

Discursive Writing Resource

Question: Why is kindness difficult but important?

1. Student Scaffold: Discursive Writing

Question

Why is kindness difficult but important?

Introduction

General statement:

Kindness is an important quality in Islam and everyday life.

Issue:

However, kindness can be difficult because people may feel angry, tired, annoyed, disappointed or hurt.

Thesis:

Although kindness can be challenging, it is important because it helps Muslims please Allah, treat others well and build stronger relationships.

Body Paragraph 1: Why Kindness is Difficult

Point:

Kindness is difficult because _____.

Evidence from reading:

In Reading _____, I learned that _____.

Explanation:

This shows that kindness can be hard because _____.

Discursive sentence:

However, this difficulty may also help people grow because _____.

Body Paragraph 2: Why Kindness is Important in Islam

Point:

Kindness is important in Islam because _____.

Evidence from reading:

In Reading _____, the Qur'an or hadith teaches that _____.

Explanation:

This suggests that kindness helps Muslims _____.

Discursive sentence:

Therefore, kindness is not only about being polite; it is also about _____.

Body Paragraph 3: Kindness in Everyday Life**Point:**

Kindness is useful in everyday life because _____.

Evidence from reading:

In Reading _____, I learned that _____.

Explanation:

This shows that kindness can help with _____.

Discursive sentence:

On the other hand, kindness does not mean letting people do wrong. It means ____.

Overall Judgement

After considering these ideas, kindness is difficult because _____.

However, it is important because _____.

Overall, kindness is valuable because _____.

Conclusion

Kindness is not always easy, but it is an important part of faith and character. It helps Muslims control their behaviour, speak gently and treat others in a way that pleases Allah.

2. Islamic Evidence Bank

Source	Evidence	How Students Can Use It
Qur'an 16:90	“Indeed, Allah commands justice, grace, as well as generosity to close relatives.”	Use this to show that Islam teaches justice, goodness and care for others.
Qur'an 2:83	“Be kind to parents, relatives, orphans and the needy; speak kindly to people.”	Use this to show that kindness should appear in actions and words.
Sahih Muslim 2593	“Allah is gentle and He loves gentleness.”	Use this to show that gentleness and kindness are loved by Allah.
Sahih Muslim 2592	“Whoever is deprived of gentleness is deprived of good.”	Use this to show that gentleness is an important part of good character.

3. Readings for Students

Students should read at least **three readings** and use ideas from them to compose their own discursive response.

Reading 1: Kindness in the Qur'an

Kindness is an important part of Islam. It is not only about smiling or saying nice words. Kindness means treating people with care, fairness and respect. It can be shown through words, actions and intentions.

The Qur'an teaches:

“Indeed, Allah commands justice, grace, as well as generosity to close relatives.”

Surah an-Nahl 16:90

This verse teaches Muslims to do good and care for others. The word **grace** can also be understood as goodness or excellence. This means a Muslim should not only avoid harming others, but also try to bring benefit.

The Qur'an also teaches Muslims to **“speak kindly to people”** in Surah al-Baqarah 2:83. This shows that kindness is not only about what a person does. It is also about how a person speaks.

Kindness can be difficult because people do not always feel calm. A person may feel annoyed, disappointed or tired. In those moments, it can be easier to speak sharply or ignore someone who needs help. However, Islam teaches Muslims to control their behaviour and choose what is better.

Therefore, kindness is not weakness. It is a sign of strong character because it requires self-control, mercy and awareness of Allah.

Questions

1. What does kindness mean in this reading?

2. Why can kindness be difficult?

3. What does Qur'an 16:90 teach Muslims?

4. How can kindness be shown through speech?

5. Which idea from this reading could you use in your discursive response?

Useful discursive idea:

Kindness is difficult when emotions are strong, but it is important because Islam teaches Muslims to do good and treat others with care.

Reading 2: Kindness and Gentleness in the Teachings of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ taught Muslims to be gentle and kind. In Islam, kindness is closely connected to **rifq**, which means gentleness. A Muslim can show gentleness through speech, actions and correction.

In an authentic hadith, the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said:

“Allah is gentle and He loves gentleness.”

