

Curriculum statement

The Key stage 3 and 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 pre GCSE and GCSE courses are divided into three key sections:

- 1. The life, teachings and achievements of the Prophet Muhammad**
- 2. The key beliefs, practices and features of the early Muslim community founded by the Prophet**
- 3. 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.

Intent

- develop students' knowledge and develop understanding of the religion, history and culture of Islam, and to engage with questions in relation to contemporary and historical issues within Islam
- develop students' ability to construct well-argued, well-informed, balanced and structured written arguments, demonstrating their depth and breadth of understanding of Islamic Studies
- understand the influence of factors previously and currently affecting individuals, communities and societies
- challenge students to reflect on and develop their own understanding of what they have learned, and contribute to their preparation for adult life in a global community.

Implementation

We've listened to feedback from all parts of the international school subject community, including a large number of teachers, Islamic scholars and academics. We have made changes that will broaden the inclusivity of the specification, engaging a greater range of international learners in the key areas of the Islamic religion and culture, providing students with the skills that will support progression to the further study of a range of humanities subjects.

The content and assessment approach for this qualification has been designed to meet student needs in the following ways.

New broader range of content – we have expanded the range of content covered in the qualification to include both historical and contemporary aspects of Islam. Topics have been carefully selected to ensure that the qualification is inclusive of all international students, including those of different religions or religious denominations. We have ensured that the specification contains clear, detailed breakdowns of topic content, supporting teachers with their planning.

Accessible for non-Arabic speaking students – the texts are provided in both Arabic and English, enabling both Arabic and non-Arabic speaking students to access the qualification.

Texts studied in context – texts will now be studied in the context of a topic within Islam, encouraging students to develop skills of analysis and synoptic thinking. The development of these skills will enable students to approach Islam in new ways, enabling them to gain a deeper understanding of Islam.

Clear and straightforward question papers – our question papers are clear and accessible for all students of all ability ranges. Our mark schemes are straightforward, so that the assessment requirements are clear.

Broad and deep development of students' skills – the design of the new International GCSE aims to extend students' knowledge and understanding by broadening and deepening their skills, for example students will:

- develop knowledge and understanding of the religion, history and culture of Islam and engage with questions in relation to contemporary and historical issues within Islam
- construct well-argued, balanced and structured written arguments, demonstrating depth and breadth of understanding of Islamic studies
- challenge students to reflect on and develop their own understanding of what they have learned, and contribute to their preparation for adult life in a global community.

Progression – International GCSEs enable successful progression to A Level and beyond in subjects such as Islamic Studies, religious studies and other humanities subjects. Through

our world-class qualification development process we have consulted with further and higher education to validate the appropriateness of this qualification, including content, skills and assessment structure.

Impact

- NRA students will gain knowledge and develop understanding of the religion, history and culture of Islam, and be able to engage with questions in relation to contemporary and historical issues within Islam
- NRA students will have the ability to construct well-argued, well-informed, balanced and structured written arguments, demonstrating their depth and breadth of understanding of Islamic Studies
- NRA students will understand the influence of factors previously and currently affecting individuals, communities and societies
- Our students will be challenged to reflect on and develop their own understanding of what they have learned, and contribute to their preparation for adult life in a global