

Unit 2: Section C | Sample answer

a) Describe the vision of salvation proposed by Islam

Salvation by faith alone is not enough in Islam. One must also do good deeds. The purpose of life for a Muslim is to live according to the will of Allah so that one may succeed in the Hereafter. Submission to the will of Allah is the key to salvation. The will of Allah is in the Qur'an, the word of God according to Muslims. Muslims also look to the Hadiths. There are many Hadiths and some sects deem certain Hadiths unreliable or some more reliable than others. Hadiths are a record of the traditions and sayings of Muhammad. Sunnis follow Sahih Bukhari and Sahih Muslim mainly. Shias look to Kitab al-Kafi as their main Hadith. Muslims follow the Hadiths to try and live like the Prophet Muhammad. This is called Sunna. Muslims believe that Muhammad was the final and greatest messenger of Allah, 'The Seal of the Prophets'. The Six Articles of Faith; Belief in One God, The Last Day, The Angels, Prophets, Holy Book, Predestination and the Five Pillars; (Belief) Shahada, (Prayer) Salat, (Fasting) Sawm, (Charity) Zakat, (Pilgrimage) Hajj are a summary of what a Muslim must believe and what a Muslim must practice respectively, in order to be go to Heaven. As the Prophet Muhammad is in Paradise, Muslims try and live the way he lived so that they too can enter Paradise. Angels record our good and bad deeds from the age of puberty and on the Day of Judgement Allah will be presented with a list of our deeds. If the good outweigh the bad deeds then one will gain access to Paradise, although the final decision is in the hands of Allah.