

# SYLLABUS

**Cambridge International AS Level  
Islamic Studies**

**8053**

For examination in November 2017, 2018 and 2019

### Changes to syllabus for 2017, 2018 and 2019

This syllabus has been updated, but there are no significant changes.

**You are strongly advised to read the whole syllabus before planning your teaching programme.**

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# 1. Introduction

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## 1.1 Why choose Cambridge?

Cambridge International Examinations is part of the University of Cambridge. We prepare school students for life, helping them develop an informed curiosity and a lasting passion for learning. Our international qualifications are recognised by the world's best universities and employers, giving students a wide range of options in their education and career. As a not-for-profit organisation, we devote our resources to delivering high-quality educational programmes that can unlock learners' potential.

Our programmes set the global standard for international education. They are created by subject experts, are rooted in academic rigour, and provide a strong platform for progression. Over 10 000 schools in 160 countries work with us to prepare nearly a million learners for their future with an international education from Cambridge.

### Cambridge learners

Cambridge programmes and qualifications develop not only subject knowledge but also skills. We encourage Cambridge learners to be:

- **confident** in working with information and ideas – their own and those of others
- **responsible** for themselves, responsive to and respectful of others
- **reflective** as learners, developing their ability to learn
- **innovative** and equipped for new and future challenges
- **engaged** intellectually and socially, ready to make a difference.

### Recognition

Cambridge International AS and A Levels are recognised around the world by schools, universities and employers. The qualifications are accepted as proof of academic ability for entry to universities worldwide, although some courses do require specific subjects.

Cambridge AS and A Levels are accepted in all UK universities. University course credit and advanced standing is often available for Cambridge International AS and A Levels in countries such as the USA and Canada.

Learn more at [www.cie.org.uk/recognition](http://www.cie.org.uk/recognition)

## 1.2 Why choose Cambridge International AS and A Level?

Cambridge International AS and A Levels are international in outlook, but retain a local relevance. The syllabuses provide opportunities for contextualised learning and the content has been created to suit a wide variety of schools, avoid cultural bias and develop essential lifelong skills, including creative thinking and problem-solving.

Our aim is to balance knowledge, understanding and skills in our programmes and qualifications to enable students to become effective learners and to provide a solid foundation for their continuing educational journey. Cambridge International AS and A Levels give learners building blocks for an individualised curriculum that develops their knowledge, understanding and skills.

Schools can offer almost any combination of 60 subjects and learners can specialise or study a range of subjects, ensuring a breadth of knowledge. Giving learners the power to choose helps motivate them throughout their studies.

Cambridge International A Levels typically take two years to complete and offer a flexible course of study that gives learners the freedom to select subjects that are right for them.

Cambridge International AS Levels often represent the first half of an A Level course but may also be taken as a freestanding qualification. The content and difficulty of a Cambridge International AS Level examination is equivalent to the first half of a corresponding Cambridge International A Level.

Through our professional development courses and our support materials for Cambridge International AS and A Levels, we provide the tools to enable teachers to prepare learners to the best of their ability and work with us in the pursuit of excellence in education.

Cambridge International AS and A Levels have a proven reputation for preparing learners well for university, employment and life. They help develop the in-depth subject knowledge and understanding which are so important to universities and employers.

Learners studying Cambridge International AS and A Levels have opportunities to:

- acquire an in-depth subject knowledge
- develop independent thinking skills
- apply knowledge and understanding to new as well as familiar situations
- handle and evaluate different types of information sources
- think logically and present ordered and coherent arguments
- make judgements, recommendations and decisions
- present reasoned explanations, understand implications and communicate them clearly and logically
- work and communicate in English.

### Guided learning hours

Cambridge International A Level syllabuses are designed on the assumption that learners have about 360 guided learning hours per subject over the duration of the course. Cambridge International AS Level syllabuses are designed on the assumption that learners have about 180 guided learning hours per subject over the duration of the course. This is for guidance only and the number of hours required to gain the qualification may vary according to local curricular practice and the learners' prior experience of the subject.

## 1.3 Why choose Cambridge International AS Level Islamic Studies?

By following the Cambridge International AS Level Islamic Studies syllabus, candidates will:

- develop an enquiring and critical approach to the study of fundamental questions of Islamic practices, beliefs, morality and interpretations
- gain an understanding of the religious writings, history and current affairs of Islam and be able to think and argue intelligently about the subject
- be introduced to a broad range of topics, ranging from the beginnings of Islam and the evolution, content and role of the Holy Qur'an, to the beliefs and practices of Islam and the bases of Islamic Law
- learn more about the dynasties and religious thought of early Islam, the variety in Islamic beliefs and the role played by Islam in the world today.

### Prior learning

Candidates beginning this course are not expected to have studied Islam or Religious Studies previously.

