



50 Challenging Scenario Questions With Answers

1. The Creator but Not Worshipped Alone

Scenario: Yusuf says, "I believe Allah created me, gives me food and controls everything. That means my Tawheed is complete." However, he sometimes makes Dua to someone besides Allah.

Question: What important part of Tawheed is Yusuf missing?

Answer: He is missing Tawheed of Worship. Believing that Allah alone is the Creator, Provider and Controller is Tawheed of Lordship but Allah must also be worshipped alone. Dua is worship so it must be directed to Allah alone.

2. A Good Intention

Scenario: Maryam says, "I know we should worship Allah alone but I am doing this act of worship through a righteous person only because I want to become closer to Allah. My intention is good."

Question: Does her good intention make the act correct? Why?

Answer: No. A good intention does not make a wrong act of worship correct. Worship belongs to Allah alone and must be directed to Him alone. This is one of the lessons of the Second Foundation.

3. Better Prayer When People Arrive

Scenario: Hamza begins praying sincerely for Allah. Halfway through his Salah he notices his friends watching so he makes his prayer look better so they will praise him.

Question: What danger has entered his worship?

Answer: Showing off has entered his worship. Showing off in worship is an example of Minor Shirk and it can destroy the part of the worship in which it happens.



4. Allah Created Everything

Scenario: A student says, “Anyone who believes Allah created the heavens and earth must automatically be a Muslim.”

Question: What does the First Foundation teach us about this statement?

Answer: The statement is incorrect. The Mushrikeen already believed that Allah was the Creator, Provider and Controller but that belief alone did not make them Muslims because they worshipped others along with Allah.

5. Asking Your Mother

Scenario: Before an exam, Aisha tells her mother, “Please make Dua to Allah that He makes my exam easy.”

Question: Is this allowed?

Answer: Yes. Asking a living Muslim to make Dua to Allah for you is an example of correct Waseelah. Her mother is making Dua to Allah and is not being worshipped.

6. Asking Someone Who Has Died

Scenario: Another student goes to the grave of a righteous person and asks the person in the grave to make his problems disappear.

Question: How is this different from Aisha asking her living mother to make Dua?

Answer: Aisha asked a living person to make Dua to Allah. The other student directed a request to someone who has died for something that only Allah can do. These two situations are not the same.

7. Who Controls the Result?

Scenario: Ahmad asks his older brother to help him carry a heavy desk. His brother helps him.

Question: Has Ahmad committed Shirk by asking his brother for help?

Answer: No. His brother is alive and able to carry the desk. Asking a living person for normal help that they are able to give is allowed. Allah is still the One who controls the final result.



8. Intercession Without Permission

Scenario: Bilal says, “A righteous person can intercede with Allah whenever he wants. He does not need Allah's permission.”

Question: What is wrong with Bilal's statement?

Answer: No one can intercede with Allah without Allah's permission. Allah says, “Who is it that can intercede with Him except by His permission?” [Surah Al-Baqarah, verse 255]

9. Only One Condition

Scenario: Sara remembers that Allah must give permission for intercession but she forgets the second condition.

Question: What is the second condition?

Answer: Allah must also be pleased with the person receiving the intercession. Allah says, “And they cannot intercede except for whom He is pleased with.” [Surah Al-Anbiya, verse 28]

10. Who Owns Intercession?

Scenario: Two students disagree. One says intercession belongs completely to Allah. The other says Prophets and righteous people control their own intercession.

Question: Who is correct?

Answer: The first student is correct. Allah says, “Say: To Allah belongs all intercession.” [Surah Az-Zumar, verse 44]

11. Using Allah's Names

Scenario: Fatimah makes Dua saying, “O Ar-Rahman, have mercy on me.”

Question: What type of Waseelah is this?

Answer: This is correct Waseelah because she is calling upon Allah through one of His Names.



12. A Sincere Good Deed

Scenario: Umar remembers a good deed that he sincerely did for Allah. During a difficulty he asks Allah to help him because of that sincere deed.

Question: Is this a correct or incorrect Waseelah?

Answer: It is a correct Waseelah. A person may seek nearness to Allah through a sincere good deed.

13. The Wrong Go-Between

Scenario: Khalid believes Allah is the Creator but thinks he needs to direct worship to a created person who will then bring him closer to Allah.

Question: Which Foundation directly answers his mistake?

Answer: The Second Foundation. The earlier Mushrikeen also claimed that they worshipped others to become closer to Allah or to receive intercession.

