

# Pearson Edexcel International GCSE Islamic Studies

Welcome to Pearson:  
Module 1



# Session Agenda

- 08:00 Welcome, Introductions, Aims and Objectives
- 08.01 Pearson Edexcel information & International GCSE Features
- 08:15 Understanding the Specification
- 08:50 Introducing the Assessment
- 09.15 Teaching the Specification
- 09:40 Support, resources and final questions
- 10:00 Finish

# Aims and Objectives

In Module 1, delegates will:

- identify how the qualifications are devised and fundamental documentation
- review the content of the qualification
- explore how to plan the course and/or lessons
- understand the assessment of the qualification and how to prepare students
- identify the support available from Pearson

# About Pearson Edexcel

**Pearson is the world's leading learning company.** Our mission is to help people make progress in their lives through learning – because we believe that learning opens up opportunities, creating fulfilling careers and better lives.

- ❖ **Qualifications:** our qualifications and assessments help to educate millions of people worldwide.
- ❖ **Support:** we provide innovative textbooks, curriculum materials, multimedia learning tools, IT platforms, professional development.
- ❖ **Impact:** At the core of everything we do is the desire to make a measurable impact on improving people's lives through learning.

**Edexcel is part of Pearson Education and is the UK's largest awarding body.**

- ❖ **Worldwide recognition:** over 150 years of international education experience, more than 3.4 million learners in 70+ countries. Over 9 million scripts marked annually, with exceptionally reliable results.

# International GCSE Features



# 9-1 grading scale

	NEW GRADING STRUCTURE	CURRENT GRADING STRUCTURE
<p>The new <b>grade 9</b> represents a new level of attainment and has been introduced to differentiate your top performing students.</p> <p>The bottom of the <b>grade 7</b> broadly aligns with the bottom of the grade A.</p>	9	A*
	8	
	7	A
<p>There's greater differentiation in the middle of the scale, with <b>three new grades 6, 5 and 4</b> rather than two grades (B and C).</p> <p>The bottom of the <b>grade 4</b> broadly aligns with the bottom of the grade C.</p>	6	B
	5	
	4	C
	3	D
<p>The bottom of the <b>grade 1</b> broadly aligns with the bottom of the grade G.</p>	2	E
	1	F
	1	G
	U	U

# 9-1 grading scale

## Awarding

- The grading system is changing, but our commitment to awarding grades that accurately reflect learner exam performance remains the same.
- We set new grade boundaries (minimum number of marks needed to achieve each grade) for each assessment of each qualification.

## Benefits

- Greater differentiation across levels of attainment, e.g. 2 grades where the current C grade is.
- Rewards truly outstanding achievement with the grade 9.
- Provides more information about student attainment to help progression to A Level.
- Same scale for Pearson Edexcel GCSE and International GCSE allows for clear comparison with English standards, unlike old A\* to G grading.

# World-class qualifications

All Edexcel qualifications are developed to meet Pearson's World Class Qualification design principles



Endorsement of educational **thought-leaders and assessment experts** from across the globe

Developed using an understanding and benchmarking of **all educational systems**

Qualifications that support young people to **develop the capabilities** they need to **progress** and prosper in their lives



# Supporting Transferable skills

- Our transferable skills framework underpins the design all Pearson Edexcel international qualifications and their supporting resources across IPLS, International GCSE and International A Level.
- Ensures our assessments target the skills students' need for successful progression.
- Increasing our support where these skills **naturally** occur through the teaching, learning and assessment.
- Pearson materials and mapping will support you in identifying and developing the acquisition of these skills in students across the full curriculum.
- <https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/International%20GCSE/General/Transferable-Skills-Information-Pack.pdf>



## **POLL of Delegates**

**Did you teach the previous specification?**

**Are you an NQT?**

**In which country do you teach?**

**How many students do you teach?**

# **Understanding the specification**

# Important documents

On the Pearson site are a number of essential and helpful documents:

- The Specification
- SAMs
- Past Examination Papers
- Principal Examiner Reports
- Teaching and Learning Materials

You can find these here:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-international-gcses-and-edexcel-certificates/international-gcse-islamic-studies-2017.html>

# Notable features

- No demand for candidates to be able to read or translate texts in Arabic
- New format to the questions (examined in detail in Module 2)
- New Section on Living the Muslim Life
- Demand for evaluation skills in the longer d) questions (explained more fully in Module 2)
- Requirement to integrate an understanding of the assigned text to d) question answers (also to be explained in Module 2)

