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'Believing in the Five Roots of Usul ad-Din is the best way to please God.'

Evaluate this statement.

In your answer you should:

- refer to Muslim teaching
- give reasoned arguments to support this statement
- give reasoned arguments to support a different point of view
- reach a justified conclusion.

[12 marks]
[SPaG 3 marks]

✓

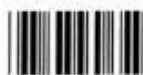
• key Shia beliefs	• 6 pillars - angels
• Five Usul	• predestination
• worship	• God = pleased when He is
	• submit to Him

✗

The Five Roots of Usul ad-Din are the key Shia beliefs. However, is believing in them the "best" way to please God?

On the one hand, one could argue that believing in the five roots of Usul ad-Din is truly the best way to please God. To begin with, the five roots of Usul ad-Din allow Shia Muslims to strengthen their faith as they stipulate many key important beliefs which are arguably essential for them as it allows them to be good Muslims. For example, belief

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in Tawhid certainly please God because Islam is a monotheistic religion. Hence, belief in Tawhid allows ~~Shia~~ both Sunni and Shia Muslims to worship Allah alone and this is crucial in Islam because Allah is "the Only" (Qur'an) God. If Muslims did not believe in Tawhid, Allah would not be pleased because one could commit ~~shirk~~ by associating others with Allah in worship. This evokes Allah's wrath, the opposite of his pleasure because ~~shirk~~ is the only sin the "most merciful" (Qur'an) does not forgive. As a result, belief in Tawhid could certainly be a way of pleasing Allah. Besides this, all the other roots such as Prophets, Adalat, Immortality and Resurrection also serve the purpose ~~aim~~ to please Allah because they prepare Shia to face Allah in the afterlife. Hence, their actions ~~and~~ are influenced by their belief in these roots so by ~~following~~ demonstrating absolute faith in these roots, surely Shia Muslims could please God.



Extra space This is further reiterated by the belief that this dunya is a test. So passing this test is facilitated through ~~was~~ the five roots because they allow Muslims to prepare for the afterlife and excel in the dunya.

On the other hand, it could also be argued that believing in the Five Roots is not the best way to please God. Firstly, ~~it could~~ one could claim that the six pillars of articles of faith in Sunni Islam are a better way to please God because they include belief in angels and predestination other than tawhid, ba'ala, al-hina and prophets as well. Belief in angels and predestination along with the other articles of faith could be an exemplary way of pleasing God. This is because ~~both~~ these beliefs ~~increase~~ increase a Muslim's awareness of Allah's omnipotence ~~in~~ which encourages them to avoid sinning because not only does Allah know everything, ~~the~~ ^{extra} page

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Question number	Additional page, if required. Write the question numbers in the left-hand margin.
*01.5	the angels record all our thoughts, deeds and actions. As a result, this increased awareness of God and the reminder to avoid committing grave sins could surely please Allah because it allows Muslims to worship him and remain on the straight path. Besides this some Muslims may argue that devoting oneself to Allah completely by for instance becoming a <u>Hafiz</u> is the best way to please Allah. This could be because Islam itself literally translates to submission so Allah could be very pleased with this act of devotion which goes beyond just faith. In conclusion, I would argue that although believing in the five roots of Usul ad-Din is certainly a great way of pleasing Allah, ultimately however, it is the actions and practices we carry out which please Allah the most because the utmost devotion



Question number	Additional page, if required. Write the question numbers in the left-hand margin.
*02.5	to Allah is bound to please please him more than simply believing in his greatness because it shows dedication. as a Muslim, regardless of their. In conclusion, I would argue that all practises which allow Muslims to devote themselves to Allah are important duties which cannot outweigh the others because they all serve serve a different purpose but ultimately allow Muslims to develop a closer relationship with Allah. Worshipping "God the One, God the Only" is undoubtedly the most important duty in matters how it is carried out.
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