

Bright Horizon Academy

10th and 11th Grade Islamic Studies Contest

10 A 1) What are the different types of jihad?

There are 5 different types of jihad:

1. Internal struggle: is needed all the time.
 - Jihad against one's self (Jihad an-Nafs النفس): is to struggle within himself against "evil" (un-Islamic) desires.
 - Jihad against the Shaytaan:
Allah says:
2. External efforts to be a good Muslim or believer, as well as working to inform people about the faith of Islam.
 - Jihad by the tongue/pen: to spread the word of Islam either orally or with writing in defense of Islam or the truth.
 - Jihad by the soul: it is necessary sometimes to defend the religion, selves, families, land, and wealth when they are attacked by military and are fighting back.
 - Jihad by wealth: to spend money to prepare the Muslim army or sponsor a mujahid's family in his absence.

10 A 2) Should we worship Allah through fear and hope?

Yes, we should worship Allah through fear and hope. We should be fearful of His anger and disappointment and His punishment so that we refrain from doing whatever he dislikes. At the same time, we should worship Him with love, affection, hope and courage, show our gratitude to Him, and acquire His bounties and mercy in both the worlds.

10 A 3) What is the most severe shirk (Shirk-e-Akbar)?

Shirk-e-Akbar الشِّرْكُ الْأَكْبَرُ or the most severe shirk is to specify the deeds and actions of worship for someone other than Allah or to appeal for help from those who have passed away.

﴿وَاعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ وَلَا تُشْرِكُوا بِهِ شَيْئًا﴾ سورة النساء

Worship Allah alone and do not commit any kind of shirk with him (4:36).

- 10 A 4) Are we allowed to seek help of anyone or anything other than of Allah?

No, it is not allowed.

﴿إِيَّاكَ نَعْبُدُ وَإِيَّاكَ نَسْتَعِينُ﴾ سورة الفاتحة.

You alone we worship and You alone we ask for help (1:5).

- 10 A 5) Does a dua' need the entreaty of a person to be accepted by Allah?

No. The dua' does not need the entreaty of any person to be accepted by Allah because Allah is very near to each person, and He is All Hearing.

﴿وَإِذَا سَأَلَكَ عِبَادِي عَنِّي فَإِنِّي قَرِيبٌ ۖ أُجِيبُ دَعْوَةَ الدَّاعِ إِذَا دَعَانِ﴾ سورة البقرة

When my servant asks you (O Muhammad [S]) concerning me, I am indeed close to him: I respond to the supplications of the invoker when he calls upon me (2:186).

- 10 A 6) Is it allowed to vow to someone other than to Allah?

No, it is not allowed to vow to someone other than to Allah.

- 10 A 7) Is the practice of magic allowed in Islam?

The practice of magic is an act of kufr, so a Muslim should never practice it.

﴿وَمَا كَفَرَ سُلَيْمَانُ وَلَكِنَّ الشَّيَاطِينَ كَفَرُوا يُعَلِّمُونَ النَّاسَ السِّحْرَ﴾ سورة البقرة

Sulaiman (A) did not commit the action of disbelief, but the evil ones committed the actions of disbelief because they used to teach the people magic (2:102).

- 10 A 8) What is the Shirk-el-Asghar الشِّرْكُ الْأَصْغَرُ ؟

Ash-Shirk-e-Asghar is a riya, which means that a person performs an act of worship or does a good deed but his intention is not entirely pure and sincere; i.e., his good deed is not purely for the pleasure of Allah. Such a person intends to gain other benefits besides.

وَقَالَ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ: "إِنَّ أَخَوْفَ مَا أَخَافُ عَلَيْكُمُ الشِّرْكُ الْأَصْغَرُ: الرِّيَاءُ." رواه أحمد

The messenger of Allah (S) said: I worry about you most from committing Shirk-el-Asghar which is riya (performing an action of worship to show off to others) (Ahmad).

- 10 A 9) What is bid'ah بدعة in the religion?

Bid'ah is something which is added to the religion with the intention that it is rewardable.

وَقَالَ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ: "مَنْ أَحْدَثَ فِي أَمْرِنَا هَذَا مَا لَيْسَ مِنْهُ فَهُوَ رَدٌّ." رواه البخاري ومسلم

The messenger of Allah (S) said: Anyone who invents or introduces to our religion something that is not part of it, then it will be rejected (Bukhari & Muslim)).

- 10 A 10) Is it sufficient to believe in the Qur'an only as the authority without believing in the hadith?

