50 Scenario Questions

1. Author of the Book

Scenario: A new student asks, "Who wrote Sharh As-Sunnah?"

Question: What should you tell the student?

Answer: Sharh As-Sunnah was written by Imam Abu Ibrahim Isma'il ibn Yahya al-Muzani, may Allah have mercy on him. He was a famous student of Imam ash-Shafi'i.

2. Birth and Death

Scenario: Hamza remembers the name of Imam al-Muzani but forgets when he lived.

Question: What years should he remember?

Answer: Imam al-Muzani was born in 175 AH and died in 264 AH.

3. Purpose of the Book

Scenario: Maryam asks, "Why did Imam al-Muzani write this book?"

Question: What is the main purpose?

Answer: He wrote it to explain the beliefs of Ahlus-Sunnah clearly and to help Muslims stay away from wrong beliefs and new ideas in the religion.

4. Beginning With Taqwa

Scenario: Yusuf starts reading the book and notices that Imam al-Muzani begins with a Du'a.

Question: What does he ask Allah to give the reader?

Answer: He asks Allah to give the reader Taqwa and success in following the truth.

5. Allah Is One

Scenario: Bilal says, "Allah is one but He may still be like His creation in some ways."

Question: What lesson corrects this?

Answer: Allah is One, perfect and unlike His creation. Nothing is like Allah.

6. Surah ash-Shura 42:11

Scenario: A student is asked for a verse showing that Allah is unlike His creation.

Question: Which verse from the notes should he remember?

Answer: Surah ash-Shura 42:11 teaches that nothing is like Allah and He is the All-Hearing, All-Seeing.

7. Surah al-Ikhlas

Scenario: Fatimah is asked what Surah al-Ikhlas teaches about Allah.

Question: What should she say?

Answer: It teaches that Allah is One and the Eternal. All creation needs Allah and Allah does not need His creation.

8. Allah Above His Throne

Scenario: A student asks where Allah is according to the treatise.

Question: What is the answer in the notes?

Answer: Allah is above His Throne in a way that suits His Majesty. He is separate from His creation and His knowledge covers everything.

9. Allah Knows Everything

Scenario: Omar whispers something and says, "No one knows what is inside my heart."

Question: What should he remember about Allah?

Answer: Allah knows what people show, what they hide and what is inside their hearts. Nothing is hidden from Allah.

10. Meaning of Qadar

Scenario: A teacher asks Amina to explain Qadar in simple words.

Question: What should she say?

Answer: Qadar means that Allah knew and decreed everything before it happened. Nothing happens outside Allah's knowledge and decree.

11. People Still Make Choices

Scenario: Khalid says, "If Allah decreed everything, then people have no choices at all."

Question: What is wrong with this statement?

Answer: People still make real choices and are responsible for what they do. Allah's decree does not mean that people have no choice.

12. Qadar Is Not an Excuse

Scenario: A student knowingly sins and then says, "It is not my fault because it was Qadar."

Question: What lesson should correct him?

Answer: A person cannot use Qadar as an excuse for sin. People are responsible for the choices they make.

13. Allah Is Just

Scenario: Someone says Allah may punish people unfairly.

Question: Which lesson corrects this?

Answer: Allah is perfectly just. Surah an-Nisa 4:40 teaches that Allah does not wrong anyone even by the weight of an atom.

14. Two Wrong Ideas About Qadar

Scenario: Two students make opposite mistakes. One denies Qadar. The other says people are completely forced.

Question: What should they understand?

Answer: Both ideas are wrong. A Muslim believes in Qadar and also believes that people make real choices and are responsible for their actions.

15. Two Types of Allah's Will

Scenario: A student asks why a sin can happen even though Allah does not love sin.

Question: How do the notes explain this?

Answer: The notes explain that there is what Allah allows to happen in creation and what Allah loves and commands in the religion. A sin can happen by Allah's decree even though Allah does not love that sin.

