

General Certificate of Education (International)
Advanced Subsidiary Level

Syllabus

ISLAMIC STUDIES 8053

For examination in November 2009

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ISLAMIC STUDIES

GCE Advanced Subsidiary Level

Syllabus 8053

Available in the October/November session only

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Exclusions

This syllabus must not be offered in the same session with the following syllabus:

9013 Islamic Studies

AIMS

The aims of this syllabus are to motivate candidates to develop an enquiring and critical approach to the study of fundamental questions of religious practices, beliefs, morality and interpretations, and to explore such issues within the context of a religious tradition or traditions.

To achieve the above, candidates will be required to gain some understanding of the religious writings, history and current affairs of Islam and be able to think and argue intelligently about the subject.

ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES

The examination will test the candidate's:

- | | | |
|-----|--|-------|
| (a) | knowledge of the topics and specified texts | [60%] |
| (b) | understanding of the meaning and significance of the material studied | [25%] |
| (c) | ability to express himself/herself explicitly, logically and critically in any argument. | [15%] |

SCHEME OF ASSESSMENT

The examination will consist of **one** paper of three hours' duration.

The paper will consist of **four** sections, A, B, C and D. Candidates will be required to answer **five** questions, choosing at least one from each section. At least three questions will be set in each section.

The Advanced Subsidiary (AS) Level Paper is the same as Paper 1 of the Advanced Level (9013). Results in AS Level may **not** be carried over to the A level.

SYLLABUS CONTENT

Paper 1 (8053/01]

Section A: The Beginnings of Islam

- (a) **Pre-Islamic Arabia:** social and economic conditions, beliefs and customs
- (b) **The life of the Prophet (pbuh):** his early years and the first period of his proclamations to 622, his challenge to the beliefs of Mecca, the successful years at Medina until his death, his sense of being chosen as God's messenger, his role as prophet and statesman
- (c) **The Four Rightly-Guided Caliphs:** the main events of their caliphates, the challenges they faced, their achievements in maintaining and extending the rule of Islam

Section B: The Holy Qur'an

- (a) Its mode of revelation, its compilation in the early years of Islam, its structure and major themes
- (b) A detailed study of the following *surahs*:
 - al-Fatihah 1
 - al-Baqarah 2:1-193
 - Al 'Imran 3:35-62
 - al-Anbiya 21:50-112
 - al-Qasas 28:1-44
 - al-Duha 93
 - al-Qadr 97
 - al-Takathur 102
 - al-Kafirun 109
 - al-Ikhlash 112
- (c) Its authority and place in Islamic beliefs, its relationship with other sources of knowledge

Section C: Beliefs and Practices of Islam

- (a) **The Five Pillars of Islam:** Declaration of Faith (*Shahadah*), Prayer (*Salat*), Almsgiving (*Zakat*), Fasting (*Sawm*), Pilgrimage (*Hajj*); their function in bringing the individual closer to God and in binding the community together; their meaning in Islamic beliefs
- (b) **Festivals and religious observances:** 'Id al-Fitr, 'Id al-Adha, marriages, funerals
- (c) **The Articles of Faith:** God, his being and relationship with the created world, Angels, Books, Prophets, and particularly the significance of the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) as model of behaviour, Resurrection and the Day of Judgement; jihad, the nature and destiny of humanity, the command to enjoin good and prohibit wrong, God's predestination of all events

Section D: The Bases of Islamic Law

- (a) The Holy Qur'an as source of all teachings in Islam, methods of interpreting its teachings
- (b) The Prophet's Sunnah as a source of guidance for Muslims; its relationship to the Holy Qur'an.
- (c) The importance of the Shari'ah in the life of Muslim communities and individuals; the function of consensus (*ijma'*), analogy (*qiyas*) and individual endeavour (*ijtihad*) in legal thinking

RESOURCES FOR TEACHERS: PAPER 1

- The Meaning of the Holy Qur'an*; translated by 'Abdullah Yusuf 'Ali; ISBN 0915957590
Mawlana Muhammad Ali; *The Religion of Islam*; Taj Company, 3151 Turkman Gate, Delhi 110006;
S.Chand & Co; 1999; ISBN 8121900794
A. Rahman I. Doi; *Introduction to the Qur'an*; Arewa Books, Ibadan, Nigeria; Arnold Overseas; 1981;
ISBN 0340267054
I.R. al-Faruqi; *Islam*; Argus Communications, Niles, Illinois 1979; ISBN 0895050226
P.K. Hitti; *History of the Arabs*; Macmillan, London; 1964; Palgrave Macmillan Ltd, London; 2002;
ISBN 0333631420
M. Lings; *Muhammad, his life based on the earliest sources*; Suhail Academy, Lahore; Islamic Texts
Society; 1983, 1994; ISBN 0946621330
J. Jomier; *The Great Themes of the Qur'an*; SCM Press; London; 1997; ISBN 0334027144
M. 'Ali Khan; *The Pious Caliphs*; Muhammed Ashraf, Lahore; ISBN 9698108002
A. Rippin; *Muslims, their Religious Beliefs and Practices* (second edition); Routledge, London; 2002;
ISBN 0415217822
N. Robinson; *Islam, a Concise Introduction*; Routledge Curzon, Taylor and Francis Books; 1998;
ISBN 0700711007
H.U.W. Stanton; *The Teaching of the Qur'an*; Darf Publishers, London; 1919, 1987;
ISBN 185077157X
W.M. Watt; *Muhammad, Prophet and Statesman*; Oxford University Press, Oxford; 1961, 1974;
ISBN 0198810784