# Specification – 3 Sections

## Section A

- The life teachings and achievements of the Prophet Muhammad

## Section B

- The key beliefs, practices and features of the early Muslim community founded by the Prophet

## Section C

- Living the Muslim life today

# Specification – Section A

## **The life teachings and achievements of the Prophet Muhammad**

Students need to know:

- Historical facts about the life and achievements of Muhammad
- The significance of his life and achievements in the development of Islam

# Specification – Section B

**The key beliefs, practices and features of the early Muslim community founded by the Prophet**

Students need to know:

- Historical facts about the beliefs and practices of the early Muslim community
- Significance of these beliefs and practices in the development of Islam



# Specification – Section C

## Living the Muslim life today

Students need to know:

- How Muslims express their religion in their day to day lives
- Understand the obligations Islam places on Muslims today

# Specification Activity

Take 10 minutes to look at the Specification, which can be found in your delegate packs. Focus on looking at pages 9-15 which lays out the detailed content.

If you are unclear about any aspect of what you read there, then make a note of your query. This can be sent in the chat box. If the trainer can answer the question they will try to do so. If not, the questions will be sent to the Principal Examiner, and their reply will be forwarded to all delegates,

# **Introducing the assessment**

# **Demands of the Question Paper: How the exam is constructed 1**

- There is just one paper, with a time allocation of 2 hours and 30 minutes.
- In Sections A and B there is a choice to answer either all four parts of the first option question or of the second.
- There is no choice in Section C – all four parts of both questions must be answered.

# **Demands of the Question Paper: How the exam is constructed 2**

- Questions are in four parts a) b) c) and d).
- They each assess one or more of the Assessment Objectives.
- All four parts of the question chosen must be answered.

# **Demands of the Question Paper: How the Mark Scheme works**

- There are two types of marking models – points based for a) and b) questions, and levels based for c) and d) questions.
- In points based marking, a mark is awarded for each correct response up to the maximum allowed per question
- In levels based marking a ‘best fit’ approach is used.
- This means that candidates can sometimes access the higher levels without meeting all the requirements in the Levels provided they show significant ability in meeting other demands.

# **Teaching to the specification**

# Teaching to the Specification: Content

- There are no greater demands from one section to another. So from one point of view the specification can be taught in an any order.
- Each section requires the same skills, such as knowledge and understanding, ability to evaluate ideas, to apply the set text and so forth.
- But it could be said that knowledge and understanding of the Prophet and the early Muslim community is a good basis for reflecting on living the Muslim life. Perhaps they should be taught first.



# Teaching to the Specification: Knowledge and Understanding

- Knowledge and understanding questions can only be asked about what is specifically referred to in the Specification.
- There is no need to teach beyond the Specification to be able to answer all questions.
- For example, 1.8 refers to the battles fought by the Prophet. 4 battles are named. No question can be asked specifically about a battle that is not named.
- Questions can be asked about the importance of battles in general.

# Teaching to the Specification: Evaluation Skills

- Evaluation in this Specification involves showing an ability to discuss a question from more than one point of view.
- One way to develop this skill is through discussion and debate. Consider 'sawm' for example. Some students could be asked to explain the purpose and benefits of fasting, others could be asked to explain the challenges and where fasting might not be appropriate. This could lead to a debate/discussion.
- Then all the students could be asked to write a short essay that considers the topic from both perspectives

# Teaching the Specification: Linked texts 1

Each topic on the Spec has a text linked to it, either from the Qur'an or from Hadith.

- If a part d) question is asked on a topic, the question will include that text in Arabic and English. To access the higher marks, candidates will be expected to integrate an understanding of the significance of that text into part of their answer
- They can also refer to other texts they believe are relevant, and these will be credited where appropriate

# Teaching the Specification: Linked texts 2

This skill requires practice at linking the text to the topic.

- In class select one of the topics in the Specification – no need to frame a question at this stage
- Make sure students have the assigned text in front of them
- Discuss how the text helps in an understanding of the topic, and they can make brief notes during the discussion
- Then ask them to write a paragraph incorporating those ideas into an explanation of the topic.

# Teaching the Specification: Linked texts 3

Here is an example of what is meant by using a linked text. In a question on the revelation of the Qur'an to the Prophet Muhammad they might add something like this to their answer.