Sahih Muslim 2593

This hadith teaches that gentleness is not a small matter. It is loved by Allah. When a Muslim is gentle and kind, they are trying to act in a way that pleases Allah.

Another authentic hadith teaches:

“Whoever is deprived of gentleness is deprived of good.”

Sahih Muslim 2592

This shows that gentleness is an important sign of good character.

However, kindness is not always easy. Sometimes a person may feel angry when someone annoys them. Sometimes they may not want to help because they are busy. Sometimes they may feel that another person does not deserve kindness. These moments test a person’s character.

In Islam, kindness does not mean allowing people to do wrong. A Muslim can be kind and still correct a mistake. For example, if someone is being rude, a person can speak firmly but respectfully. If someone takes something without permission, a person can ask for it back without shouting or insulting.

Therefore, kindness is important because it helps Muslims respond with wisdom, not just emotion.

Questions

1. What does the hadith teach about Allah and gentleness?

2. Why is gentleness a sign of good character?

3. Why can kindness be difficult when someone is annoying?

4. Does kindness mean allowing wrong behaviour? Explain.

5. What can this reading teach us about gentle speech?

Useful discursive idea:

Kindness is difficult when people feel angry or annoyed, but it is important because Allah loves gentleness and good character.

Reading 3: Kindness in Everyday Life

Kindness is needed in everyday life. Children can show kindness when they speak to their parents, help siblings, share with others, complete chores, or comfort someone who feels upset.

For example, a child might notice that their mother is tired after a long day. They could ignore it, or they could help by putting away dishes, tidying the table or speaking gently. These actions may seem small, but they can make family life more peaceful.

Kindness is also important when people disagree. At home, siblings may argue over toys, books, games or whose turn it is. A kind person tries to speak calmly and think before reacting. This does not mean they never feel upset. It means they try not to let upset feelings control their actions.

Still, kindness can be difficult because people often think about themselves first. It can be hard to share, wait, forgive or help when we do not feel like it. This is why kindness is connected to self-control.

From an Islamic perspective, kindness becomes more meaningful because it is not only about being liked by people. It is also a way of pleasing Allah and building good character.

Questions

1. Where might children show kindness in everyday life?

2. How can kindness help family life?

3. Why is kindness difficult during disagreements?

4. Why is kindness connected to self-control?

5. What everyday example could you use in your own paragraph?

Useful discursive idea:

Kindness is difficult because people often think about themselves first, but it is important because it improves relationships and builds good character.

Reading 4: Kindness When Learning with Others

Zayd was working on a spelling activity with his younger sister. She kept spelling the same word incorrectly. Zayd knew the answer and wanted to finish quickly.

“You already got it wrong three times,” he thought.

At first, he felt impatient. He wanted to take the pencil and write the answer himself. But then he remembered that learning takes time. He decided to help her slowly.

He said, “Let’s sound it out together.”

His sister tried again. She still made a mistake, but this time she smiled because Zayd had not made her feel silly. After a few more tries, she improved.

Zayd learnt that kindness can be difficult when someone else is slower than us. However, kindness is important because it helps people feel safe enough to keep trying. If he had laughed or spoken harshly, his sister might have felt embarrassed and stopped learning.

Kindness did not mean doing the work for her. It meant helping her in a gentle way.

Questions

1. Why did Zayd feel impatient?

2. How did he show kindness?

3. Why is kindness important when someone is learning?

4. Did kindness mean doing the work for his sister?

5. What balanced sentence could you write from this reading?

Useful discursive idea:

Kindness is difficult when others are slower than us, but it is important because it helps people learn without feeling embarrassed.

Reading 5: Kindness with a Younger Sibling

Aisha was reading quietly when her little brother knocked over her pencil case. Pencils rolled under the desk, and her sharpener opened onto the floor.

Aisha felt annoyed. She wanted to shout, “Look what you did!”

Then she saw that her brother looked worried. He had not done it on purpose. Aisha took a breath and said, “It’s okay. Please help me pick them up.”

Together, they collected the pencils. Aisha still felt a little frustrated, but she was glad she had not shouted. Her brother helped clean the mess, and the problem ended quickly.

This shows that kindness does not mean pretending nothing happened. Aisha still asked him to help fix the problem. However, she chose words that were gentle instead of harsh.

