



UNIVERSITY *of* CAMBRIDGE
International Examinations

Cambridge
O Level

SYLLABUS

Cambridge O Level
Islamic Religion and Culture
2056

For examination in November 2014

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1. Introduction

1.1 Why choose Cambridge?

University of Cambridge International Examinations is the world's largest provider of international education programmes and qualifications for 5 to 19 year olds. We are part of the University of Cambridge, trusted for excellence in education. Our qualifications are recognised by the world's universities and employers.

Developed for an international audience

Cambridge O Levels have been designed for an international audience and are sensitive to the needs of different countries. These qualifications are designed for students whose first language may not be English and this is acknowledged throughout the examination process. The Cambridge O Level syllabus also allows teaching to be placed in a localised context, making it relevant in varying regions.

Recognition

Every year, thousands of learners gain the Cambridge qualifications they need to enter the world's universities.

Cambridge O Level is internationally recognised by schools, universities and employers as equivalent to UK GCSE. Learn more at www.cie.org.uk/recognition

Excellence in education

We understand education. We work with over 9000 schools in over 160 countries who offer our programmes and qualifications. Understanding learners' needs around the world means listening carefully to our community of schools, and we are pleased that 98% of Cambridge schools say they would recommend us to other schools.

Our mission is to provide excellence in education, and our vision is that Cambridge learners become confident, responsible, innovative and engaged.

Cambridge programmes and qualifications help Cambridge learners to become:

- **confident** in working with information and ideas – their own and those of others
- **responsible** for themselves, responsive to and respectful of others
- **innovative** and equipped for new and future challenges
- **engaged** intellectually and socially, ready to make a difference

Support in the classroom

We provide a world-class support service for Cambridge teachers and exams officers. We offer a wide range of teacher materials to Cambridge schools, plus teacher training (online and face-to-face), expert advice and learner-support materials. Exams officers can trust in reliable, efficient administration of exams entry and excellent, personal support from our customer services. Learn more at www.cie.org.uk/teachers

Not-for-profit, part of the University of Cambridge

We are a part of Cambridge Assessment, a department of the University of Cambridge and a not-for-profit organisation.

We invest constantly in research and development to improve our programmes and qualifications.

1.2 Why choose Cambridge O Level?

Cambridge helps your school improve learners' performance. Learners develop not only knowledge and understanding, but also skills in creative thinking, enquiry and problem solving, helping them to perform well and prepare for the next stage of their education.

Schools worldwide have helped develop Cambridge O Levels, which provide an excellent preparation for Cambridge International AS and A Levels.

Cambridge O Level incorporates the best in international education for learners at this level. It develops in line with changing needs, and we update and extend it regularly.

1.3 Why choose Cambridge O Level Islamic Religion and Culture?

Cambridge O Levels are established qualifications that keep pace with educational developments and trends. The Cambridge O Level curriculum places emphasis on broad and balanced study across a wide range of subject areas. The curriculum is structured so that candidates attain both practical skills and theoretical knowledge.

Cambridge O Level Islamic Religion and Culture is recognised by universities and employers throughout the world as proof of knowledge and understanding.

This syllabus aims to develop candidates' interest and enthusiasm for the study of Islam. It provides an introduction to the basic teachings of the Qur'an and the Hadith, and also covers Arabia in the pre-Islamic period, the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), the Caliphate period, and the four pious Caliphs.

Through their studies of Islamic religion and culture, candidates will be encouraged to identify and explore the religious and ethical issues raised in the Qur'an, and by the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), while also gaining an understanding of the effect of Islam on its believers. Candidates will also be encouraged to apply historical and other relevant knowledge, for example, in exploring the development of Islam and its beliefs, practices and traditions.

1.4 How can I find out more?

If you are already a Cambridge school

You can make entries for this qualification through your usual channels. If you have any questions, please contact us at **international@cie.org.uk**

If you are not yet a Cambridge school

Learn about the benefits of becoming a Cambridge school at **www.cie.org.uk/startcambridge**.
Email us at **international@cie.org.uk** to find out how your organisation can become a Cambridge school.

2. Assessment at a glance

Candidates will take one question paper.

Paper 1

2 hours 30 minutes

The paper has **two** sections – Part I and Part II.

Candidates answer a total of **five** questions from 12.

At least two questions must be chosen from each part of the question paper.

Availability

This syllabus is examined in the October/November examination series.

This syllabus is available to private candidates.

Cambridge O levels are available to Centres in Administrative Zones 3, 4 and 5. Centres in Administrative Zones 1, 2 or 6 wishing to enter candidates for Cambridge O Level examinations should contact Cambridge Customer Services.

Combining this with other syllabuses

Candidates can combine this syllabus in an examination series with any other Cambridge syllabus, except:

- syllabuses with the same title at the same level
- 0493 Cambridge IGCSE Islamiyat
- 2058 Cambridge O Level Islamiyat

Please note that Cambridge O Level, Cambridge International Level 1/Level 2 Certificates and Cambridge IGCSE syllabuses are at the same level.

