



## **REVISION CHECKLIST for O Level Islamiyat 2058**

### **A Guide for Students**

#### **How to use this guide**

The guide describes what you need to know about your GCE O Level Islamiyat examination, based on the Revised Syllabus being brought in from 2009.

The guide will help you to plan your revision programme for the examination and will explain what the examiners are looking for in the answers you write. It can also be used to help you to revise by using the tick boxes in Section 3, 'What you need to know' to check what you know and which topic areas of Islamiyat you have covered when revising.

The guide contains the following sections:

#### **Section 1 - How will you be tested?**

This section will give you information about the different examination papers that you will take.

#### **Section 2 - What will you be tested on?**

This section will explain the assessment objectives which are used to set the examination, and will describe the skills that the Examiners will test you on.

#### **Section 3 - What you need to know**

This shows the syllabus content in a simple way so that you can check:

- which topics you need to know
- details about each topic in the syllabus
- how much of the syllabus you have covered

#### **Section 4 - Appendices: Command words**

This section covers other things you need to know such as:

- the importance of the command words that Examiners use in the examination papers
- useful websites to aid your revision

## Section 1 - How will you be tested?

The Revised Syllabus has two written papers, like the previous syllabus, but they are now of equal weight. So each paper has the same time limit, has the same number of questions and carries the same marks which can be seen in the table below. The answers must be written in English and both papers must be taken to receive a final grade.

**Table 1 - About the papers**

<i>Paper number</i>	<i>How long and how many marks?</i>	<i>Number of questions</i>	<i>Number to be answered</i>	<i>What's the % of the total marks?</i>
Paper 1	1hr 30mins (50marks)	5	4	50%
Paper 2	1 hr 30mins (50 marks)	5	4	50%

The following tables give a breakdown of the topics in each paper.

**Table 2 - The questions in Paper 1**

<i>Question number</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>Topic of question</i>	<i>Total marks</i>
1	Compulsory	Major Themes of the Qur'an	8
2	Compulsory	The history and importance of the Qur'an	14
3	Optional	The life and importance of the Prophet Muhammad	14
4	Optional	The first Islamic community	14
5	Optional	This question will be set from <b>either</b> the topic of The life and importance of the Prophet Muhammad <b>or</b> The first Islamic community	14

**Table 3 - The questions in Paper 2**

<i>Question number</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>Topic of question</i>	<i>Total marks</i>
1	Compulsory	Major Teachings of the Hadiths of the Prophet	8
2	Compulsory	The history and importance of the Hadiths	14
3	Optional	The period of rule of the Rightly Guided Caliphs and their importance as leaders	14
4	Optional	The Articles of Faith and the Pillars of Islam	14
5	Optional	This question will be set from <b>either</b> the topic of The period of rule of the Rightly Guided Caliphs and their importance as leaders <b>or</b> The Articles of Faith and the Pillars of Islam	14

Questions 1 and 2 in both papers are compulsory, which means you must answer both these questions before attempting any of the optional questions.

Questions 3, 4 and 5 are optional questions, which means that you must answer **two** out of these three questions to complete the paper.

The tables above show that Question 1 is marked out of 8 marks and the rest of the questions out of 14. Ideally, this suggests that more time should be spent on the longer questions as they generally require you to write longer essays. However, this will not be the case for everyone and will depend on how much revision you have done for each topic, and therefore how well you know each topic.

## Section 2 - What will you be tested on?

The question papers have been set to test the following skill areas, which the Examiners look for when marking your examination Papers:

1. knowledge (what you remember)
2. understanding (how you use what you know and apply it to different situations)

These skills are called assessment objectives. They are explained in the table below. Your teacher will be able to give you more information about how each of these is tested in the examination Papers.

<b>Assessment Objective</b>	<b>What the objective means</b>	<b>What you need to be able to do</b>
1. Knowledge	Learning and remembering facts	Learn facts about different topics in the syllabus and use relevant facts to answer the questions in the examination.
2. Understanding	Using these facts to understand their relevance to Islam and Muslims	Show how these facts are important to the teachings of Islam and to the lives of Muslims, and show that you understand the meaning of this information.