Kindness was difficult because she felt annoyed. It was important because it protected her relationship with her brother and prevented a small accident from becoming a big argument.

Questions

1. Why was Aisha annoyed?

2. How did she show kindness?

3. Did kindness mean ignoring the problem?

4. How did gentle words help?

5. What does this reading teach about family relationships?

Useful discursive idea:

Kindness is difficult when accidents happen, but it is important because it helps solve problems without hurting others.

Reading 6: Kindness During Home Schooling

During home schooling, Maryam and her cousin were completing a science worksheet. Maryam finished first. Her cousin was still reading the question and looked confused.

Maryam wanted to move on to the next activity. She enjoyed finishing quickly and did not want to wait. But then she noticed that her cousin looked upset.

Maryam said, “Would you like me to read the question with you?”

They read it together. Her cousin understood it better and was able to answer by herself.

Maryam realised that kindness sometimes asks people to slow down. This can be difficult because people often want to keep going with their own plans. However, kindness is important because it helps others feel supported.

Kindness also helped Maryam. It reminded her not to be proud just because she finished first. Being fast is useful, but being helpful is also important.

Questions

1. Why did Maryam not want to wait?

2. How did she help her cousin?

3. Why can kindness require slowing down?

4. How did kindness help both students?

5. What idea could you use in your discursive response?

Useful discursive idea:

Kindness is difficult when it interrupts our plans, but it is important because it helps others feel supported.

Reading 7: Kindness When Someone Feels Left Out

During a family gathering, Hamza noticed his younger cousin sitting quietly near the bookshelf. The other children were playing a game, but no one had invited him.

Hamza was enjoying the game and did not want to stop. He thought, “Someone else can invite him.”

Then he remembered that kindness sometimes means noticing people who are quiet. Hamza paused the game and said, “Would you like to join us?”

His cousin nodded and came over. The game became more enjoyable because everyone felt included.

This experience taught Hamza that kindness is sometimes difficult because it asks people to notice others, not only themselves. It can be easy to focus on our own enjoyment and forget how someone else may feel.

Kindness was important because it helped someone feel welcome. It also made the gathering more peaceful and happy.

Questions

1. Who did Hamza notice?

2. Why was kindness difficult for him?

3. How did he show kindness?

4. Why is including others important?

5. How could this example be used in discursive writing?

Useful discursive idea:

Kindness is difficult when we are focused on ourselves, but it is important because it helps others feel included.

Reading 8: Kindness When Plans Change

Layla had planned to bake biscuits with her mother after lunch. She had been looking forward to it all morning. Then her mother received an important phone call and needed to delay the activity.

Layla felt disappointed. She wanted to complain, but she noticed that her mother looked busy and tired.

Instead of saying, “You promised,” Layla said, “That’s okay. I can get the ingredients ready for later.”

Her mother smiled and thanked her.

Layla still felt disappointed, but she chose kindness. She learnt that kindness is not only needed when things are easy. It is also needed when plans change.

Kindness was difficult because Layla did not get what she wanted straight away. However, it was important because it helped her speak respectfully and support her mother.

Questions

1. Why was Layla disappointed?

2. What could she have said harshly?

3. What kind words did she choose instead?

4. Why is kindness important when plans change?

5. What does this reading teach about respect?

Useful discursive idea:

Kindness is difficult when plans change, but it is important because it helps people speak respectfully during disappointment.

Reading 9: Kindness When Correcting Someone

Ibrahim was praying beside his younger brother, who was still learning how to pray properly. After salah, Ibrahim noticed that his brother had made a small mistake.

Ibrahim wanted to correct him straight away. He almost said, “You did it wrong.”

Then he stopped and thought about how his words might sound. He said instead, “You did well trying. Can I show you one thing to fix for next time?”

His brother listened carefully and did not feel embarrassed.

This shows that kindness is important when correcting someone. A person can say the truth in a way that is gentle and helpful. Harsh words may make someone feel ashamed, but kind words can help them improve.

Kindness was difficult because Ibrahim wanted to correct the mistake quickly. However, it was important because it protected his brother’s feelings and helped him learn.