3. Syllabus aims and objectives

3.1 Aims

The aims of the syllabus are to:

- Develop an interest and enthusiasm for the study of Islam.
- Introduce candidates to the basic teachings of the Qur'an and Hadith, and to pre-Islamic and Islamic religious life.
- Help candidates identify and explore the religious and ethical issues raised in the Qur'an and by Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).

3.2 Assessment objectives

The examination will assess the candidate's ability to:

- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the major themes of the syllabus and of the specified texts.
- Apply historical and other relevant knowledge – for example, in explaining the development of Islam and its beliefs, practices and traditions.
- Demonstrate the effects of Islam on the behaviour of believers.

4. Curriculum content

Part I

Section A: Arabia in the Pre-Islamic Period

- (a) Tribal and political organisations
- (b) Social conditions and economic system
- (c) Religious beliefs

Section B: Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)

- (a) Life before prophethood
- (b) Muhammad (pbuh) as the final messenger of Islam
- (c) Problems faced in Mecca
- (d) Success and achievements in Medina
- (e) Reasons, descriptions and consequences of the following battles fought during the Medinan Period: Bedr, Uhud and Trench
- (f) Conquest of Mecca and the farewell address

Section C: The Caliphate Period/The Four Pious Caliphs

- (a) The power of the Caliphs and their position in the community
- (b) Ways of electing the Caliphs
- (c) The conquests and achievements of the Caliphs

Part II

Section D: The Holy Qur'an

- (a) The structure and evolution of the Qur'an
- (b) Candidates are expected to have a general knowledge of the following Suras:

| | |
|--|---------------------------|
| (i) Fateha – Opening Chapter | Chapter 1 verses 1 to 7 |
| (ii) Alaq – Clot of Blood | Chapter 96 verses 1 to 5 |
| (iii) Zilzal – Convulsion | Chapter 99 verses 1 to 8 |
| (iv) Quraish – Custodians of the Ka'ba | Chapter 106 verses 1 to 4 |
| (v) Kauthar – Abundance | Chapter 108 verses 1 to 3 |
| (vi) Ikhlas – Purity (of Faith) | Chapter 112 verses 1 to 4 |

Specified text: A Yusuf Ali; *An English interpretation of the Holy Qur'an with full Arabic Text*; Muhammed Ashraf Publisher and Bookseller; 1982

- (c) The following Qur'anic stories are to be studied:
- (i) Prophet Adam (AS)
 - (ii) Prophet Ibrahim (AS)
 - (iii) Prophet Nuh (AS)
 - (iv) Prophet Musa (AS)
- (d) The following Qur'anic beliefs, practices and rituals are to be studied:
- (i) Five pillars
 - (ii) Articles of faith
 - (iii) Id-ul-Fitr, Id-ud-Doha
 - (iv) The birth, marriage and funeral rites

Section E: Hadith

- (i) The meaning of Hadith
- (ii) The importance of Hadith in Islam
- (iii) The classification of Hadith Sahih (very sound), Hassan (good), Daif (weak), Mauzu (suspect/false)
- (iv) Relations between Qur'an and Hadith
- (v) Candidates are expected to have a general knowledge of the following Hadith:
 - No. 11 Doubt
 - No. 13 Love
 - No. 15 Generosity
 - No. 16 Tolerance
 - No. 34 Evil
 - No. 39 Forgiveness

Specified text: Ezzedin Ibrahim and Denys Johnson-Davies (translators); *An-Nawawi's Forty Hadith*; The Holy Koran Publishing House (1977); Islamic Texts Society (1997); ISBN 0946621659

5. Resource list

| Author | Title | Date | Publisher | ISBN Number |
|-------------------------------|--|--------------|--|-------------|
| P.K. Hitti | <i>History of the Arabs</i> | 2002 | Palgrave Macmillan Ltd | 0333631420 |
| Dr Majid Ali Khan | <i>Muhammad The Final Messenger</i> | 1983 | Muhammed Ashraf, Publishers and Booksellers, Lahore, Pakistan | |
| Prof. Fazl Ahmad | <i>The Four Caliphs of Islam</i> | 1983 | Taj Company, Delhi, India | |
| Sayyid Qutb | <i>In the shade of the Holy Qur'an (Vol. 30); translated by Salah & Shamis</i> | 1979 | Delhi Publications | |
| Gulam Sarwar | <i>Islam – Beliefs and Teachings</i> | 1997 2000 | Markazi Maktaba Islami, Delhi, India Muslim Educational Trust | 0907261361 |
| Abdullah Yusuf Ali | <i>The Message of Islam; The Wisdom of the East Series</i> | 1992 | John Murray London | 0719551404 |
| Syed Ali Ashraf | <i>Islam</i> | 1991 | Nelson Thomas Ltd | 1871402107 |
| Rosalyn Kendrick | <i>Islam</i> | 1989 | Heinemann | 0435303147 |
| Farkhanda Noor Muhammad | <i>Islamiyat for Students</i> | 2000 | Ferozsons, Lahore | 9690101234 |
| Victor W. Watton | <i>Islam</i> | 1993 | Hodder and Stoughton | 0340587954 |
| Dr D. Thomas and Dr M. Draper | <i>Islamiyat: A Core Text for O Level</i> | 2004 | Oxford University Press; Pakistan | 0195977831 |