16. The Angels Are Real

Scenario: A student says, "Angels are only symbols and are not real beings."

Question: What do the notes teach?

Answer: The Angels are real created beings. Allah created them to worship and obey Him.

17. Duties of the Angels

Scenario: A teacher asks for three duties of the Angels mentioned in the notes.

Question: Name three.

Answer: The Angels have different duties. Some carry the Throne, some bring revelation, some record deeds, some take souls at death and some question people in the grave.

18. Jibril عليه السلام

Scenario: Sami asks which Angel is known for bringing revelation.

Question: What should you tell him?

Answer: Jibril عليه السلام is the Angel known for bringing revelation.

19. Adam عليه السلام

Scenario: A student asks where Adam عليه السلام lived before coming to earth.

Question: What is the answer?

Answer: Allah created Adam عليه السلام and placed him in Paradise before he came to the earth.

20. The Forbidden Tree

Scenario: Adam عليه السلام was told not to eat from one tree. Shaytan then tricked him.

Question: What main lesson should a student learn?

Answer: A Muslim should obey Allah and be careful of Shaytan because Shaytan tries to lead people into disobedience.

21. Adam عليه السلام and Qadar

Scenario: A student says Adam عليه السلام coming to earth happened outside Allah's knowledge.

Question: How should this be corrected?

Answer: Adam عليه السلام coming to the earth was already known and decreed by Allah.

22. Paradise and Hell

Scenario: A student says, "Paradise and Hell are only ideas, not real places."

Question: What do the notes teach?

Answer: Paradise and Hell are real and they already exist.

23. Qadar and Good Deeds

Scenario: A student says, "If Allah already knows who will enter Paradise, there is no reason to do good deeds."

Question: What is wrong with this?

Answer: People do not know what is written for them. They must obey Allah, do good deeds and stay away from sin.

24. Meaning of Iman

Scenario: A teacher asks Maryam to define Iman.

Question: What should she say?

Answer: Iman means belief in the heart, words of the tongue and actions of the body.

25. Iman Increases

Scenario: Ahmed obeys Allah, learns more and does good deeds.

Question: What can happen to his Iman?

Answer: His Iman can increase. Iman increases with obedience and good deeds.

26. Iman Decreases

Scenario: A student becomes careless with sins.

Question: What can happen to his Iman?

Answer: His Iman can decrease because Iman decreases with sin.

27. Different Levels of Iman

Scenario: Two Muslims both have Iman but one is stronger in obedience and good deeds.

Question: Can their level of Iman be different?

Answer: Yes. Some believers have stronger Iman than others.

28. Major Sins and Iman

Scenario: A student says, "Every Muslim who commits a major sin automatically leaves Islam."

Question: What do the notes say?

Answer: A Muslim does not automatically leave Islam because of every sin or major sin.

29. Specific People in Paradise or Hell

Scenario: Someone says, "I can say for sure that this specific Muslim is in Paradise."

Question: What rule should he remember?

Answer: We do not say a specific Muslim is definitely in Paradise or Hell unless there is clear evidence.

30. The Qur'an

Scenario: A student asks, "What is the Qur'an?"

Question: What is the answer from the notes?

Answer: The Qur'an is the Speech of Allah. It is from Allah and it is not created.

31. Allah's Attributes

Scenario: A student says Allah's Attributes are like human qualities.

Question: What should correct him?

Answer: Allah's Names and Attributes are perfect and are not like the qualities of created beings.

32. Accepting Allah's Attributes

Scenario: A person accepts some Attributes of Allah but rejects others that are clearly taught in the Qur'an and Sunnah.

Question: What rule from the notes should he follow?

Answer: We accept what Allah says about Himself and what Prophet Muhammad ﷺ taught about Him. We do not deny Allah's Attributes.

33. No Comparison to Creation

Scenario: A student tries to imagine exactly how Allah's Attributes are like human attributes.

Question: What should he remember?

Answer: We do not compare Allah to creation. Nothing is like Allah.