14. Worshipping an Angel

Scenario: Someone says, "Worshipping an idol is wrong but worshipping an angel should be allowed because angels are honoured servants of Allah."

Question: What is wrong with this reasoning?

Answer: Angels are honoured servants of Allah but they are still created beings and do not deserve worship. The Third Foundation teaches that no created being deserves any worship.

15. Prophet or Stone?

Scenario: A student says, "Surely directing worship to a Prophet is different from directing worship to a stone because a Prophet is much better than a stone."

Question: How would you answer?

Answer: A Prophet is better than a stone but neither deserves worship. The status of the created thing does not change the rule. All worship belongs to Allah alone.



16. Worshipping the Sun

Scenario: Someone is amazed by the size and brightness of the sun so he decides to prostrate to it.

Question: What important fact has he forgotten?

Answer: He has forgotten that Allah created the sun. We worship the Creator and not the creation. Allah says, “Do not prostrate to the sun or the moon but prostrate to Allah who created them.” [Surah Fussilat, verse 37]

17. A Righteous Person

Scenario: Layla says, “A very righteous person must deserve a small amount of worship because they are close to Allah.”

Question: Is she correct?

Answer: No. Righteous people themselves worship Allah, hope for His mercy and fear His punishment. Their righteousness does not give them the right to receive worship.

18. Different Objects but the Same Problem

Scenario: One person worships a tree. Another worships an angel. A third worships the sun.

Question: What do all three actions have in common?

Answer: In every case worship is being directed to something besides Allah. The Third Foundation teaches that all worship belongs to Allah alone.

19. The Special Tree

Scenario: A group of new Muslims see people using a special tree for blessings and ask for a similar tree.

Question: Which story should this remind you of and what lesson does it teach?

Answer: It should remind you of the story of Dhat Anwat. It teaches us not to copy practices of Shirk and not to claim that trees, stones or other things have special blessings without proof.



20. Accepting Correction

Scenario: A student says something wrong about Tawheed because he genuinely does not know. His teacher corrects him with evidence. The student immediately stops saying it.

Question: What lesson from the story of Dhat Anwat did he follow?

Answer: He accepted correction after learning that what he said was wrong. The Companions stopped after the Prophet ﷺ corrected them. [Jami at-Tirmidhi, 2180]

21. Easy Times and Hard Times

Scenario: A person calls upon others besides Allah when life is easy but when he thinks he might die he suddenly calls upon Allah alone.

Question: Which group mentioned in the Fourth Foundation does this resemble?

Answer: It resembles the earlier Mushrikeen who committed Shirk during easy times but called upon Allah alone during severe danger.

22. Shirk During Both

Scenario: Another person continues calling upon others besides Allah during both easy times and serious hardship.

Question: According to the Fourth Foundation how does this compare with the earlier Mushrikeen?

Answer: The Fourth Foundation explains that the later Mushrikeen were worse in this particular matter because they continued their Shirk during both ease and hardship.

23. Danger at Sea

Scenario: People on a ship face a terrible danger. They suddenly stop calling upon everything else and sincerely call upon Allah alone.

Question: Which verse in the lesson describes this behaviour?

Answer: Allah says, “And when they board a ship, they supplicate Allah, sincere to Him in religion. But when He delivers them to the land, at once they associate others with Him.” [Surah Al-Ankabut, verse 65]



24. Two Conditions but Only One Is Met

Scenario: Zayd invents a new religious act that the Prophet ﷺ never taught. He says, “But I am completely sincere and I only want Allah's reward.”

Question: Why is sincerity alone not enough?

Answer: Correct worship requires both sincerity to Allah and following the Prophet ﷺ. A sincere intention does not make an invented act of worship correct.

25. Correct Action but Wrong Intention

Scenario: A person performs an act exactly as the Prophet ﷺ taught but directs the worship to someone besides Allah.

Question: Which condition of correct worship is missing?

Answer: Sincerity to Allah is missing. Worship must be sincerely for Allah alone and it must follow the Sunnah.

26. Correct Worship

Scenario: Hafsa performs an act of worship sincerely for Allah and performs it according to the Sunnah.

Question: Which two conditions has she fulfilled?

Answer: She has fulfilled sincerity to Allah and following the Prophet ﷺ.

27. A Blessing After an Exam

Scenario: Abdullah gets the highest mark in his class. He says, “I got this only because I am smarter than everyone else.”