In both papers, Question 1 carries an equal amount of marks for testing your knowledge and understanding; 4 marks for knowledge and 4 marks for understanding.

Questions 2-5 carry different marks for assessing knowledge and understanding; normally the knowledge part (part (a)) will carry more marks than the understanding part (part (b)). For example, part (a) may be worth 10 marks and part (b) 4 marks.

## Section 3: What you need to know

The table describes the things you may be tested on in the examination. There are eight sections in the table which relate to main content of the syllabus. Each section has several topic areas which contain the details that you need to know.

### How to use the table

You can use the table throughout your course to check the topic areas you have covered.

You can also use it as a revision aid. When you think you have a good knowledge of a topic, you can tick the appropriate box in the checklist column.

The column headed Comments can be used:

- to add further information about the details for each bullet point
- to highlight areas of difficulty/ things which you need to ask your teacher about
- write short notes and summaries

Theme	Topic outline	You should be able to	Checklist	Comments
Major themes of the Qur'an	God in himself	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify which passages from the Qur'an talk about God's characteristics</li> <li>• Describe various characteristics of God, e.g. His Oneness (<i>tawhid</i>)</li> <li>• Explain how the passage is able to discuss this topic in it's own way</li> <li>• Have some knowledge of the Arabic of the passage as well as the English</li> <li>• Identify any other passages which have a similar or opposite meanings</li> </ul>		
	God's relationship with the created world	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify which passages from the Qur'an talk about God and his creation</li> <li>• Describe different aspects of the people and the things he has created</li> <li>• Explain how the passage is able to discuss this topic in it's own way</li> <li>• Have some knowledge of the Arabic of the passage as well as the English</li> <li>• Identify any other passages which have a similar or opposite meanings</li> </ul>		
	God's Messengers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify which passages from the Qur'an talk about the people God sent to spread His message</li> <li>• Describe the relationship God has with His different messengers</li> <li>• Explain how the passage is able to discuss this topic in it's own way</li> <li>• Have some knowledge of the Arabic of the passage as well as the English</li> <li>• Identify any other passages which have a similar or opposite meanings</li> </ul>		

The history and importance of the Qur'an	The revelation of the Qur'an to the Prophet between the years 610 and 632	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe the way in which the Qur'an was revealed to the Prophet Muhammad</li> <li>• Discuss the way in which the people in Makka responded to the revelations</li> <li>• Discuss how this affected the early Muslim community</li> </ul>		
	The account of the compilation of the Qur'an under the Rightly Guided Caliphs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe the way in which it was compiled into book form</li> <li>• Identify the main personalities involved in the compilation</li> <li>• Explain why it was collected and compiled into a book</li> </ul>		
	The major themes of the Qur'an as contained both in the passages set for special study and in other similar passages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Write about major teachings in the passages you have to study in the syllabus, e.g. how does the Qur'an talk about God's messengers?</li> <li>• Discuss important features of these passages e.g. the Qur'an's reflection on nature</li> <li>• Understand the message of the Qur'an through these passages</li> </ul>		
	The use of the Qur'an in legal thinking, and its relationship with the Hadith, consensus (ijma') and analogy (qiyas), and its significance as the basis of all thought and action in Islam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify and explain the importance of using the Qur'an in Islamic law</li> <li>• Identify the main sources of Islamic legal thinking</li> <li>• Describe how each of the sources are connected</li> <li>• Show how these sources are used in Islamic law</li> </ul>		
The life and importance of the Prophet Muhammad	The main events of the Prophet's life from his birth to his call to prophethood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe the early years of the Prophet's life before he received revelation</li> <li>• Describe his nature and how this affected those around him</li> <li>• Describe his relationship with his parents, relatives and his first wife</li> <li>• Identify what Makka and Arabia was like in those</li> </ul>		