Questions

1. What did Ibrahim notice?

2. What harsh words did he avoid?

3. How did he correct his brother kindly?

4. Why does kindness matter when correcting someone?

5. What does this teach about speaking the truth gently?

Useful discursive idea:

Kindness is difficult when correcting others, but it is important because gentle advice helps people improve without embarrassment.

Reading 10: Kindness with Chores

Fatima had already packed away her books when her father asked her to help fold laundry. She felt tired and wanted to rest.

“I already did my work,” she thought.

At first, she wanted to say no. Then she remembered that kindness can begin at home. She helped fold the towels and put them away. The job only took ten minutes, but it made the house feel more organised.

Fatima realised that kindness is sometimes shown through small helpful actions. It is not always dramatic or noticeable. Sometimes, it is simply helping before being asked twice.

Kindness was difficult because she felt tired. However, it was important because it helped her family and taught her responsibility.

Questions

1. Why did Fatima not want to help?

2. How did she show kindness?

3. Why can chores be a form of kindness?

4. What does this reading teach about helping at home?

5. What sentence could you use in your discursive response?

Useful discursive idea:

Kindness is difficult when people feel tired, but it is important because small helpful actions can support the whole family.

4. Reading-to-Discursive Point Guide

Discursive Point	Best Readings to Use	Useful Idea
Kindness is difficult when emotions are strong.	Readings 1, 2, 5, 8	Anger, annoyance and disappointment make kindness harder.
Kindness is important in Islam.	Readings 1, 2	Allah commands goodness and loves gentleness.
Kindness helps with learning.	Readings 4, 6, 9	Gentle help allows people to improve.
Kindness helps family relationships.	Readings 5, 8, 10	Kind words and helpful actions make family life more peaceful.
Kindness requires self-control.	Readings 3, 5, 8	A person may feel upset but still choose better words.
Kindness does not mean ignoring wrong behaviour.	Readings 2, 5, 9	A person can correct or solve a problem gently.
Kindness helps people feel included.	Reading 7	Noticing others is part of good character.
Overall judgement	All readings	Kindness is hard, but it builds faith, character and stronger relationships.

5. Planning Notes

My Main Ideas

The main reason kindness is difficult:

The main reason kindness is important:

One Qur'an or hadith evidence I can use:

One everyday example I can use:

My overall judgement:

Although kindness is difficult because _____, it is important because _____.

6. Sentence Starter Bank

Introducing an Idea

- One reason kindness is difficult is...
- Kindness can be challenging because...
- Some people may find kindness hard when...
- From an Islamic perspective, kindness is important because...

Using Evidence

- In Reading ____, I learned that...
- This connects to the Qur'an because...
- The hadith teaches that...
- This example shows that...

Explaining Both Sides

- However, kindness is still important because...
- On the other hand, kindness does not mean...
- Although kindness can be difficult, it can help people...
- This suggests that kindness is not weakness, but...

Making a Judgement

- Overall, kindness is valuable because...
 - After considering these ideas, kindness appears important because...
 - Therefore, kindness helps Muslims...
 - Kindness may be difficult, but it is necessary because...
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7. Final Writing Task

Write a discursive response to the question:

Why is kindness difficult but important?

Your response should:

- explain why kindness can be difficult
 - explain why kindness is important in Islam
 - use at least **one Qur'an or hadith reference**
 - use at least **one real-life example** from the readings
 - include an overall judgement
 - use respectful and balanced language
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8. Paragraph Scaffold

Introduction

Kindness is _____.

However, kindness can be difficult because _____.

Although kindness can be challenging, it is important because _____.

Body Paragraph 1

One reason kindness is difficult is _____.

In Reading ____, _____.

This shows that _____.

However, this difficulty can help people grow because _____.

Body Paragraph 2

Kindness is important in Islam because _____.

The Qur'an / hadith teaches that _____.

This suggests that _____.

Therefore, kindness is not only about being polite; it is also about ____.

Body Paragraph 3

Kindness is useful in everyday life because _____.

In Reading ____, _____.

This example shows that _____.

On the other hand, kindness does not mean ignoring wrong behaviour. It means _____.

Overall Judgement

Overall, kindness is difficult because _____.

However, it is important because _____.

For Muslims, kindness is valuable because _____.