34. Appointed Time of Death

Scenario: A student says a person may die before the time Allah wrote for them.

Question: What do the notes teach?

Answer: Every person has a set time of death. No one dies before or after the time Allah has written.

35. Who Knows the Time of Death?

Scenario: Someone claims he knows exactly when another person will die.

Question: What should a Muslim believe?

Answer: Only Allah knows exactly when and where a person will die.

36. The Grave

Scenario: After a person dies and is buried, a student says nothing happens until the Resurrection.

Question: What do the notes teach?

Answer: After burial, the person will be questioned in the grave. Death is not the end.

37. Meaning of Barzakh

Scenario: A teacher asks what Barzakh means in these notes.

Question: What should the student answer?

Answer: Barzakh is the life between this world and the Resurrection.

38. Resurrection

Scenario: A student says people will never be brought back after their bodies break down.

Question: What belief corrects this?

Answer: Allah will bring all people back to life and gather them on the Day of Judgement.

39. Records of Deeds

Scenario: Zayd thinks some of his old deeds may be forgotten on the Day of Judgement.

Question: What should he remember?

Answer: Allah records every deed. Nothing is forgotten by Allah.

40. The Scale

Scenario: A student asks what happens to people's deeds on the Day of Judgement.

Question: What do the notes say?

Answer: Their deeds will be shown, their records will be opened and their deeds will be weighed.

41. Allah's Judgement

Scenario: A person is worried that the Judgement may be unfair.

Question: What should he remember?

Answer: Allah will judge everyone with perfect justice.

42. Paradise

Scenario: A student asks what life in Paradise will be like.

Question: What simple answer can you give?

Answer: The people of Paradise will have happiness, honour and blessings. They will never become tired of Paradise and they will never be forced to leave it.

43. Path to Paradise

Scenario: A student asks, "What path leads to Paradise?"

Question: What should you tell him?

Answer: The path to Paradise is obedience to Allah and obedience to His Messenger ﷺ.

44. Seeing Allah in the Hereafter

Scenario: A student says believers will never see Allah.

Question: What do the notes teach?

Answer: The believers will see Allah in the Hereafter. Seeing Allah will be one of the greatest rewards of Paradise.

45. Obedience to Muslim Rulers

Scenario: A Muslim ruler gives a command that is right and does not involve sin.

Question: What principle applies?

Answer: Muslim rulers are obeyed in what is right.

46. No Obedience in Sin

Scenario: A ruler commands a person to commit a clear sin.

Question: Must that sinful command be obeyed?

Answer: No. There is no obedience to anyone in disobedience to Allah.

47. Do Not Rush to Judge Muslims

Scenario: A student sees another Muslim commit a major sin and immediately declares him outside Islam.

Question: What warning from the notes applies?

Answer: Major sins do not automatically make every Muslim a disbeliever. A student should not rush to make serious rulings about specific people without knowledge.

48. The Four Rightly Guided Caliphs

Scenario: A teacher asks for the order of the first four Caliphs mentioned in the notes.

Question: What is the order?

Answer: Abu Bakr رضي الله عنه, then Umar رضي الله عنه, then Uthman رضي الله عنه, then Ali رضي الله عنه.

49. Respecting the Companions

Scenario: Two students begin speaking badly about the disagreements that happened between the Companions.

Question: What should they remember?

Answer: Muslims should love and respect the Companions, mention their good qualities and avoid speaking badly about the disagreements that happened between them.

50. Final Comprehensive Challenge

Scenario: Abdullah says, "Iman is only in the heart, the Qur'an is created, people have no choices because of Qadar and major sins always take a Muslim outside Islam."

Question: Correct Abdullah using the main exam points.

Answer: Iman includes belief in the heart, words of the tongue and actions of the body. The Qur'an is the Speech of Allah and is not created. Allah decreed everything but people still make real choices and are responsible for their actions. A Muslim does not automatically leave Islam because of every major sin.