iGCSE Islamic Studies - Course Information

The International GCSE in Islamic Studies is designed to develop students' knowledge and understanding of Islam in historical and contemporary contexts, through a range of key topics and the texts of both the Qur'an and Hadith. It will enable students to develop their skills of analysis and interpretation, in the context of questions and issues that affect Islam and the lives of Muslims today.

The course is divided into three key sections:

- The life, teachings and achievements of the Prophet Muhammad
- The key beliefs, practices and features of the early Muslim community founded by the Prophet
- Living the Muslim life today.

In the design and development of this qualification, we have consulted with a range of stakeholders, including teachers, Islamic scholars and academics, to select content that reflects the core values and beliefs of Islam.

In order to offer a qualification that has broad appeal and is appropriate for a range of international students from different religious backgrounds, we have chosen content to reflect the key cultural and religious topics within Islam that can be taught by teachers from different religions and denominations within Islam.

This will give students a holistic knowledge and understanding of Islam, allowing them the best opportunity to progress successfully in further study. We have selected the most appropriate and reliable version of the Hadith to provide consistency and simplicity for teachers and students.

The mark scheme permits 'any other valid answer' to be accepted, which means that students with differing viewpoints will be rewarded equally.

Qualification at a glance Qualification overview

The Pearson Edexcel International GCSE in Islamic Studies consists of one externally examined paper. The paper must be taken at the end of the course of study.

Content and assessment overview

Paper 1: Islamic Studies	***Paper code: 4IS1/01**
Externally assessed Written examination: 2 hours and 30 minutes Availability: June	marks 100% of the qualification

90 marks	
Content overview Students must study the related passages given in Appendix 5: Passages from the Qur'an and Hadith ● Section A: The life, teachings and achievements of the Prophet Muhammad ● Section B: The key beliefs, practices and features of the early Muslim community founded by the Prophet. ● Section C: Living the Muslim life today.	
Assessment overview • This paper has three sections. Students will answer four questions in total: o Section A: students choose one out of two questions o Section B: students choose one out of two questions o Section C: students answer both questions	

Section A: The life, teachings and achievements of the Prophet Muhammad

Subject content	**What students need to learn:**
1.1 Personal aspects of the Prophet's life	a) the Prophet's ancestry and the main events of his early years from birth to parenthood, including: • his parents and early influences, including Abu Talib and Bahira • his work and business before the revelation of the Qur'an • his relationship with his wives and children b) the importance of the prophet's early life for his future work as the messenger of Allah
1.2 The Revelation of the Qur'an	a) the events of the 'Night of Power' (Night of Decree): • the details of the conversation with Jibrail in the cave at Hira • the importance of this experience in the establishment of Islam b) the importance to Muslims of the revelation of the Qur'an c) the way in which the Qur'an was compiled
1.3 The Prophethood of Muhammad	a) the meaning of the title 'Seal of the Prophets' b) the importance of Muhammad's role as prophet in the establishment of Islam c) the opposition faced in Makkah by the Prophet and his followers

1.4 Opposition and Hijrah	a) the events of the boycott and the Mi'raj b) the plot to kill the Prophet and the details of the flight to Madinah c) the welcome by the people of Madinah and the building of mosques on arrival there. d) the significance and importance of the events of the Hijrah in the life of the Prophet and the early Islamic community e) the support given to the Prophet during his lifetime by: • Abu Bakr • Ali ibn Talib • Uthman • Umar f) the importance of the contribution of the Prophet's companions and helpers (Ansar) to the establishment of Islam
1.5 The Sunnah of the Prophet	a) the importance for Muslims of the teachings, deeds and sayings of the Prophet b) the recording of the Sunnah c) the role of the Sunnah in the establishment of Islamic belief and practice
1.6 Teachings and example of the Prophet on specific issues of justice and equality	a) The teachings and example of the Prophet on: • social and economic justice • human rights • relationship with people of other religions • respect for mothers and for women b) The importance of the teachings in understanding the nature of Muslim beliefs about society
1.7 The Prophet as leader	a) the role of the Prophet in the establishment of the Shari'ah. b) the consolidation and expansion of Islam after the Hijrah c) the Prophet's treatment of opponents and prisoners d) the Prophet's relationship with other communities and countries
1.8 Battles fought by the Prophet	a) the battles fought by the Prophet and his followers after the Hijrah: • Badr • Ohud • Trench • Khyber

	b) the reasons the Prophet chose to fight the battles c) the importance of the battles for the establishment of Islam
1.9 The Prophet's final acts and his achievements	a) the Prophet's final pilgrimage and sermon b) the main themes and the importance of the Prophet's example and teaching in his later years c) the significant achievements of the Prophet in the areas of society, religion and politics d) the events at the Prophet's death in Madinah

Section B: The key, beliefs, practices and features of the early Muslim community founded by the Prophet.

