9th Grade Islamic Studies Contest

9 1) What is Jihad?

Literally the word "jihad" means struggling or striving in the way of Allah (SWT).

Islamically: as described by the Qur'an and teachings of the Prophet Muhammad (s), "jihad" has many meanings.

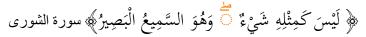
9 2) What are the different types of Jihad?

There are 5 different types of Jihad:

- 1. <u>Internal struggle:</u> is needed all the time.
 - > Jihad against one's self (Jihad an-Nafs النَّفْس): is to struggle within himself against "evil" (un-Islamic) desires
 - Jihad against the Shaytaan: Allah says:
- 2. External efforts to be a good Muslims 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 with orally or 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 fighting back.
 - ➤ Jihad by wealth: to spend money to prepare the Muslim army or sponsor a mujahid's family in his absence.
- 9 A 3) 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 to acquire His bounties and mercy in both the worlds.

9 A 4) What Allah looks like?



There is nothing like Him and He is the All Hearer and All Seer. [Qur'an 42:11]

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- 9 A 5) What are the conditions for a good deed to be accepted?There are three conditions for a good deed to be accepted by Allah.
 - 1. The belief in Allah as the ONE and ONLY true deity

The messenger of Allah (SWT) said: Say that I believe in Allah and then be firm upon it. [Muslim]

2. The purity and sincerity of the deed. This means that the good deed should be done for the sake and pleasure of Allah, without any other intention of pleasing people, of wanting to appear honorable in their sight, or of wanting any fame.

And they were commanded no more than this that they should worship Allah, making their religion pure, being sincere to Him alone and steadfast and upright. [98:5]

3). The deed should be done according to the guidance of the messenger of Allah (S).

The messenger (S) said: Whoever does any deed which is not approved of by us, that will be rejected. [Muslim]

9 A 6) What is the most severe shirk (Shirk-ul-Akbar)?

Shirk-ul-Akbar الشِّركُ الأَكبَر or the most severe shirk is to specify the deeds and actions of worship for someone other than Allah, and appealing for help from those who have passed away, and from the living who are not near them.

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

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The messenger of Allah (SWT) said: The most and greatest of the sins is to commit shirk with Allah. [Bukhari]

9 A 7) What is the injunction of asking help of the dead and of calling upon those who are not nearby?

Calling or asking for help of people who have died and who are not near-by for spiritual or material help and assistance is an action of Shirk-e-Akbar.

Nor call on any other than Allah; such will neither profit you nor hurt you; if you do, behold! You shall certainly be of those who do wrong. [10:106]

9 A 8) Are we allowed to seek help of anyone or anything other than of Allah?
No, it is not allowed.

You alone we worship and You alone we ask for help. [1:5]

Ibn 'Abbas (RAA) narrated, 'One day I was riding behind the Prophet when he said, "O lad, be mindful of Allah and He will protect you. Be mindful of Allah and you shall find Him with you. When you ask (for anything), ask it from Allah, and if you seek help, seek help from Allah. (Related by At-Tirmithi who verified it as Hasan and Sahih).

9 A 9) Is it allowed to vow or oblate to someone other than to Allah?

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

The messenger of Allah (S) said: Anyone who vowed that he will obey Allah, he should fulfil his vow, and anyone who vowed that he will disobey Allah, he should not disobey Him by fulfilling the vow. [Bukhari]

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9 A 10) Is it allowed to slaughter an animal for someone other than Allah?

No, it is not allowed to slaughter an animal for the sake of someone other than Allah, or in the name of someone other than Allah.

The messenger of Allah (S) said: Allah cursed the person who slaughters an animal for the sake of someone other than Allah. [Muslim]

9 A 11) Q25. Is it allowed to do tawaf (circumambulate) of a grave (e.g. to get closer to the person buried)?

No, it is not allowed to do tawaf of a grave, any building, or any place except the Ka'bah.