Question: What is missing from his thankfulness?

Answer: He should recognize in his heart that the blessing came from Allah and not only from his own ability. Thankfulness includes the heart, tongue and actions.



28. Thanking Allah but Using the Blessing Wrongly

Scenario: A boy receives money. He says “Alhamdulillah” but then deliberately uses the money to disobey Allah.

Question: Has he shown complete thankfulness?

Answer: No. Thankfulness is not only with the tongue. A person should also use Allah's blessings in obedience to Him and not in disobedience.

29. Sad but Patient

Scenario: Mariam faces a difficult test and feels sad. She does not become angry with Allah. She continues obeying Allah and trusts Him.

Question: Does feeling sad mean she has failed to be patient?

Answer: No. Patience does not mean a person cannot feel sadness or pain. It means controlling yourself, trusting Allah and continuing to obey Him.

30. Four Reactions to a Test

Scenario: Four students react differently to hardship. One becomes angry with Allah's decree. One remains patient. One is satisfied with Allah's decree. One is thankful to Allah even during the test.

Question: Put their reactions in order according to the four levels taught in the notes.

Answer: Being angry is forbidden. Being patient is required. Being satisfied is recommended. Being thankful during the test is the highest level mentioned.

31. Giving Up After Sinning

Scenario: A student commits a sin and says, “There is no point asking Allah to forgive me. I have made too many mistakes.”

Question: What important teaching has he forgotten?

Answer: He should never lose hope in Allah's mercy. Allah says, “Do not despair of the Mercy of Allah.” [Surah Az-Zumar, verse 53]



32. Three Different Days

Scenario: On Monday, Ali receives a blessing. On Tuesday, he faces a difficult test. On Wednesday, he commits a sin.

Question: What should he do on each day?

Answer: On Monday he should be thankful. On Tuesday he should be patient. On Wednesday he should repent and ask Allah for forgiveness. These are the three signs of happiness.

33. Haneefiyyah

Scenario: A student says, "Haneefiyyah just means believing that Allah exists."

Question: What is missing from this definition?

Answer: Haneefiyyah means turning away from Shirk towards Tawheed, worshipping Allah alone and making worship sincerely for Him. It is the religion of Ibrahim عليه السلام.

34. Why Were We Created?

Scenario: Someone says, "The main reason humans exist is to eat, have fun and collect as much wealth as possible."

Question: How would you correct this statement?

Answer: Allah created mankind and jinn to worship Him. Allah says, "I created not the jinn and mankind except that they should worship Me." [Surah Adh-Dhariyat, verse 56]

35. Does Allah Need Our Worship?

Scenario: A child asks, "Did Allah command us to worship Him because He needs something from us?"

Question: What should you answer?

Answer: No. Allah is free of all need. We are the ones who need Him and we benefit from His guidance and reward.



36. Three Categories

Scenario: A student believes Allah alone created everything and believes in Allah's Names and Attributes correctly. However, he directs some worship to someone besides Allah.

Question: Which category of Tawheed has he failed to fulfil?

Answer: Tawheed of Worship because all acts of worship must be directed to Allah alone.

37. Names and Attributes

Scenario: A student learns that Allah is As-Sami, the All-Hearing and believes in this Name as taught in the Quran and Sunnah.

Question: Which category of Tawheed is he learning?

Answer: Tawheed of Allah's Names and Attributes.

38. Creator and Provider

Scenario: A teacher asks, "Who alone created everything, provides for creation and controls everything?" A student answers, "Allah."

Question: Which category of Tawheed does the student's answer describe?

Answer: Tawheed of Lordship.

39. Dua to Allah Alone

Scenario: A child becomes frightened and immediately makes Dua directly to Allah.

Question: Which category of Tawheed is being shown through this act?

Answer: Tawheed of Worship because Dua is an act of worship and the child directed it to Allah alone.



40. Hidden Shirk

Scenario: Nobody knows that Ibrahim wants people to praise his worship. Outwardly everything looks normal.

Question: Why can this be called hidden Shirk?

Answer: Because the problem may be hidden inside his heart and other people may not know about it. Showing off in worship can be hidden from people.

41. Feeling Completely Safe From Shirk

Scenario: A student says, "I know Tawheed very well so I never need to worry about falling into Shirk."

Question: What example from Ibrahim عليه السلام should make the student reconsider?