No! We cannot practice the Qur'an without believing and accepting the authentic ahadith. Whatever the messenger (S) said and did and has been reported authentically is part of the revelation.

وَقَالَ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ: "أَلَا إِنِّي أُوتِيتُ الْكِتَابَ وَمِثْلَهُ مَعَهُ." رواه أبو داود وصححه الألباني

The messenger of Allah (S) said: Behold! Indeed, I have been given the Qur'an and with it something similar (Abu Dawud).

- 10 A 11) Can we prefer the opinion of a good and pious Muslim scholar of the Muslim ummah over the decision of Allah and the sayings of His messenger (S)?

No! We cannot accept and prefer the sayings or the opinions of anybody against the sayings and the opinions of Allah and His messenger (S).

﴿يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لَا تَقْدِمُوا بَيْنَ يَدَيِ اللَّهِ وَرَسُولِهِ﴾ سورة الحجرات

"O You who believe! Put not yourselves forward before Allah and His messenger, but fear Allah; for Allah is He Who hears and knows everything" [49:1].

وَقَالَ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ: "لَا طَاعَةَ لِمَخْلُوقٍ فِي مَعْصِيَةِ الْخَالِقِ." رواه الطبراني

The messenger of Allah (S) said: No obedience and loyalty are lawful and valid if that leads to disobedience of the Creator (Tabrani).

- 10 A 12) How should the Muslims solve their differences?

If the Muslims differ among themselves in anything, then they should refer it to the book of Allah and the authentic sunnah of the messenger (S).

- 10 A 13) How can we show our love for Allah and His messenger (S)?

We can show our love for Allah and His messenger (S) by obeying them and by doing what they have ordered.

﴿قُلْ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ تُحِبُّونَ اللَّهَ فَاتَّبِعُونِي يُحْبِبْكُمُ اللَّهُ وَيَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ ذُنُوبَكُمْ ۗ وَاللَّهُ غَفُورٌ رَحِيمٌ﴾ سورة آل عمران

Say: If you love Allah, follow me; Allah will love you and forgive you your sins, for Allah is Most Forgiving, Most Merciful (3:31).

- 10 A 14) What is the command regarding Bid'ah Hasanah (good innovation) in Islam?

Bid'ah Hasanah does not exist in Islam. All bid'ah are newly invented things and are not accepted.

﴿الْيَوْمَ أَكْمَلْتُ لَكُمْ دِينَكُمْ وَأَتَمَمْتُ عَلَيْكُمْ نِعْمَتِي وَرَضِيتُ لَكُمُ الْإِسْلَامَ دِينًا﴾ سورة المائدة

This day I have perfected this religion for you and have completed my favors upon you and have chosen Islam as your religion (5:3).

- 10 A 15) What is prohibited wasilah الوسيلة (the tool) or tawassul التوسُّل (the use of the wasilah)?

Prohibited wasilah is:

1. To visit the graves of the good people and ask them to fulfil our needs and desires.
2. To use their personalities to entreat Allah while asking for our needs.
3. To call the people who have passed away, believing that they can listen to our pleas and help us. This kind of wasilah is considered shirk-e-Akbar.

- 10 A 16) What are the different ways to perform Hajj?

There are three ways:

- a. Ifrad إفراد : (single)

To perform Ihram for Hajj alone without `Umrah. It is required for the Makkans and possibly for others.

- b. Qiran قران : (combining)

To perform Ihram for both `Umrah and Hajj at the same time, not taking off Ihram in between them until the day of An-Nahr النَّحْر (sacrifice), 10th of Thul-Hijjah. It is recommended for whoever is taking the hadi (animals to be sacrificed) with him to Hajj.

- c. Tamatu تَمَتُّع : (interrupting)

To perform Ihram for `Umrah in the Hajj season, take the Ihram off after the `Umrah, and then perform another Ihram from Makkah on the 8th of Thul-Hijjah during the same year. It is recommended for whoever is not taking the hadi with him to Hajj.

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10 F 17) What is Zakah?

Zakah literally means purity and growth, so when the person gives out his zakah, he purifies his wealth and it will make it increase.

In Islam Zakah is the amount of money or commodity that a Muslim must give to the deserving every year.

10 F 18) What types of wealth require Zakah?

1. Money (cash, gold, silver, bonds, stock market shares, ..)
2. Business inventory
3. Crops
4. Cattle (sheep, goats, cows, camels)
5. Treasures
6. Minerals and metals

10 F 19) What are the benefits of Zakah?

1. The giver will be granted multiple rewards.
2. Zakah multiplies the wealth.
3. Zakah purifies the soul.
4. Zakah is a social investment.