They should do the tawaf of the ancient house of Allah (ka'bah). [22:29]

9 A 12) Is the practice of magic allowed in Islam?

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

The messenger of Allah (S) said: Keep away from the seven deadly sins; committing shirk, practicing magic,[Al-Bukhari and Muslim]

9 A 13) Can we wear a chord or a pendant around our neck, wrist or any other part of the body with the belief that it can save us from any spiritual, mental or physical illness or harm?

No, we should never wear these kinds of things with these types of beliefs, because nothing can protect us from any kind of harm except Allah.

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If Allah touches you with a harm none can remove it but He. [6:17]

9 A 14) What is the injunction of practicing and living according to un-Islamic laws?

If somebody practices un-Islamic laws believing that they are more effective and useful for the benefit of human society, then it is a clear sign of disbelief.

And whosoever does not judge by what Allah has revealed, such are the disbelievers (kafirs). [5:44]

9 A 15) What is the Shirk-ul-Asghar الشِّركُ الأَصغَرِ ?

Ash-Shirk-ul-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.

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

9 A 16) What is Bid'ah بِاعَة in the religion?

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

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

9 A 17) 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.

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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]

9 A 18) Can someone request another person who is alive to make dua' for him?

Yes! Every Muslim can ask another Muslim to make dua' for him. The companions as well as the messenger (S) used to ask each other to make dua' for them.

"The supplication of a Muslim for his (Muslim) brother in his absence will certainly be answered. " [Muslim]

9 A 19) How can we be among those for whom the messenger (S) will intercede on the day of Judgement?

We can hope the intercession of the messenger (S) by obeying Allah and His messenger throughout our lives to provide us the intercession of the messenger (S). However, no one can intercede except with the permission of Allah.

What! Do they take for intercessors others besides Allah? Say: Even if they have no power and no intelligence? Say: To Allah belongs exclusively (the right to grant) intercession. [39:43-44]

9 A 20) Can we praise the messenger (S) extravagantly and exaggeratedly?

No! It is not allowed to do this. His rank, honor, dignity, qualities, characteristics, virtues and supremacy are uniquely mentioned in the Qur'an and the ahadith. A Muslim should stick to the way he is honored and respected in these two sources. He is mentioned as the most virtuous man of all mankind, but exaggerations in his praises and not keeping a balance between his servitude to Allah and supremacy over mankind will create a great confusion in the aqeedah (beliefs) and will misguide the people of weak faith.

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The messenger of Allah (S) said: Do not exaggerate in praising me like the Christians did to 'Isa (A). Indeed I am a servant and a slave. So mention by saying Servant of Allah and Messenger of Allah. [Bukhari]

9 A 21) According to what should the Muslims rule by and judge?

All the Muslims should rule and judge according to the Qur'an and the authentic ahadith.

And judge between them by what Allah has revealed and do not follow their vain desires diverting away from the truth that has come to you. [5:48]

9 A 22) 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 it has been reported authentically is part of the revelation.

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

9 A 23) 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).

"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]

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The messenger of Allah (S) said: No obedience and loyalty is lawful and valid if that leads to disobedience of the creator. [Tabrani]

9 A 24) 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).

If you differ in anything among yourselves, refer it to Allah and His messenger, if you indeed believe in Allah and the Last Day: that is best and most suitable for a final determination. [4:59]

9 A 25) 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.

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]

9 A 26) What is the command regarding Bid'ah Hasanah in Islam?

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

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]

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The messenger of Allah (S) said: Beware of newly invented matters [in the religion], for verily every bidah (innovation) is misguidance." (Abu Dawood and At-Termithi)

9 F 27) When did Hajj (pilgrimage) start?

Pilgrimage started at the time of Ibraheem (Abraham) (A) but it was changed overtime. The Prophet (S) purified it from all shirk beliefs and practices in Hajjat Ul-Wada` حَجَّةُ الْوَدَاع.