		early years		
	The main events of his activities in Makka and his experiences with his opponents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe the way in which opponents sought to attack the Prophet, both verbally and physically, after he announced his prophethood</li> <li>• Describe the persecution his followers faced including identifying key converts</li> <li>• Describe the first migration to Abyssinia</li> <li>• Identify the main supporters of the Prophet</li> <li>• Identify key events during his preaching, including visiting al-Ta'if, the Mi'raj and the Pledges of Aqaba</li> <li>• Discuss the significance of these events for the early Muslim community</li> </ul>		
	The main events of his activities in Madina, his leadership of the community there and his conflicts with the Makkans and others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe the main points the hijra, and give reasons as to why it happened</li> <li>• Give an account of the role Muslims and non-Muslims played in establishing a community in Madina</li> <li>• Identify and describe the main battles and treaties</li> <li>• Describe the last days of the Prophet including his last sermon</li> </ul>		
	His actions and character	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify some characteristics of the Prophet</li> <li>• Give examples of how these actions/characteristics were important at the time, e.g. with women and with non-Muslims</li> </ul>		
	The importance of his actions as examples for Muslim individuals in their personal conduct and relations with others including women and non-Muslims	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify and explain how the Prophet acts as a role model for individuals, from both his actions and character</li> <li>• Show how he treated women and children during his lifetime and how this is important in contemporary societies</li> <li>• Say how his actions with non-Muslims are important for our lives today</li> </ul>		



	The importance of his actions as examples for Muslim communities in their relations with other states	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe how the Prophet dealt with communities and their leaders</li> <li>• Give examples of how his role as a leader can be followed, e.g. from battles and treaties</li> </ul>		
	His significance as Seal of the Prophets and last Messenger of God.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify what it means to be 'the last messenger' and the 'Seal of the Prophets'</li> <li>• Say why it was significant that he was given this title</li> </ul>		
The first Islamic community	The Prophet's wives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify and describe the wives of the Prophet</li> <li>• Discuss the importance of some of his wives including references from the Qur'an</li> </ul>		
	His descendants, including his children, grandchildren and the direct line recognised among Shi'a Muslims as Imams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify and describe his children and his relationship with them Identify his grandchildren and their importance</li> <li>• Describe the main events of Karbala</li> <li>• Identify the importance of the Imams to Shi'a Muslims</li> </ul>		
	His leading Companions, including the Ten Blessed Companions, his Scribes, the major characters who surrounded him in his ministry, the Emigrants and Helpers, and the four Rightly-Guided Caliphs during his lifetime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify the main companions of the Prophet</li> <li>• Describe the role of those considered the Ten Blessed Companions and why they were given this title</li> <li>• Identify and discuss the role of the scribes</li> <li>• Describe who the Emigrants and Helpers were and how they helped in the development of Islam</li> <li>• Identify the Rightly-Guided Caliphs</li> <li>• Describe their relationship with the Prophet</li> </ul>		
Major teachings in the Hadith of the Prophet	Individual conduct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify Hadiths which are related to a Muslim's individual conduct</li> <li>• Identify the main teachings in the Hadith about what Muslims believe</li> </ul>		

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss how these Hadith help Muslims understand how they should act</li> </ul>		
	Life in the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify Hadiths which are related to a Muslim's life in the community</li> <li>• Identify the main teachings in the Hadith about what Muslims believe</li> <li>• Discuss how these Hadith help Muslims understand how they should act</li> </ul>		
The history and importance of the Hadiths	The history of the compilation of the Hadiths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify what the <i>Sanad</i> and <i>Matn</i> are in Ahadith</li> <li>• Describe the way in which the earliest companions started their compilations, and how they judged the authenticity of the isnad and matn</li> <li>• Identify the main categories of Hadith</li> <li>• Discuss the importance of making compilations of Hadith</li> </ul>		
	The earliest collections and the main musnad and musannaf collections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify the main collections of Hadith Describe the differences between them, mainly the musnad and musannaf collections</li> </ul>		
	The main compilers and their activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify the main <i>Muhaddithun</i> and describe their qualities</li> <li>• Describe the ways in which they judged the authenticity of Hadith</li> <li>• Describe the qualities required to be a reliable transmitter and say why these qualities were important for transmitting hadith</li> </ul>		
	The main features of the six collections of Sunni Hadiths and the four collections of Shi'a Hadiths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify the six collections of Sunni hadith</li> <li>• Identify the four main collections of Shi'a Hadith</li> <li>• Describe the main features of these books and how they are related to Islamic law</li> </ul>		
	The major themes of the Hadiths as these are contained both in the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Write about major teachings in the Hadith you have to study in the syllabus</li> </ul>		