### Progression

Cambridge International AS Level Islamic Studies constitutes the first half of the Cambridge International A Level course in Islamic Studies and therefore provides a suitable foundation for the study of Islam at A Level and thence for related courses in higher education. Depending on local university entrance requirements, it may permit or assist progression directly to university courses in Islam or some other subjects. It is also suitable for candidates intending to pursue careers or further study in Islam or Religious Studies, or as part of a course of general education.

## 1.4 Cambridge AICE (Advanced International Certificate of Education) Diploma

Cambridge AICE Diploma is the group award of the Cambridge International AS and A Level. It gives schools the opportunity to benefit from offering a broad and balanced curriculum by recognising the achievements of candidates who pass examinations in different curriculum groups.

Learn more about the Cambridge AICE Diploma at [www.cie.org.uk/aice](http://www.cie.org.uk/aice)

## 1.5 How can I find out more?

### If you are already a Cambridge school

You can make entries for this qualification through your usual channels. If you have any questions, please contact us at [info@cie.org.uk](mailto:info@cie.org.uk)

### If you are not yet a Cambridge school

Learn about the benefits of becoming a Cambridge school at [www.cie.org.uk/startcambridge](http://www.cie.org.uk/startcambridge). Email us at [info@cie.org.uk](mailto:info@cie.org.uk) to find out how your organisation can register to become a Cambridge school.

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## 2. Teacher support

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### 2.1 Support materials

We send Cambridge syllabuses, past question papers and examiner reports to cover the last examination series to all Cambridge schools.

You can also go to our public website at **[www.cie.org.uk/alevel](http://www.cie.org.uk/alevel)** to download current and future syllabuses together with specimen papers or past question papers and examiner reports from one series.

For teachers at registered Cambridge schools a range of additional support materials for specific syllabuses is available from Teacher Support, our secure online support for Cambridge teachers. Go to **<http://teachers.cie.org.uk>** (username and password required).

### 2.2 Endorsed resources

We work with publishers providing a range of resources for our syllabuses including print and digital materials. Resources endorsed by Cambridge go through a detailed quality assurance process to ensure they provide a high level of support for teachers and learners.

We have resource lists which can be filtered to show all resources, or just those which are endorsed by Cambridge. The resource lists include further suggestions for resources to support teaching.

### 2.3 Training

We offer a range of support activities for teachers to ensure they have the relevant knowledge and skills to deliver our qualifications. See **[www.cie.org.uk/events](http://www.cie.org.uk/events)** for further information.

### 3. Assessment at a glance

Candidates studying Cambridge International AS Level Islamic Studies take one examination paper, lasting three hours. This is the same paper as Paper 1 for the A Level (syllabus code 9013).

Results in Cambridge International AS Level may **not** be carried over to the A level.

Paper 1	3 hours
<p>There are four sections.</p> <p>Candidates answer <b>five</b> questions, choosing at least one from each section:</p> <p>A The Beginnings of Islam            B The Holy Qur'an            C Beliefs and Practices of Islam            D The Bases of Islamic Law</p> <p>There will be a choice of at least three questions in each section.</p>	

#### Availability

This syllabus is examined in the November examination series.

This syllabus is available to private candidates.

Detailed timetables are available from [www.cie.org.uk/examsOfficers](http://www.cie.org.uk/examsOfficers)

Centres in the UK that receive government funding are advised to consult the Cambridge website [www.cie.org.uk](http://www.cie.org.uk) for the latest information before beginning to teach this syllabus.

#### Combining this with other syllabuses

Candidates can combine this syllabus in an examination series with any other Cambridge syllabus, except:

- syllabuses with the same title at the same level
- 9013 Islamic Studies Syllabus

## 4. Syllabus aims and assessment objectives

### 4.1 Syllabus aims

The aims of the 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
- explore these issues within the context of a religious tradition or traditions.

To achieve these aims, 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.

### 4.2 Assessment objectives and their weightings

Candidates will be assessed on their:

AO1: Knowledge of the topics and specified texts.

AO2: Understanding of the meaning and significance of the material studied.

AO3: Ability to express themselves explicitly, logically and critically in any argument.