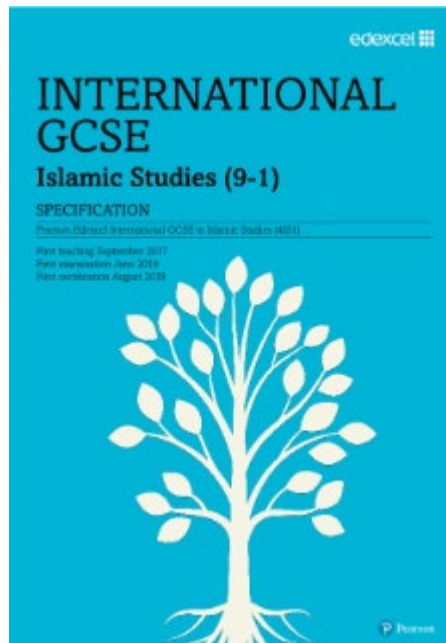
*In the assigned text it says that 'the Night of Decree is better than a thousand months'. This explains that Muslims have no doubt of the central importance of the Qur'an in their lives – it is the principal source of instruction about what Muslims believe and how they should behave. The text goes on to speak of peace. This can be understood to mean that it is by honouring the Qur'an that Muslims can achieve peace in their hearts and in their lives.*

## **Resources and Support**

# Subject Features

**Reviewed and updated in  
light of UK GCSE  
changes**

**There is no dedicated  
textbook**



**Transferable Skills  
embedded**

**But detailed teaching  
materials are available  
online on the relevant  
Edexcel website**

**[teachingislamicstudies@pearson.com](mailto:teachingislamicstudies@pearson.com)**

# Support Overview for International GCSE in Islamic Studies





# Networking Activity

If you would welcome the opportunity to network with other delegates then please feel free to send your email address via the chat box.

- Free online results analysis tool for teachers.
- Provides a detailed breakdown of student performance in Pearson Edexcel exams.
- Identify topics and questions where the student could benefit from further learning and inform teaching strategies and approaches.
- Benchmark your school's performance against other Pearson Edexcel schools in your country.
- Not just a post-results tool: Mock exam results can also be fed into the system to produce analysis.
- Find student results analysis from their previous Pearson Edexcel school.
- ResultsPlus Direct gives your students access to their final grades and performance breakdown, wherever they are.
- Schools can sign up for free ResultsPlus account in just a few quick and easy steps: <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/support/Services/ResultsPlus.html>

# New Access to Script (ATS) Online Portal

**Access to Scripts (ATS) is a free online portal which allows teachers to immediately access electronically marked exam papers**

- Provides enhanced transparency and
  - Offers transparent approach to marking process
  - Provides better understanding of marking before requests for enquiries about results are made
  - Provides excellent aid for teaching and preparing other cohorts for examinations by helping you to evaluate a student's performance on particular questions in relation to what they have been taught.
- 
- Available instantly from results day for all our examination series, for a defined window, you can view and download scripts which have been marked online free of charge from our Self-Service Portal.



**For more information on ATS, and the post results windows, visit our post-results pages.**

# Your Subject Advisor

Sally Dodsley

Twitter: [@Edexcel\\_Geog](#)

[Email or live chat](#)

You can sign up for Sally's e-updates by completing

This [online form](#)



# Other useful links

## 1. [Grade Boundaries](#)

This page shows the minimum marks needed to achieve a certain grade for all UK and international examinations. Also refer to the examiners report which is available for download with other documents.

## 2. [Examination Results Statistics](#)

Results statistics summarise the overall grade outcomes of candidates sitting Pearson Edexcel examinations.

## 3. [Progress to University](#)

Here you can find information and guidance about how to progress to universities worldwide with Pearson Edexcel qualifications.

## 4. [Access to scripts](#)

Make an informed enquiry about results (EARs) using our free access to scripts portal.

# Pearson International Schools Community

## Connect with international teachers around the world

- Connect with other teachers working in international schools and join groups who have shared interests, subjects or location
- Read topical news and articles and share yours
- Advertise jobs at your school or find job opportunities
- Download free resources
- Sign up for events.

Sign up today at:

[pearson.com/internationalschools/blog](https://pearson.com/internationalschools/blog).



**Any questions?**

**Please fill in  
your evaluation forms**

**We value your feedback!**





ALWAYS LEARNING