

# Syllabus

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Cambridge O Level Islamic Religion and Culture  
Syllabus code 2056  
For examination in November 2012



UNIVERSITY *of* CAMBRIDGE  
International Examinations



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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Why choose Cambridge?

University of Cambridge International Examinations (CIE) is the world's largest provider of international qualifications. Around 1.5 million students from 150 countries enter Cambridge examinations every year. What makes educators around the world choose Cambridge?

### Developed for an international audience

International O Levels have been designed specially 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 curriculum also allows teaching to be placed in a localised context, making it relevant in varying regions.

### Recognition

Cambridge O Levels are internationally recognised by schools, universities and employers as equivalent to UK GCSE. They are excellent preparation for A/AS Level, the Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE), US Advanced Placement Programme and the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma. CIE is accredited by the UK Government regulator, the Office of the Qualifications and Examinations Regulator (Ofqual). Learn more at [www.cie.org.uk/recognition](http://www.cie.org.uk/recognition).

### Support

CIE provides a world-class support service for teachers and exams officers. We offer a wide range of teacher materials to Centres, plus teacher training (online and face-to-face) and student support materials. Exams officers can trust in reliable, efficient administration of exams entry and excellent, personal support from CIE Customer Services. Learn more at [www.cie.org.uk/teachers](http://www.cie.org.uk/teachers).

### Excellence in education

Cambridge qualifications develop successful students. They not only build understanding and knowledge required for progression, but also learning and thinking skills that help students become independent learners and equip them for life.

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

CIE is part of Cambridge Assessment, a not-for-profit organisation and part of the University of Cambridge. The needs of teachers and learners are at the core of what we do. CIE invests constantly in improving its qualifications and services. We draw upon education research in developing our qualifications.

# 1. Introduction

## 1.2 Why choose Cambridge O Level Islamic Religion and Culture?

International O Levels are established qualifications that keep pace with educational developments and trends. The International 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.

## 1.3 How can I find out more?

### If you are already a Cambridge Centre

You can make entries for this qualification through your usual channels, e.g. your regional representative, the British Council or CIE Direct. If you have any queries, please contact us at **international@cie.org.uk**.

### If you are not a Cambridge Centre

You can find out how your organisation can become a Cambridge Centre. Email either your local British Council representative or CIE at **international@cie.org.uk**. Learn more about the benefits of becoming a Cambridge Centre at **www.cie.org.uk**.

# 2. Assessment at a glance

## Cambridge O Level Islamic Religion and Culture Syllabus code 2056

Candidates will take one question paper.

Paper 1	2 hours 30 minutes
The paper has <b>two</b> sections – Part I and Part II. Candidates answer a total of <b>five</b> 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 session.

This syllabus is available to private candidates.

### Combining this with other syllabuses

Candidates can combine this syllabus in an examination session with any other CIE syllabus, except:

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

Please note that IGCSE, Cambridge International Level 1/Level 2 Certificates and O Level 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

# 4. Curriculum content

- (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
R.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 Salahy &amp; 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 CIE's public website at [www.cie.org.uk](http://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

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

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 O Level Islamic Religion and Culture are well prepared to follow courses leading to 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

Ordinary Level (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.

# 6. Additional information

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 uniform percentage 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 session to another and from one subject to another) and it has been turned into a percentage.

## 6.6 Resources

Copies of syllabuses, the most recent question papers and Principal Examiners' reports are available on the Syllabus and Support Materials CD-ROM, which is sent to all CIE Centres.

Resources are also listed on CIE's public website at [www.cie.org.uk](http://www.cie.org.uk). Please visit this site on a regular basis as the Resource lists are updated through the year.

Access to teachers' email discussion groups, suggested schemes of work and regularly updated resource lists may be found on the CIE Teacher Support website at <http://teachers.cie.org.uk>. This website is available to teachers at registered CIE Centres.