It enables the poor to have a better financial life, so he can depend on himself and be productive and give back to the community.

5. Zakah unifies the Muslim society and strengthens brotherhood.

It prevents the poor's jealousy, envy and hatred to the rich and brings them closer to each other.

6. Zakah helps minimize crime.

Poverty is a good reason for the spread of different types of crime such as stealing and gambling to live like the rich people. Another example is taking drugs if they feel helpless.

10 F 20) Who should pay Zakah?

A Muslim who has the nisaab نِصَاب (a set of extra money, more than what he needs) saved for a houl حَوْل (lunar year).

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10 F 21) What is nisaab نصاب ?

Nissab is the minimum amount of money that is saved for a houl حَوْل (full lunar year) for which Zakah should be paid.

For the cash money, bonds, stocks, and business inventory, it equals the value of 85 grams of pure gold (24 carat).

10 F 22) What is the rate of Zakah?

It is 2.5% of the surplus money saved for a houl حَوْل (full lunar year) that reached the nisaab نصاب. This applies to the cash, gold, silver, bonds, stocks, and business inventory.

10 F 23) What moral does Zakah teach?

The moral of Zakah is not to be selfish and be willing to share.

10 F 24) What kind of wealth is not subject for Zakah?

1. The owned house that you live in.
2. Equipment in a shop or factory.
3. A car.

10 F 25) Who should receive Zakah?

1. Al-foqaraa' الفقراء (the needy) who does not have his daily necessities such as food and shelter.
2. Al-masakeen المساكين (the poor) who does not have enough money to cover his basic needs.
3. Al-`amileena alayha العاملین علیها (the Zakah officials) because it is their job.
4. Al-Mu`llafatu Qululoobuhum (friendly non-Muslims or new Muslims).
5. Ar-riqaab الرقاب literally (slaves and captives) means "necks," the plural of "raqabah رَقَبَة". Here it means a slave.
6. Al-Gharimeen الغارمین (debtors) to pay their debts.
7. Fee sabeelillah في سبيل الله (Jihad, struggle for the cause of Allah) that includes not only spending on those who fight the hostile enemies but also extends to all causes that help in spreading Islam and raising good Muslims. Under this category falls the Islamic schools, non-profit clinics, orphanages, and charity organizations helping people against their ignorance, poverty, disease, crime, and other evils and harms.
8. Ibni-ssabeel ابن السبيل (impoverished and stranded traveler) which is the one who cannot get to his destination without financial help.

10 F 26) What is Zakat-ul-Fitr زكاة الفطر ?

It is an obligatory charity just like Zakat-ul-Mal (charity of extra wealth). However, it needs to be given by the end of Ramadan and before Eid prayer. The amount of Zakat-ul-Fitr is fixed, regardless of the income. The minimum amount of Zakat-ul-Fitr is one saa` ساع (about 2 handfuls) of the common food in the country.

10 F 27) What is the purpose of Zakat-ul-Fitr زكاة الفطر ?

It purifies the fasting Muslim from any indecent act or speech that he committed during his fasting, and it also helps the poor and the needy.

10 H 28) What is qiyas قياس ?

Private judgement by a Muslim scholar or group of scholars on a question of law, deducted from Qur'an, hadith and ijma.

- 10 H 29) How did the Muslim scholars go about compiling the hadith?

First, they wrote down the rules to find out the sources of the traditions and the biographical data of the transmitters. They dealt with three subjects: the biography of the narrator including their character and honesty, the narration itself, and the content of the narration.

- 10 H 30) How do we know that Muslim scholars are allowed to use their own judgement in a matter of law not directly given in the Qur'an or hadith?

When the Prophet Mohammed appointed Mu'ath ibn Jabal as governor of Yemen, he asked him how he would decide a matter that came to him for a decision. He replied that he would decide according to the Qur'an and if he did not find it there, he would decide according to the sunnah and if he did not find it there, it would be according to his own opinion. The Prophet was pleased with his answer and approved of it.

- 10 H 31) What is Ijma?

It is the agreement of Muslim scholars on a legal issue not directly handled in the Qur'an or sunnah. Ijma can be based on a text or analogy mentioned in Qur'an or hadith.

- 10 H 32) What is Sunnah?

Sunnah is the traditions or records of the Prophet's sayings, practices, and way of life. It also includes any actions done in his presence by any of his followers and if they were approved or prohibited by him.

- 10 H 33) Should Muslims follow the sunnah of the Prophet?

