**0 1 . 5 ‘The Qur’an is the only authority a Muslim needs in life.’ Evaluate this statement.**

**[12 marks + 3 SPaG]**

**In your answer you should:**

**• refer to Muslim teaching**

**• give reasoned arguments to support this statement**

**• give reasoned arguments to support a different point of view**

**• reach a justified conclusion.**

**Answer A:** *The Qur’an is the authority a muslim needs in life to some christians is right because it was made by Allah which teaches the ways of Islam and how to act upon them which makes them believe the Qur’an is the most only authority a muslim needs in life. Other Muslims think that because God gave free will that they can choose which authority they need in life. A non-religous believer would think that a Muslim should be able to choose wether they should choose the Qur’an as their only source of authority in life. In conclusion some muslims believe the Qur’an should be the only source of authority as it was hand written by Allah. However other muslims think because of free will they can choose.*

**Answer A: This is a short response (127 words) which lacks detail or range of arguments. The first paragraph contains a point with some slight development, followed by a second simple point about free will. The second paragraph contains an irrelevant point about non-religious views and then some repetition of previous material.**

**Level 1, 3 marks SPaG – 2 marks.**

**There is general control of meaning in this response with some use of specialist terms. There are some spelling mistakes, and a lack of capitalisation on Muslims and Christians. The term Christians was misused in this answer but did not hinder meaning**

**Answer B:** *Some Muslims may agree with this statement because the Qur’an decreeds ‘everything that will happen.’ This creates the foundations of Islam and has complete authority over their life. Some Muslims may disagree with this statement because in the Qur’an we are taught to obey the laws of your country. This shows that we shouldn’t just obey the Qur’an. Some Muslims agree with this statement because the Qur’an is the ‘most sacred.’ It’s placed at the highest place in your home and is only touched by clean hands because it’s the most important book. Some Muslims may disagree with the statement because there are many holy books such as the torah. If the Qur’an was the only authority then why do other sacred texts exist if they don’t contribute. Some Muslims may agree with this statement because the Qur’an was one of the final books of Allah’s message. As it was one of the last books it must be special and have allowed Allah to share His full message. Some Muslims may disagree with this statement because we don’t know how much the Qur’an details about life. By only recognising the Qur’an as authority you miss out on any other teachings and beliefs. Overall, I disagree with the statement because the Qur’an is only one book and your life shouldn’t only be centred about it as your authority.*

**Answer B: This response is generally well argued and logically considers different viewpoints. Religious beliefs are applied to the issue throughout the response. In order to achieve the top of Level 4, this response would require more detailed evaluation. Level 4, 10 marks SPaG – 3 marks. The response includes some specialist terms and has good control of meaning. Spelling, punctuation and grammar are generally accurate.**

**Answer C:** *On the one hand, some Muslims might agree with this statement because they believe that the Qur'an contains a complete and accurate record of Allah’s message to mankind, told to Muhammad through the angel Jibril. If it is the totality of Allah’s message, then there is no reason for them to need any other authority, because Allah is the ultimate authority in Islam. On the other hand, the fourth Shia article of faith is Imamah: belief in the authority of Imams. This suggests that Muslims need other authority, aside from the Qur’an. Sunni Muslims also believe in the authority of Caliphs. There are also several other holy books as well as the Qur’an. There is the Tawrat (Torah) given to Musa that contains “guidance and light” (Qur’an). There is also the Zabur (Psalms) given to Dawud; “to David we gave the book of Pslams,” and the Injil. If Allah gave all of these to mankind, then they must have needed them, not just the Qur’an. Additionally, Muslims follow the Hadith and Sunnah because Muhammad is a role model to them, so they read the details of his practices to learn how to be good Muslims. In conclusion, I believe that Muslims need multiple sources of authority, otherwise why would Allah have provided them? Together the teachings of all the holy books and the Imams or Caliphs provides suitable authority for Muslims***.**

**Answer C: This response is about the expected length (231 words) and is well argued with clear chains of reasoning. The points made on both sides of the argument are fully focussed on the question set, and are well developed, and the response makes good use of a range of evidence. The conclusion leads on from the reasoning and comes to an overall judgement based on the evidence that has been presented.**

**Level 4, 12 marks SPaG – 3 marks.**

**This response fully meets the criteria for high performance. Clear meaning and control throughout with good use of specialist terms and high accuracy in spelling and grammar.**

**Twelve Mark Questions Mark Scheme**

**Level 4**: A well-argued response, reasoned consideration of different points of view. Logical chains of reasoning leading to judgement(s) supported by knowledge and understanding of relevant evidence and information. References to religion applied to the issue. (**10-12 marks)**

**Level 3:** Reasoned consideration of different points of view. Logical chains of reasoning that draw on knowledge and understanding of relevant evidence and information. Clear reference to religion. **(7-9 marks)**

**Level 2:** Reasoned consideration of a point of view. A logical chain of reasoning drawing on knowledge and understanding of relevant evidence and information. OR Recognition of different points of view, each supported by relevant reasons / evidence. Maximum of Level 2 if there is no reference to religion or the argument is one-sided. **(4-6 marks)**

**Level 1:** Point of view with reason(s) stated in support. **(1-3 marks)**

**Level 0:** Nothing worthy of credit. **(0 marks)**