

O Level Islamiyat (2058)

Has the syllabus changed?

The first examination for the revised syllabus was in June 2003. The syllabus remains unchanged for 2004, 2005 and 2006.

Are the Arabic passages 'translated' into English on the question paper?

In the question papers, English 'translations' of the passages from the Qur'an and the Hadith will be given alongside the Arabic. Translations in the question papers follow the translation by Yusuf 'Ali A'bdullah in *The Meaning of the Holy Qur'an*, but are modernised slightly. Candidates are NOT required to translate the passages into English. However, examiners will be looking for understanding of the original Arabic.

Are there separate Sunni/Shi'a sections?

At the suggestion of many teachers, there are no longer separate Sunni and Shi'a sections in the exam paper. However, some questions may have either/or parts that will be relevant to Sunnis and Shi'as respectively. Also, candidates may, when answering a common question, give a Sunni or Shi'a perspective; examiners will be sensitive to differing understandings and beliefs.

What are the questions on?

Paper 1	Paper 2	Syllabus content
Q1 compulsory		Main teachings in passages from Qur'an
	Q1 compulsory	Meaning/importance of phrases from Qur'an
	Q2 compulsory	Main teachings in the Prophet's Hadith
Q2 compulsory		Life & significance of the Prophet
	Q3 compulsory	Muslims in their relations with others
	Q4/5 choice	History of the early Muslim community
Q3 choose Q3/4		Articles of Faith, Five Pillars
Q4 choose Q3/4		Sources of religious and legal authority

What are examiners looking for?

- **Relevance not length**

Encourage students to answer the questions by:

- reading the questions with care, as the wording contains clues about what is wanted in the answer
- thinking about what is being asked – knowledge or evaluation?
- planning a relevant answer.

Remember that sheer quantity will not gain points. Candidates should give relevant detail and examples in their answers in order to demonstrate their awareness of the main point of the question.

- **Both factual knowledge and evaluative ability**

Questions are intended to test two aspects of the candidates' learning about Islam:

- their knowledge and understanding of facts
- their ability to evaluate.

In many questions, marks are divided into 75% knowledge and understanding, and 25% ability to evaluate.

Teachers are advised to prepare candidates thoroughly – both in the facts they should know and understand within the syllabus, and in explaining the meaning and importance of these facts in the lives and thoughts of Muslims.

- ***Comment on passages, don't translate or paraphrase***

Comments on passages should be brief and relevant yet full enough to cover the main points in the passage. Passages/phrases will appear on the paper in both Arabic and English and so translation is not required.

No marks will be given for translations or paraphrases. However, examiners will be looking for knowledge and understanding of the original Arabic.

Where can I get further information?

- ***Syllabus***

The syllabus, which is on CIE's website – www.cie.org.uk – gives further details.

- ***Resource list***

A resource list for the syllabus, which also gives details of a recently published, CIE-endorsed textbook, will shortly be on CIE's website – www.cie.org.uk

- ***Standards booklet***

A standards booklet is shortly to be published and will be listed in CIE's Publications List – www.cie.org.uk

- ***An opportunity to join CIE's e-mail discussion group for Islamiyat teachers***

If you are a teacher of CIE's Islamiyat O level, have access to e-mail and would like to share ideas and find out more, then please e-mail:

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