Subject content	**What students need to learn:**
2.1 The nature of belief in Allah	a) the meaning and importance of belief in the oneness of Allah (Tawhid) b) the meaning and importance of the attributes of Allah, including: • His omnipotence • Allah as creator# • Allah as merciful and just c) the meaning and importance of the teaching about shirk and nifaq (hypocrisy) d) the characteristics of Allah as shown in the Qur'an
2.2 Resalah	a) the nature and importance of prophethood for Muslims b) what the roles of prophets teach Muslims c) the lives of prophets before Muhammad: • Adam • Ibrahim • Isma'il • Musa • Dawud • Isa
2.3 The Holy books of Islam	a) the nature of the Islamic holy books, specifically: • Tawrat • Zabur • Injil • Scrolls of Abraham b) the importance of the holy books in the establishment of Islam

2.4 Al Qadr	a) the nature and importance of predestination for Muslims b) how al-Qadr and free will relate to the 'Day of Judgment' c) the significance of belief in al-Qadr for the early Islamic community d) the nature and significance of evil and suffering
2.5 Akhirah	a) the nature and teachings about life after death, including: • final judgment • paradise (Jannah) and hell (Jahannam) • life in the grave and Barzakh b) how the Islamic teachings about life after death are expressed in the Qur'an
2.6 Malaaikah	a) the nature and importance of angels for Muslims b) the roles and importance of the principal angels in Islamic belief, including: • Jibrail • Mikail • Israfil • Izrael
2.7 The Shariah	a) the principal sources and establishment of Shari'ah law, the Qur'an and the Sunnah b) the importance of the Shari'ah in the early Islamic community c) related sources of law, such as ijma (consensus) and qiyas (analogy) d) the meaning and importance, in Muslim acts, of the difference between 'halal' and 'haram', including the distinction between the five categories (Ahkam pentad): • fard (compulsory) • mandub (recommended) • mubah (neither obligatory, recommended or disliked) • makruh (disliked) • haram (forbidden)
2.8 Islamic etiquette, attitude and manners	a) Islamic etiquette in relations with other people b) Islamic attitudes to lying and harmful speech c) Islamic manners when eating d) the importance for Muslims of correct etiquette, attitudes and manners and the support for this found in the Qur'an and Sunnah
2.9 The early leaders of the Muslim community	a) the leadership of Islam following the death of the Prophet

	b) the role and achievements of the early leaders c) the importance of the period of the early leaders for the Islamic community

Section C: Living the Muslim life today.

Subject Content	**What students need to learn:**
3.1 Shahadah	a) the nature and role of Shahadah for Muslims b) the importance of reciting Shahadah for Muslims c) how the Shahadah is used in practice
3.2 Salah	a) the nature and significance of Salah for Muslims b) the importance of Salah in the life of Muslims c) how Salah is performed: • ablution • times • directions • movements • recitations d) Salah in the home and mosque and at Friday (Jummah) prayer e) exemptions from Salah
3.3 Sawm	a) the nature, role, significance and purpose of fasting during Ramadan b) those who are exempt from fasting c) the importance of Laylat al-Qadr for Muslims today
3.4 Zakah and Khums	a) the nature and purpose of Zakah b) the nature and purpose of Khums c) the importance of Zakah and Khums for Muslims d) the global importance of giving support to those in need
3.5 Hajj	a) the nature, role, origins and significance of Hajj b) key actions performed during Hajj c) the importance of Hajj for Muslims d) benefits and challenges of attending Hajj for Muslims e) exemptions from the performance of Hajj for Muslims

3.6 Jihad	a) the origins, meaning and significance of jihad in Islam b) the distinction between the greater (inner) jihad and the lesser (outer) jihad c) the importance of the greater jihad in the life of Muslims d) the conditions for declaration of lesser jihad, including reference to Surah 2: 190–194 and 22:39
3.7 Islamic Festivals	a) the origins and activities of the Islamic festivals: • Eid-ul-Adha • Eid-ul-Fitr • Ashura b) the meaning and significance of the Islamic festivals for Muslims
3.8 Marriage and the family	a) the significance of marriage in Islamic life b) Muslim teachings about marriage c) Muslim teachings about the purpose of families d) ceremonies relating to birth and death and their meaning e) the importance of procreation in the strengthening of the Ummah
3.9 Muslim citizenship and religious and political leadership	a) Muslim beliefs about the nature of leadership and the responsibility of religious and political leaders b) the challenges faced by leaders of Islam in the modern world c) the challenges and responsibilities of citizenship for Muslims d) the Prophet and His successors as models of leadership

Assessment requirements

The Pearson Edexcel International GCSE in Islamic Studies consists of one externally examined paper.

The paper must be taken at the end of the course of study. The paper will be available for assessment from June 2024.

Paper	Assessment Information	Number of raw marks allocated in the paper
Paper 1: Islamic Studies	The paper consists of three sections, students will answer:	90 Marks

	one question in Section A, one question in Section B and both questions in Section C. Each question begins with short-answer questions, then an explanation question worth 6 marks, and finally a longer-response question worth 12 marks, related to a given passage from the Qur'an or Hadith. Students will be expected to use their own or others' views to support their answer to the 12-mark question.	

Sample assessment materials

A sample paper and mark scheme can be found in the Pearson Edexcel International GCSE in Islamic Studies Sample Assessment Materials (SAMs) document. Assessment objectives and weightings.

		% in International GCSE
AO1	Recall, select and communicate knowledge and understanding of relevant facts from the faith and history of Islam	33*
AO2	Demonstrate understanding of key concepts and themes in relation to the faith, history and teachings of Islam	40
AO3	Analyse and interpret key questions and issues and their significance in the teachings of Islam and the lives of Muslims	27

*A total of 10 marks will assess recall of knowledge.