Resources are also listed on Cambridge's public website at www.cie.org.uk. Please visit this site on a regular basis as the Resource lists are updated through the year.

6. Additional information

6.1 Guided learning hours

Cambridge O Level syllabuses are designed on the assumption that candidates have about 130 guided learning hours per subject over the duration of the course. ('Guided learning hours' include direct teaching and any other supervised or directed study time. They do not include private study by the candidate.)

However, this figure is for guidance only, and the number of hours required may vary according to local curricular practice and the candidates' prior experience of the subject.

6.2 Recommended prior learning

Candidates beginning this course are not expected to have studied Islam previously.

6.3 Progression

Cambridge O Level Certificates are general qualifications that enable candidates to progress either directly to employment, or to proceed to further qualifications.

Candidates who are awarded grades C to A* in Cambridge O Level Islamic Religion and Culture are well prepared to follow courses leading to Cambridge International AS and A Level Islamic Studies, or the equivalent.

6.4 Component codes

Because of local variations, in some cases component codes will be different in instructions about making entries for examinations and timetables from those printed in this syllabus, but the component names will be unchanged to make identification straightforward.

6.5 Grading and reporting

Cambridge O Level results are shown by one of the grades A*, A, B, C, D or E indicating the standard achieved, Grade A* being the highest and Grade E the lowest. 'Ungraded' indicates that the candidate's performance fell short of the standard required for Grade E. 'Ungraded' will be reported on the statement of results but not on the certificate.

Percentage uniform marks are also provided on each candidate's statement of results to supplement their grade for a syllabus. They are determined in this way:

- A candidate who obtains...
 - ... the minimum mark necessary for a Grade A* obtains a percentage uniform mark of 90%.
 - ... the minimum mark necessary for a Grade A obtains a percentage uniform mark of 80%.
 - ... the minimum mark necessary for a Grade B obtains a percentage uniform mark of 70%.
 - ... the minimum mark necessary for a Grade C obtains a percentage uniform mark of 60%.

- ... the minimum mark necessary for a Grade D obtains a percentage uniform mark of 50%.
- ... the minimum mark necessary for a Grade E obtains a percentage uniform mark of 40%.
- ... no marks receives a percentage uniform mark of 0%.

Candidates whose mark is none of the above receive a percentage mark in between those stated according to the position of their mark in relation to the grade 'thresholds' (i.e. the minimum mark for obtaining a grade). For example, a candidate whose mark is halfway between the minimum for a Grade C and the minimum for a Grade D (and whose grade is therefore D) receives a percentage uniform mark of 55%.

The percentage uniform mark is stated at syllabus level only. It is not the same as the 'raw' mark obtained by the candidate, since it depends on the position of the grade thresholds (which may vary from one series to another and from one subject to another) and it has been turned into a percentage.

6.6 Access

Reasonable adjustments are made for disabled candidates in order to enable them to access the assessments and to demonstrate what they know and what they can do. For this reason, very few candidates will have a complete barrier to the assessment. Information on reasonable adjustments is found in the *Cambridge Handbook* which can be downloaded from the website **www.cie.org.uk**

Candidates who are unable to access part of the assessment, even after exploring all possibilities through reasonable adjustments, may still be able to receive an award based on the parts of the assessment they have taken.

6.7 Support and resources

Copies of syllabuses, the most recent question papers and Principal Examiners' reports for teachers are on the Syllabus and Support Materials CD-ROM, which we send to all Cambridge International Schools. They are also on our public website – go to **www.cie.org.uk/olevel**. Click the **Subjects** tab and choose your subject. For resources, click 'Resource List'.

You can use the 'Filter by' list to show all resources or only resources categorised as 'Endorsed by Cambridge'. Endorsed resources are written to align closely with the syllabus they support. They have been through a detailed quality-assurance process. As new resources are published, we review them against the syllabus and publish their details on the relevant resource list section of the website.

Additional syllabus-specific support is available from our secure Teacher Support website **http://teachers.cie.org.uk** which is available to teachers at registered Cambridge schools. It provides past question papers and examiner reports on previous examinations, as well as any extra resources such as schemes of work or examples of candidate responses. You can also find a range of subject communities on the Teacher Support website, where Cambridge teachers can share their own materials and join discussion groups.

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