**Q1. “*It is not possible to describe Allah*.”**

**Discuss the statement. In your answer you should; analyse and evaluate the importance of points of view of common and divergent views within Islam. Refer to sources of wisdom and authority. (15 marks)**

**WAGOLL ANSWER**

One of the key beliefs about Allah is Tawhid. This means the oneness of God; meaning Allah is one, nothing is similar to Allah and He is unknown.

Tawhid means oneness/ separateness. The Qur’an states; ‘Say, He is God the one, God the eternal. He begot no one nor was he begotten. No-one is comparable to him.’ This suggests that God cannot be known as he is beyond human comprehension. If Allah is beyond human comprehension, he cannot be described by us and this then makes it very difficult to understand him and thus means it is not possible to describe him.

However, some Muslims may state that it is possible to describe Allah as the 99 names give us a partial understanding of him. We are taught through the Qur’an that ‘The Most Excellent Names belong to God: use them to call on Him.’ Using names like ‘omnipotent’ and ‘eternal’ help Muslims illustrate Allah as perfect and separate to humans and so having the ability to access this description help Muslims describe Allah and feel connected to him.

The Qur’an tells us that ‘Allah is all pervading and all knowing. He is nearer to humans than their jugular vein.’ It could be argued that because of Allah’s immanent nature that we can gain an understanding of him and that this partial understanding may be enough to get close to him and develop taqwa. Even so, it may still be difficult to put this understanding into words.

In conclusion, Muslims cannot fully describe Allah due to Tawhid, however we can gain fragmented insights through the 99 names and gain an essence of him from his immanent nature.

**2. Have a go yourself**

Add in the analysis, evaluation and the evidence to the 15-mark answer below.

“***Jesus’ incarnation is the most important teaching in the Christian faith*.”**

**Discuss the statement. In your answer you should; analyse and evaluate the importance of points of view of common and divergent views within Islam. Refer to sources of wisdom and authority.**

Jesus’ incarnation is…………….

Some Christian’s believe the incarnation is the most important teaching because it is unique to the Christian religion. Several key celebrations come out of Jesus’ birth throughout the Christian year.

However, some Christians may argue that the teaching of the Trinity is the most important teaching within Christianity. This teaching makes sense of the incarnation.

Other Christians may state that God’s attributes of benevolence, mercy and grace are more important. Jesus’ incarnation helps illustrate some of God’s nature and these attributes.

In conclusion………………

**3. Try to do this from scratch with these questions;**

*‘Sincerely reciting the Shahadah is the most important religious practice for a Muslim.’* Discuss the statement. In your answer you should; analyse and evaluate the importance of points of view of common and divergent views within Islam. Refer to sources of wisdom and authority. (15marks)