9 F 28) The performance of Hajj is obligatory for whom?

The adult Muslim who is physically fit and can afford the trip.

9 F 29) 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 قِران (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 النَّحر (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.

9 F 30) What is At-Talbiyah? What does it present?

At-Talbiyah is what is said while At-talbiyah represents At-Tawheed, (the oneness of Allah (SWT)), and the sincere worshiping to the creator.

9 F 31) What is I`tikaf إعتِكاف

Staying in the mosque for the purpose of worship, any time of the year, day or night. However, it is better in the last 10 nights of Ramadan.

9 F 32) What is Hajj in Islam?

The pilgrimage to Makkah in the state of Ihram and observing presence at Arafat and other prescribed actions in the first 10 days of the month of Thul-Hajjah ذو

9 F 33) What does Ihram إحرام mean for men?

The intention of performing Hajj عُمرة or Umrah عُمرة, and the removal of all clothes and wrapping the body in a couple of seamless sheets after making ghusul and wudu', shaving the hair off the private parts and under the arms and having simple footwear.

- 9 F 34) How is Ihram إحرام different for women from men?
 Women wear sewn clothes, cover their hair, but not face, and are allowed to wear socks. Everything else is the same.
- 9 F 35) What is Tawaf طُواف ?
 Walking to the left around the Ka'aba 7 times starting at the black stone.
- 9 F 36) What is Sa'ie سَعي ? Marching between the hills of Safa and Marwa near the Ka'aba 7 times.
- 9 F 37) What is Wuqoof وُقُوف ?

 Being present by the plains of Arafat for at least a few moments during the declining sun on the ninth of Thul-Hajjah and the dawn of the 10th day.
- 9 F 38) What is Miqat ميقات ?
 Boundaries of two types: The geographical boundaries of Makkah of which the pilgrims have to enter in a state of Ihram, and the specific calendar dates, the months of Shawal, Thul Qedah, and Thul Hajjah.

9 F 39) What is Umrah عُمرة ?

The visit at any time to Makkah in a state of Ihram for the performance of Tawaf مَا and Sa'ie مَا عندي and Sa'ie مَا عندي.

9 F 40) Is visiting the Prophet's masjid in Madinah part of the Hajj? No, but it is highly recommended before or after to visit this masjid.

41)

9 H 42) What is Qiyas قِياس?

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

9 H 43) 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 مُعاذُ بن جَبَل as governor of Yemen, he asked him how he would decide a matter that came up to him for 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.

9 H 44) What is Ijma إجماع?

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.

9 H 45) What is Sunnah?

Sunnah is the traditions or records of what the Prophet 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.

9 H 46) Should Muslims follow the Sunnah of the Prophet? Yes, as the Qur'an confirms,

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

- 9 Q 47) Mention some examples of scientific facts mentioned in the Qur'an 1400 years ago that were discovered by modern science much later.
 - 1) Matter is made up of minute particles.

And not absent from your Lord is any [part] of an atom's weight within the earth or within the heaven or [anything] smaller than that or greater but that it is in a clear register. 10:6

2) The oxygen content of air is reduced at higher elevations.

and whoever He wants to misguide - He makes his breast tight and constricted as though he were climbing into the sky. (6:125)

3) The embryo in the womb is enclosed by three coverings.

He creates you in the wombs of your mothers, creation after creation, within three darknesses. (39:6)

4) The fertilization of certain plants is done by the wind.

And We have sent the fertilizing winds (15:22)

- 5) Microscopic organisms exist that are not visible to the naked eye.
- 6) Each human has permanent individual fingerprints. 75:4

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Yes. We are able to put together in perfect order his fingertips.

9 Q 48) 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,

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

9 Q 49) What is Sajdatu-at-Tilawah?

It is the prostration you perform when you read or listen to one of the specific marked ayahs in the Qur'an