

General Certificate of Education (International)  
Advanced Level

**Syllabus**

ISLAMIC STUDIES 9013

For examination in November 2009

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# ISLAMIC STUDIES

## GCE Advanced Level

### Syllabus 9013

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:

8053 Islamic Studies



## AIMS

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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

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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

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The examination will consist of **two** papers, each of three hours' duration.

Each 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.

Candidates offering Islamic Studies at Advanced Level (9013) will take Papers 1 and 2. Paper 1 is the same paper as the Advanced Subsidiary (AS) Level (8053). Results in AS Level may **not** be carried over to the A level.

# SYLLABUS CONTENT

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## Paper 1 [9013/01]

### 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-Ikhlās 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

## Paper 2 [9013/02]

### Section A: The Early Dynasties of Islam

- (a) **The Umayyads:** the establishment of the dynasty, the main events of their rule, their decline and collapse  
**A special study of the following caliphs:** Mu'awiya (661-80), 'Abd al-Malik (685-705), 'Umar II (717-20), Marwan II (744-50)
- (b) **The early 'Abbasids:** their seizure of the caliphate, the changes to administration of the state under their rule, their decline and weakness after 850
- (c) **A special study of the following caliphs:** Abu al-'Abbas al-Saffah (750-54), Abu Ja'far al-Mansur (754-75), al-Mahdi (775-85), Harun al-Rashid (786-809), al-Ma'mun (813-33), al-Mutawakkil (847-61)

**Section B: Religious Thought in Early Islam**

- (a) The early development of the Shari'ah; the contributions of Malik b. Anas, Abu Hanifah, al-Shafi'i and Ahmad b. Hanbal; their legal methods
- (b) The compilation of the Sunnah of the Prophet culminating in the Six Canonical Collections (the *Sahih Sittah*), and the methods employed by the major collectors of Hadith
- (c) The debate over reason and revelation, the main principles of the Mu'tazilah and their attitude towards knowledge, their theological opponents, the contribution of Abu al-Hasan al-Ash'ari

**Section C: Variety in Islamic Beliefs**

- (a) The early history of Shi'i Islam, the role of the Imams, questions of religious authority between Sunnis and Shi'is, Shi'i Islam and politics
- (b) Sufism with special reference to early mystics and particularly Abu Hamid al-Ghazali; its principle teachings and relationship to orthodox beliefs
- (c) Islamic philosophy and its relationship to religious thinking

**Section D: Islam in the World Today**

- (a) Early modern intellectual movements in Islam, including the Salafis, Muhammad 'Abduh and Hasan al-Banna', Sayyid Ahmad Khan, Muhammad Iqbal, Abu A'la al-Mawdudi
- (b) The relation between Islam and other faiths, especially Judaism and Christianity
- (c) The place of women in Islam
- (d) Muslims living as minorities, their part in the wider community and adherence to Islamic principles

## **RESOURCES FOR TEACHERS: PAPER 1**

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*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 03340027144  
 M. 'Ali Khan; *The Pious Caliphs*; Muhammed Ashraf, Lahore; ISBN 9698108002  
 A. Rippin; *Muslims, their Religious Beliefs and Practices* (second edition); Routledge, London; 2000;  
 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

## RESOURCES FOR TEACHERS: PAPER 2

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- Azami; *The Study of Hadith Literature*; Taj Company, 3151 Turkman Gate, Delhi 110006
- G.W. Choudhury; *Islam and the Modern Muslim World*; Scorpion Cavendish Publishing, London; 1993; ISBN 0905906438
- N.J. Coulson; *A History of Islamic Law*; Edinburgh University Press, Edinburgh; 1964, 1994; ISBN 0748605142
- A.R.I. Doi; *Introduction to the Hadith*; Arewa Books, Idaban, Nigeria; Arnold Overseas; 1981; ISBN 0340267062
- H. Enayat; *Modern Islamic Political Thought*; Palgrave Macmillan Ltd, London; 1982; ISBN 0333279689
- M. Fakhry; *A Short Introduction to Islamic Philosophy, Theology and Mysticism*; Oneworld Publications, Oxford; 1997, 2001; ISBN 185168252X
- I.R. al-Faruqi; *Islam and other Faiths*; ed. Ataullah Siddiqui; Islamic Foundation, Leicester; 1998; ISBN 0860372766
- H. Goddard; *A History of Christian-Muslim Relations*; Edinburgh University Press, Edinburgh; 2000; ISBN 074861009X
- P.K. Hitti; *History of the Arabs*; Palgrave Macmillan Ltd, London; 1964, 2002; ISBN 0333631420
- Muhammad Legenhausen; *Contemporary Topics of Islamic Thought*; Alhoda Publishers, Tehran; 2000; ISBN 9644722302
- F. Rahman; *Islam*; 2nd edition; Chicago University Press, Illinois; 1979; ISBN 0226702812
- A. Rippin; *Muslims, their Religious Beliefs and Practices* (second edition); Routledge Taylor and Francis Books; London; 2000; ISBN 0415217822
- N. Robinson; *Islam, a Concise Introduction*; Routledge Curzon, Taylor and Francis Books; 1998; ISBN 0700711007
- J.O. Voll; *Islam, Continuity and Change in the Modern World* (second edition); Syracuse University Press, Syracuse, New York; 1982, 1994; ISBN 0815626398
- W.M. Watt; *Islamic Philosophy and Theology*; Edinburgh University Press, Edinburgh; 1985; ISBN 0852244878
- W.M. Watt; *The Faith and Practice of al-Ghazali*; Oneworld Publications; Oxford; 1953, 1994; ISBN 1851680624
- W.M. Watt; *Islamic Political Thought*; Edinburgh University Press, Edinburgh; 1988; ISBN 0748610987