	<p>passages set for special study and in other similar passages</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss their significance in thought and action in Islam</li> </ul>		
	<p>Their use in legal thinking, and their relationship with the Qur'an, consensus (ijma') and analogy (qiyas)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify and explain the importance of using the Hadith in Islamic law and its special relationship to the Qur'an</li> <li>• Identify the main sources of Islamic legal thinking</li> <li>• Describe how each of the sources are connected</li> <li>• Show how these sources are used in Islamic law</li> </ul>		
<p>The period of rule of the Rightly Guided Caliphs and their importance as leaders</p>	<p>The main events of the rules of the four Caliphs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify the four Caliphs and why they were known as 'Rightly Guided'</li> <li>• Describe the circumstances around their becoming Caliph and the role they played in the development of Islam</li> </ul>		
	<p>Their policies in maintaining and expanding the state</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe the main features of their rule and discuss how it was important to the development of Islam</li> <li>• Describe their individual approaches to leading the community</li> <li>• Identify their main achievements</li> </ul>		
	<p>The main difficulties they encountered</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe the opposition each Caliph encountered during his rule</li> <li>• Describe how each Caliph sought to fight against their opposition</li> <li>• Discuss their significance as examples of leadership</li> <li>• Discuss how these events are important in Islamic history</li> <li>• Discuss the importance of their rules as models for government today</li> <li>• Discuss their importance as examples for Muslim</li> </ul>		

		communities in their relations with other states		
The Articles of Faith and the Pillars of Islam	The Six Articles of Faith	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify the main Articles of faith, namely belief in the following:</li> <li>• God, including what Muslims believe about him</li> <li>• angels, their nature and duties</li> <li>• books, their contents and purpose</li> <li>• prophets, their character and function</li> <li>• God's predestination and decree, its meaning and significance</li> <li>• resurrection and the last day, the main events and its significance</li> </ul>		
	The Five Pillars of Islam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify the main Pillars of Islam, namely:</li> <li>• The declaration of faith (Shahada) including the significance of what it contains</li> <li>• Prayer (salat) including preparations, its performance and importance, congregational prayers on Fridays and festivals, times of prayer, the place of prayer, private prayer, delayed prayer</li> <li>• Alms-giving (zakat) how it is performed and its significance in the community</li> <li>• Fasting (sawm) including the way it is observed, its significance and those exempted</li> <li>• Pilgrimage (hajj) including the main observances involved and their significance</li> </ul>		
	Jihad in its range of meanings, physical, mental and spiritual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify the traditional meaning of jihad in Islamic thought</li> <li>• Identify the different ways in which jihad can, and has been, interpreted over the years</li> <li>• Discuss what jihad can tell us about the role of Muslims in the modern world</li> </ul>		

## Section 4 - Appendices

### Command words and phrases used in Islamiyat examination Papers

Examiners use command words to help you to understand what they are looking for in your answers. This table explains what each of these words or phrases means and will help you to understand the kind of answer you should write. The list of command words is in alphabetical order. You should remember that the meaning of a term may vary slightly depending on how the question is worded.

**Comment on:** You have to write about the main points of a topic or theme.

**Compare:** You have to identify similarities and differences. Usually you need to talk about two or more different situations then explain how they are similar and how they are different.

**Describe:** This means you should write the story giving factual details about a topic. Can sometimes be used with other command words, e.g. "Briefly describe..." [give some/the main factual details about the topic]

**Discuss:** You have to give your own opinions or arguments about the topic.

**Evaluate:** This means you have to say why you think something is significant/important.

**Explain or Account for:** You have to give reasons for your answer.

**Identify:** You have to write about and/or name the main details about a topic.

**Outline:** Give the main points in your answer.

**Suggest:** You should give your opinion based on the information given in the question, or in the first part of your answer.

**Trace:** Write about the main events. Similar to Outline.

**Why:** You should state or give detailed reasons. This word is often used instead of explain.