

1 (b) briefly explain the importance of these themes in a Muslims life today. [4]

(i) 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. (Sura 2. 255) This verse talks about God's attributes. Candidates could mention how these attributes allow humans to understand something about God which they can relate to. For example, 'no slumber can seize Him nor sleep,' allows humans to understand how different His nature is to humans who need sleep to function. Some candidates may also mention the significance of this passage being used as a prayer for protection.

(ii) 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 judgment. 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. (Sura 1)

This sura is the opening sura of the Qur'an, and talks about humankind's relationship with God. The themes of this sura are relevant to Muslims now as it reminds them of who is in control now, and in the Hereafter, and who they should rely on. Candidates may also mention that this sura is used as a prayer in many contexts, and is recited in the daily prayers.

(iii) 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. (Sura 114)

The themes of this sura remind Muslims of God's power and His ability to protect from different kinds of evils. These evils can affect humans without them knowing it, so God's protection should always be sought. This sura, along with the other 'qul's' is recited for protection.