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**Students needs to write the full length answer reference key words are given here:**

Q2. (a) Write an account of the parts that make up a Hadith, and describe the checks made by the collectors of the Hadiths to ensure the accuracy of their collections. [10]

 Hadiths consist of two main parts, the chain of narrators (isnad) and the text (matn). Students need to give a detailed account of them. Students may gain higher marks for quoting an example to highlight the two parts. Students need to also describe in some detail how the compilers of Hadiths compared matn of the Hadith with reason, the Qur’an and other authentic Hadiths to ensure that it agreed with the main Islamic principles. The fact that isnads were closely checked as well as the credentials of the narrator when selecting a Hadith for the authentic collections could also be mentioned in the answer. How the compliers went about collecting and authenticating the Hadiths could also be given in the answer. Students may add some checks for isnad and matn as follows: The isnad guarantees that the Hadith originated with the Prophet. • Each transmitter (rawi) must be honest and upright. • He must be a strong Muslim. • He must have a good memory. • Each transmitter must have known the transmitter before him, and also the transmitter after. • The first transmitter in the chain must be a Companion of the Prophet. • There must be no gaps or weaknesses in the chain. The matn must agree with the teachings of the Qur’an. • It must also agree with the main body of reliable Hadiths. • It must also agree with common sense and what is reasonable. • It should not praise any individual or place. • It should not give precise details of events that occurred after the Prophet’s time. • It should not contain expressions uncharacteristic of the Prophet.

 (b) Explain the main differences between musnad and musannaf collections? [4

] The musnad collections gather Hadiths together according to the name of the first transmitter. They are useful for detecting Hadiths attributed to a particular Companion. The best known musnad collection is Ibn Hanbal’s Musnad. The musannaf collections gather Hadiths according to their subject matter. They are useful for understanding the Prophet’s teachings on a particular point of belief or practice. They are particularly useful in establishing matters of law. The six books of Sunni sahih Hadith are the best known musannaf collections.