

**Edexcel K4 Questions**

**22<sup>nd</sup> January 2005**

**Question 1**

(A) What are the main sources of the Sharia? (4)

(B) 'Shariah Law is not relevant in Today's World'

Do you agree? Give reasons for your opinion, showing you have considered another point of view. (8)

*Answers to these questions appear below in page 2*

**Answer 1**

(A) What are the main sources of the Sharia?

(4)

The Shariah are the Islamic Laws and regulations that every muslim must abide by. The ultimate source of the shariah is Allah (SWT). Muslim Shariah comes from the Quran (Islam's most Holy book) and the Sunnah (sayings and actions) of the Holy Prophet (SAW).

The Quran is the word of God and was revealed to the Holy Prophet as a guide for mankind. The Holy Quran is the final revelation and is a guide to mankind for eternity. It does not, however, detail every specific issue, for this Allah instructed that all muslims should follow the sunnah of the Holy Prophet, as his actions are those that please Allah. Shia Muslims also believe that the sunnah should be extended to the true 12 infallible successors to the Prophet (the 12 Imams).

(B) 'Shariah Law is not relevant in Today's World'

Do you agree? Give reasons for your opinion, showing you have considered another point of view.

(8)

Many people say that the Shariah is not relevant to the world today, they argue that the rules and regulations in the Shariah were for a certain time and place, specifically in the 6<sup>th</sup> Century in the Middle East.

They feel that not only are these rules out of date they are not practical for muslims all over the world, and specifically for those who do not live in a muslim country. They feel that rules relating to Hijab, laws regarding what a muslim can and cannot eat, to mention but a few, are impractical in todays world.

These people would also argue that the sharaiah cannot deal with the complexities of modern day life, how can it deal with issues that were not around when the the QURan was revealed and when the Holy Prophet (SAW) was on this earth?

Having said this, my personal belief is that the sahriah is very relevant in todays world, just because the quran was revealed a long time ago does not mean it is irrelevant. The Quran is the word of the Allah and in his ultimate wisdom He provided all mankind with a holy book that was complete in every way and when combined with teachings fo the Holy Prophet not confined to a specific place or time.

If we feel man made laws, which are unjust, prejudicial racist and temporal, are sufficient; how can God made laws (The Shairah) not be relevant when they were created for eternity, by an all wise and all just creator above any form of bias?

To conclude, although some would agree with the above statement, I feel that Shariah Law was relevant yesterday, is relevant today and will be relevant tomorrow.