Answer: Even Ibrahim عليه السلام asked Allah to keep him and his sons away from worshipping idols. Allah says, "My Lord, make this city [Makkah] secure and keep me and my sons away from worshipping idols." [Surah Ibrahim, verse 35]

42. Learning About Shirk

Scenario: Hassan says, "We should only study Tawheed. There is no reason to learn what Shirk means."

Question: Why is his thinking dangerous?

Answer: We learn about Shirk so we can recognize it and stay away from it. The Quran and Sunnah explain its meaning, types and dangers.

43. Swearing by Someone Else

Scenario: A boy says, "I swear by my father that I am telling the truth."

Question: According to the lesson what type of Shirk is this an example of and what should he do instead?

Answer: It is an example of Minor Shirk. A Muslim should swear by Allah or remain silent.



44. Major or Minor?

Scenario: Two people do different things. The first directs an act of worship to someone besides Allah. The second begins worshipping Allah sincerely but starts showing off when people watch.

Question: Which example is Major Shirk and which is Minor Shirk?

Answer: Directing an act of worship to someone besides Allah is Major Shirk. Showing off in worship is an example of Minor Shirk.

45. Bismillah Before Drinking

Scenario: A child picks up a cup of water and says “Bismillah” before drinking. He does not say “In the Name of Allah, I drink.”

Question: Is the action still understood?

Answer: Yes. The action is understood even when it is not spoken. Saying Bismillah before drinking carries the understood meaning “In the Name of Allah, I drink.”

46. Three Names in the Basmalah

Scenario: Your teacher asks you to explain the three Names found in the Basmalah rather than simply list them.

Question: What would you say?

Answer: Allah is the One who alone deserves to be worshipped. Ar-Rahman is the One whose mercy is vast and reaches all creation. Ar-Raheem is the One who gives special mercy to His believing servants.

47. Barakah Without Evidence

Scenario: A student finds an ordinary stone and tells everyone, “This stone definitely has special Barakah. Touch it and you will receive special blessings.” He has no evidence from Islam.

Question: What principle about Barakah has he ignored?

Answer: He has ignored that we cannot claim an object or place has special blessing without evidence. Barakah is sought only in ways Islam allows.



48. Same Tawheed but Different Laws

Scenario: A student learns that different Prophets عليهم السلام sometimes had different detailed laws. He concludes, "Their Tawheed must have been different too."

Question: Is his conclusion correct?

Answer: No. Some detailed laws were different but the foundation never changed. All the Prophets عليهم السلام called people to Tawheed and the worship of Allah alone.

49. The Four Foundations Challenge

Scenario: Your teacher gives you four statements:

- A. "Allah created everything so believing this alone is enough."
- B. "I worship this righteous person only to become closer to Allah."
- C. "Worshipping an angel is acceptable because an angel is better than an idol."
- D. "I call upon others besides Allah during both easy and difficult times."

Question: Match each statement to the Foundation that answers it.

Answer:

- A: First Foundation. Believing in Allah's Lordship alone is not enough.
- B: Second Foundation. Seeking closeness to Allah does not make directing worship to others acceptable.
- C: Third Foundation. Nothing besides Allah deserves worship whether it is an angel, Prophet, righteous person, Jinn, stone, tree, sun or moon.
- D: Fourth Foundation. The later Mushrikeen continued their Shirk during both ease and hardship.



50. Final Challenge

Scenario: Abdullah believes Allah created everything. He believes in Allah's Names and Attributes. He prays according to the Sunnah and normally makes Dua only to Allah. One day he faces a serious problem. He decides to call upon a person who has died because he thinks, "This person is righteous and can bring me closer to Allah. My intention is only to get closer to Allah."

Question: Abdullah gives you four reasons why he thinks his action should be acceptable:

1. "I believe Allah is the Creator."
2. "The person I am calling upon was righteous."
3. "My intention is good."
4. "I only want to become closer to Allah."

Using the Four Foundations, explain why none of these reasons makes his action correct.

Answer: His belief that Allah is the Creator is not enough because the First Foundation teaches that the earlier Mushrikeen also believed Allah was the Creator, Provider and Controller but they still directed worship to others. The righteousness of the person does not make them worthy of worship because the Third Foundation teaches that even Prophets عليهم السلام, angels and righteous people do not deserve worship. His good intention does not make the action correct because the Second Foundation teaches that the Mushrikeen also claimed they wanted to become closer to Allah. Worship must be sincerely for Allah alone. His situation also shows why Tawheed must be protected during both easy and difficult times.