www.learnalislam.com](http://www.learnalislam.com)/[www.oalevelnotes.wix.com](http://www.oalevelnotes.wix.com) for Islamiyat past papers, topical marking schemes & notes

**AO1 (Knowledge – part (a) questions)**

Question 1(a) has a maximum mark of 4 and questions 2–5 have a maximum mark of 10.

Level	Mark Question 1	Mark Question 2	Level Descriptor
4	4	8–10	<b>Very Good/Excellent.</b> A thorough, well-developed and substantial response. Demonstrates extensive, relevant and highly accurate knowledge of the subject in considerable detail and with evident expertise. Likely to quote Qur'an verses and Hadiths to support and illustrate points made. Comprehensive and thoughtful.
3	3	5–7	<b>Good.</b> Addresses the question confidently and coherently. Demonstrates sound, detailed and generally relevant and accurate knowledge of the subject matter in great detail. Covers the main points. May quote Qur'an verses and Hadiths to support points made.
2	2	3–4	<b>Satisfactory.</b> A fair, mainly relevant but generally undeveloped response. The candidate demonstrates some factual knowledge, which is fairly accurate and slightly wider than at basic level. Some of the main points are covered but lack substance.
1	1	1–2	<b>Basic.</b> An attempt to answer the question, but lacks potential and/or is unfinished. Very limited knowledge of the subject. Response includes only a small amount of relevant material, or mainly irrelevant points. Facts are reported in basic outline only, often inaccurately, though some credible points are made.
0	0	0	<b>Irrelevant.</b> No apparent attempt to answer the question set, or a wholly irrelevant response. Totally illegible.

**AO2 (Understanding – part (b) questions)**

Level	Mark	Level Descriptor
4	4	<b>Very Good/Excellent.</b> Demonstrates a wide and thorough understanding of what the question asks. Recognises fully and can explain the significance of material used in answer. Can reason, evaluate and discuss in a thoughtful, mature manner.
3	3	<b>Good.</b> Understands the significance of the question. Seeks to move clearly beyond a purely descriptive approach, demonstrating touches of maturity and a willingness to engage with and discuss the material.
2	2	<b>Satisfactory.</b> Response is descriptive but makes some effort to offer evaluation. The candidate attempts, though with limited success, to move beyond a purely factual approach, with some limited discussion of the material.
1	1	<b>Basic.</b> Limited understanding of the subject. The candidate's response is descriptive and immature, with no attempt to discuss or evaluate the material.
0	0	<b>Irrelevant.</b> No response submitted, or clearly lacks any understanding of the subject matter.