The assessment objectives are weighted in the following way:

Assessment objective	Weighting
AO1	60%
AO2	25%
AO3	15%

## 5. Syllabus content

### Section A: The Beginnings of Islam

- **Pre-Islamic Arabia:** social and economic conditions, beliefs and customs
- **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
- **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

- Its mode of revelation, its compilation in the early years of Islam, its structure and major themes
- 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
- Its authority and place in Islamic beliefs, its relationship with other sources of knowledge

### Section C: Beliefs and Practices of Islam

- **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
- **Festivals and religious observances:** 'Id al-Fitr, 'Id al-Adha, marriages, funerals
- **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

- The Holy Qur'an as source of all teachings in Islam, methods of interpreting its teachings
- The Prophet's Sunnah as a source of guidance for Muslims; its relationship to the Holy Qur'an
- 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

## 6. Resources for teachers

Author	Title	Date	Publisher	ISBN
translated by 'Abdullah Yusuf 'Ali	<i>The Meaning of the Holy Qur'an</i>			0915957590
Mawlana Muhammad Ali	<i>The Religion of Islam</i>	1999	Taj Company, 3151 Turkman Gate, Delhi 110006; S. Chand & Co	8121900794
A Rahman I Doi	<i>Introduction to the Qur'an</i>	1981	Arewa Books, Ibadan, Nigeria; Arnold Overseas	0340267054
I R al-Faruqi	<i>Islam</i>	1979	Argus Communications, Niles, Illinois	0895050226
P K Hitti	<i>History of the Arabs</i>	1964 2002	Macmillan, London Palgrave Macmillan Ltd, London	0333631420
M Lings	<i>Muhammad, his life based on the earliest sources</i>	1983 1994	Suhail Academy, Lahore; Islamic Texts Society;	0946621330
J Jomier	<i>The Great Themes of the Qur'an</i>	1997	SCM Press; London	03340027144
M 'Ali Khan	<i>The Pious Caliphs</i>		Muhammed Ashraf, Lahore	9698108002
A Rippin	<i>Muslims, their Religious Beliefs and Practices</i>  (second edition)	2000	Routledge, London	0415217822
N Robinson	<i>Islam, a Concise Introduction</i>	1998	Routledge Curzon, Taylor and Francis Books	0700711007
H U W Stanton	<i>The Teaching of the Qur'an</i>	1919, 1987	Darf Publishers, London	185077157X
W M Watt	<i>Muhammad, Prophet and Statesman</i>	1961, 1974	Oxford University Press, Oxford	0198810784

Resources are also listed on Cambridge's public website at [www.cie.org.uk](http://www.cie.org.uk). Please visit this site on a regular basis as the Resource lists are updated throughout the year.

Access to teachers' email discussion groups, suggested schemes of work and regularly updated resource lists may be found on the Cambridge Teacher Support website at <http://teachers.cie.org.uk>. This website is available to teachers at registered Cambridge Centres.

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## 7. Other information

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### Equality and inclusion

Cambridge International Examinations has taken great care in the preparation of this syllabus and assessment materials to avoid bias of any kind. To comply with the UK Equality Act (2010), Cambridge has designed this qualification with the aim of avoiding direct and indirect discrimination.

The standard assessment arrangements may present unnecessary barriers for candidates with disabilities or learning difficulties. Arrangements can be put in place for these candidates to enable them to access the assessments and receive recognition of their attainment. Access arrangements will not be agreed if they give candidates an unfair advantage over others or if they compromise the standards being assessed.

Candidates who are unable to access the assessment of any component may be eligible to receive an award based on the parts of the assessment they have taken.

Information on access arrangements is found in the *Cambridge Handbook* which can be downloaded from the website [www.cie.org.uk/examsOfficers](http://www.cie.org.uk/examsOfficers)

### Language

This syllabus and the associated assessment materials are available in English only.

### Grading and reporting

Cambridge International A Level results are shown by one of the grades A\*, A, B, C, D or E, indicating the standard achieved, A\* being the highest and E the lowest. 'Ungraded' indicates that the candidate's performance fell short of the standard required for grade E. 'Ungraded' will be reported on the statement of results but not on the certificate. The letters Q (result pending), X (no results) and Y (to be issued) may also appear on the statement of results but not on the certificate.

Cambridge International AS Level results are shown by one of the grades a, b, c, d or e, indicating the standard achieved, 'a' being the highest and 'e' the lowest. 'Ungraded' indicates that the candidate's performance fell short of the standard required for grade 'e'. 'Ungraded' will be reported on the statement of results but not on the certificate. The letters Q (result pending), X (no results) and Y (to be issued) may also appear on the statement of results but not on the certificate.

If a candidate takes a Cambridge International A Level and fails to achieve grade E or higher, a Cambridge International AS Level grade will be awarded if both of the following apply:

- the components taken for the Cambridge International A Level by the candidate in that series included all the components making up a Cambridge International AS Level
- the candidate's performance on these components was sufficient to merit the award of a Cambridge International AS Level grade.

For languages other than English, Cambridge also reports separate speaking endorsement grades (Distinction, Merit and Pass), for candidates who satisfy the conditions stated in the syllabus.

## Entry codes

To maintain the security of our examinations, we produce question papers for different areas of the world, known as 'administrative zones'. Where the component entry code has two digits, the first digit is the component number given in the syllabus. The second digit is the location code, specific to an administrative zone. Information about entry codes for your administrative zone can be found in the *Cambridge Guide to Making Entries*.

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