Yes, as the Qur'an confirms,

﴿لَقَدْ كَانَ لَكُمْ فِي رَسُولِ اللَّهِ أُسْوَةٌ حَسَنَةٌ﴾ (٢١) الأحزاب

“Certainly, there is for you (Muslims), in the messenger of Allah, an excellent example” (33:21).

- 10 Q 34) What is Allah's commitment towards the Qur'an?

That it will remain uncorrupted, without change of a single word, until the Day of Judgement. As He says in the Qur'an,

﴿إِنَّا نَحْنُ نَزَّلْنَا الذِّكْرَ وَإِنَّا لَهُ لَحَافِظُونَ﴾ (٩) الحجر

“We have, without doubt, sent down the message, and We will assuredly guard it from corruption” (15:9).

10 Q 35) What rules should be observed when reading the Qur'an?

1. Keep your Qur'an in a clean place.
2. Read Qur'an at regular intervals, daily if possible.
3. Concentrate, reflect, and understand as you seek Allah's guidance by reading.
4. Have wudu (recommended).
5. Begin with "A`utho bi-llahe minna shaitan irrajim الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ" and "Bismellah al-Rahman, al-Raheem بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ".
6. Read and pronounce correctly.
7. Apply what you read to your life.
8. Interrupt your Qur'an reading if you hear the athan or if someone says "Salaam" to you.

10 Q 36) How can we reject the evil question inspired by shaitaan as to who created Allah?

Whenever these kinds of devilish and wicked thoughts come to a person's mind, he has to declare his faith in Allah afresh and seek the refuge of Allah from the rejected shaitaan.

﴿وَأَمَّا يَنْزَغَنَّكَ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ نَزْغٌ فَاسْتَعِذْ بِاللَّهِ ۖ إِنَّهُ سَمِيعٌ عَلِيمٌ﴾. سورة الأعراف

And if an evil thought from shaitaan comes to your mind, then seek the refuge of Allah. Verily He is the Hearer, the All Knower (7:200).

10 P 37) How was Maryam, Prophet Issa's mother, born and raised?

Maryam's mother was expecting to have a male child and to dedicate him to the service of Allah. When she gave birth to Maryam, she dedicated her to Allah's service and raised her in purity and piety.

10 P 38) What did the angels say to Maryam before the birth of Issa?

They said that Allah had chosen her and purified her above all other women of all nations and that she would bear a child, his name would be called Issa, son of Maryam, and that he would be held in honor in this world and in the Hereafter and would speak to the people in infancy and in maturity.

10 P 39) What was Maryam's reaction to the angel when he told her that she will have a child?

She wondered how she could bear a child when she was not married and not been touched by a human being. But she was told that Allah creates what He wills.

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- 10 P 40) How did Maryam react to the people after they questioned her about Prophet Issa's birth?

Allah inspired her to remain silent and point to the child Issa, who said, "I am indeed a servant of Allah. He has given me a revelation and made me a Prophet. He has made me blessed whosoever I be and has enjoined on me prayer and charity as long as I live. He has made me kind to my mother and not overbearing or miserable. So peace be upon me the day I was born, the day that I die, and the day that I shall be raised again in the Day of Resurrection."

- 10 P 41) What did Prophet Issa teach the children of Israel?

He taught them the Oneness of Allah and the Injeel (Gospel), Allah's word, to guide them.

- 10 P 42) Is the current Gospel the same Gospel revealed to Prophet Issa?

No, the true Gospel of Issa was lost in the early Christian era when the Christians were weak and persecuted by their enemies. The current Gospel was written by some disciples and followers of Issa, some of whom never even met him.

- 10 P 43) What are some of the miracles given to Prophet Issa by Allah?

Reviving the dead, healing the blind, telling people what they had stored in their homes, breathing life into a clay bird by Allah's leave.

- 10 P 44) How did the children of Israel respond to the Prophet Issa?

They conspired against him because of his distaste for their materialism and plotted to kill him.

- 10 P 45) Was Prophet Issa crucified and killed on the cross?

No, Allah raised him up to His kingdom without death and someone of his likeness was crucified.

- 10 P 46) What verses of the Qur'an tell of the nature of Prophet Issa?

"Surely the case of Issa with Allah is like the case of Adam. He created him from dust, then said to him, 'be' and he was" (3:60).

"Verily, the Messiah, Issa, son of Maryam, was only a messenger of Allah and a fulfillment of His word which he sent down to Maryam, and a mercy from Him (4:172).