Major Teachings in the Hadiths

The twenty Hadiths set for special study in Paper 2, grouped under individual conduct and life in the community, with the main teaching of each and its importance today.

How the Hadiths are set

Paper 2, Question 1 sets **four Hadiths** from the list of twenty and you answer **two**. For each you explain **what it teaches Muslims about what they should believe and how they should act** (4 + 4 marks). The set Hadiths are all recorded by **al-Bukhari or Muslim** in their *Sahih* collections. The Hadiths are numbered **1 to 20**; the meaning of each is given below in short form. In the exam you are given the Arabic and the English, so also learn the **key words** of each.

Group	Subject	Hadiths
Individual conduct	Faith and personal behaviour	1–6, 9, 17–20
Life in the community	Duties to others, justice and care	7, 8, 10–16

(The groups overlap; the exam may set any of the twenty.)

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Individual conduct

No.	Teaching of the Hadith	What Muslims should do
1	"**Religion is sincerity**" (*ad-din an-nasihah*), meaning sincerity towards **God, his Book, his Messenger, the Muslim leaders and the common people**	Be **honest and well-meaning** in worship, in following the Qur'an and Sunnah, and in dealing with rulers and people
2	None of you truly believes until he **wants for his brother what he wants for himself**	Show **love, fairness and unselfishness**; no jealousy
3	Whoever believes in God and the Last Day should **speak good or keep silent**, and be **generous to his neighbour and his guest**	Control the **tongue** (no gossip or lies); **honour neighbours and guests**
4	A man asks whether he will enter paradise if he prays the obligatory prayers, fasts Ramadan, treats the lawful as lawful and the forbidden as forbidden, and does no more. The Prophet (pbuh) says **yes**	Faith requires doing the **basic duties** and **avoiding the forbidden**; God's religion is **not too hard**
5	Every day a person owes **charity for every joint**: **acting justly between two people**, **helping a man with his mount**, a **good word**, **every step to prayer** and **removing something harmful from the road** are all charity (*sadaqah*)	**Small acts of kindness** and public service count as charity; justice is charity
6	Whoever sees an **evil action** should **change it with his hand**; if unable, **with his tongue**; if unable, **with his heart**, "and that is the weakest of faith"	Duty to **prevent wrong** as far as one is able; **speak out** against injustice
9	No one eats better food than what he **earns by the work of his own hand**	The **value of honest work** and self-reliance (**dignity of labour**)
17	**Modesty** (*haya'*) produces nothing but good	Be **modest and humble** in dress, speech and behaviour
18	One who has faith "as small as a mustard seed" in his heart will not stay in hell; one with **pride** of that size will not enter paradise	Avoid **pride**; keep **faith** in the heart
19	**The world is the believer's prison and the unbeliever's paradise**	Do not become **attached to worldly pleasure**: the Hereafter is the real goal
20	God does **not look at your appearance and possessions**, but at your **hearts and your deeds**	Value **sincere intention and good actions**, not show or wealth; do not judge by appearances

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Life in the community

No.	Teaching of the Hadith	What Muslims should do
7	Asked who is the **best of people**, the Prophet (pbuh) said "**the believer who strives (*jihad*) in the way of God with his person and his property**"	**Struggle** for God's cause with **effort and wealth** (not only fighting)
8	The martyrs of the community are **not only those killed in battle**: one who is killed in God's way, who dies **naturally in God's way**, who dies in a **plague** or of **cholera** is a martyr	**Martyrdom has many forms**; patience in hardship is rewarded
10	One who **cares for the widow and the poor** is like one who **strives in God's way**, **stands in prayer all night** or **fasts all day**	**Look after the weak**; social service is a form of worship
11	"I and the man who **looks after an orphan** will be in paradise like this" (two fingers together)	**Care for orphans**; reward in the next world
12	The Prophet (pbuh) sent Abu Musa and Mu'adh to **govern in Yemen** and told them: "**Be gentle and do not be harsh**, give good news and do not drive people away"	**Gentle, kind leadership**; governors and officials should **ease**, not burden, people
13	"He who studies the Qur'an is like the owner of **tethered camels**: if he looks after them he keeps them, if he lets them go they are gone"	**Regularly read and revise** the Qur'an so as not to forget it
14	God has mercy on a man who is **kind when he sells, buys and asks for his money back**	**Fair and gentle business dealing**; honest trade
15	God does **not show mercy** to one who **does not show mercy to others**	**Be merciful** to people (and animals)
16	"**The believers are like one body**: if the eye is hurt the whole body feels it, and if the head hurts the whole body feels it"	**Unity, solidarity and mutual care** among Muslims

Support and examples for each Hadith

Good answers add a **verse or another saying**, an **example from the Prophet's life or the Companions**, and a **modern example**.

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No.	Verse or saying	Example from the Prophet or Companions	Modern example
1	"Sincerity leads to piety, and piety to paradise"	The Companions' loyalty to him through the Makkan hardships	Honest dealings with teachers, rulers and neighbours
2	"The believers are brothers" (49:10)	The Ansar preferred the Emigrants to themselves	Taking in refugees; wishing others the same health and success
3	"Not a word does he utter but a watcher is by him" (50:18); "a Muslim is one from whose tongue and hand others are safe"	**Abu Talhah** and his wife fed a guest before their own children (59:9)	No gossip online; sharing food with neighbours
4	"Avoid what I have forbidden and do as much as you can of what I have ordered"	He did not list zakat and Hajj here, since they apply to those who can	Keeping prayers on time; fair trade, no bribes or cheating
5	"The best of people is the one most useful to others"	He helped even an old woman who had harmed him	Helping a blind person cross the road; mediating disputes
6	"You are the best nation... enjoining right and forbidding wrong" (3:110); "the best jihad is a word of truth before a tyrant"	He challenged idol worship and suffered for it	Reporting theft of electricity; refusing bribes
7	"Whatever you spend, God will replace it" (34:39)	The donations at Tabuk	Funding schools, clinics and mosques
8	"Do not say that those killed in God's way are dead" (2:154)	A mother whose son died at Badr was told he was in the highest paradise	Honest work, helping the weak, speaking out against oppression
9	"One who earns by his own labour is a friend of God"	Every prophet was a shepherd; he built the mosque and dug the trench	Respecting guards, drivers and cleaners
10	"O Aishah, love the poor and keep them near you"	**Abu Bakr** milked the goats of an old widow	Housing and healthcare for the vulnerable
11	"Do not treat the orphan harshly" (93:9)	He comforted a crying orphan, "Would you like me to be your father and Aishah your mother?"	Sponsoring orphans; protecting their inheritance

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No.	Verse or saying	Example from the Prophet or Companions	Modern example
12	"The best rulers are those you love and who love you"	He told **Mu'adh** to shorten his prayers: "Are you putting people to trial?"	Fair, kind officials and teachers
13	"Keep reciting the Qur'an: it escapes faster than camels"	He reviewed it every Ramadan; **tarawih**	A little reading each day
14	"Give full measure and weigh with a true scale" (17:35)	His honest trade in Syria; **Uthman** gave generous measure	No hiding defects, no hoarding, patience with debtors
15	"He who is devoid of mercy is devoid of all good"	He prayed for Ta'if; the amnesty at Makka	Small kindnesses to people and animals
16	"Hold fast to the rope of God" (3:103)	Brotherhood of the Emigrants and Ansar	Relief for Palestine, Kashmir or earthquake victims; Afghan refugees in Pakistan
17	"Modesty and faith go together"	His face showed displeasure when he was shy to speak	Quiet speech, dress and behaviour; no showing off
18	Satan's pride (38:74–75); "pride is My cloak" (Hadith Qudsi)	He never put himself above others, even after conquering Makka	Staying humble in success
19	"This world is the farm of the Hereafter"; "live as a stranger or traveller"	He refused the Quraysh's offers of wealth and power	Not chasing luxury; refusing bribes
20	"Actions are judged by intentions"	**Bilal** was chosen as muezzin for his faith, not his status	Charity given sincerely; no flattery of the powerful

Common themes of the set Hadiths

- **Sincerity, honesty and humility.**
- **Kindness to neighbours, orphans, widows, the poor and the weak.**
- **Justice and fairness** in business and between people.
- **Mercy** as the basis of faith.
- **Unity of the Muslim community** (one body, brotherhood).
- **Striving (jihad)** in many forms: effort, property, honest work.
- **The Hereafter** as the real goal.

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Answering the [10] question on the themes of the Hadiths

Paper 2 Question 2(a) can ask for "the teachings of the Hadiths about care in the community", "how Muslims should treat one another", "the conduct of individuals", or "unity". Quote **at least four** set Hadiths and give the point of each.

- **Care and unity** (community): 2 ("wants for his brother what he wants for himself"), 3 (neighbour and guest), 5 (every kindness is charity), 6 (change evil), 10 (widow and poor), 11 (orphans), 12 (gentle rulers), 15 (mercy), 16 ("one body").
- **Individual responsibility:** 1 (sincerity), 4 (the basic duties), 7 (striving), 8 (martyrdom), 9 (honest work), 13 (the Qur'an), 17 (modesty), 18 (pride), 19 (this world), 20 (intention).
- **Structure:** begin with a sentence on the theme, then for each Hadith give the wording, the lesson and one example, and finish by saying how the Hadiths build a caring community.

Importance today

The Hadiths give **practical guidance** for modern life: honest work, charity and welfare (zakat and *sadaqah*), care for the vulnerable, respectful speech in the age of social media, gentle government, and the unity of Muslims. They show that **small daily acts** are part of faith.

> **How to answer (4 + 4): give the meaning of the Hadith in your own words, quote a key phrase, say whether it concerns belief or action, then explain how Muslims follow it today with an example.**

> TRY IT
>
> Choose Hadith 16 ("The believers are like a single body") and explain (a) what it teaches and (b) how Muslims put it into practice today.

Outline. *(a)* It teaches **unity and mutual care**: if one part suffers the whole body feels pain, so Muslims should **share one another's troubles**. *(b)* Muslims show it through **zakat and charity**, **helping neighbours and refugees**, **relief for disasters**, and **praying for Muslims worldwide**.

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