

FACT SHEET

GCSE Religious Studies – Edexcel Units D & K – ISLAM

What is the Edexcel GCSE in Religious Studies?

- ☪ This qualification consists of two Units – D and K. Each unit consists of five modules. The syllabus outlines the content for both units.
- ☪ **Unit D** is about Religion and Life. It examines a range of issues and allows the students to explore the range of attitudes to these issues, both religious and non-religious, and the reasons for them.
- ☪ The five units in Unit D are: Believing in Allah; Matters of Life & Death; Marriage & Family Life; Social Harmony; Religion, Wealth & Poverty.
- ☪ **Unit K** covers the different aspects of belief and practise of Islam.
- ☪ The five units in Unit K are: Beliefs & Values; Community & Tradition; Worship & Celebration; Living the Muslim Life; The Mosque.

Why do the Edexcel GCSE in Religious Studies?

- ☪ It is an internationally recognised qualification.
- ☪ Currently Edexcel is the only examination board which enables student to sit both papers in the same religion (i.e. Islam), and gain a full GCSE Religious Studies qualification.
- ☪ It is a way of raising the status of IRE amongst the youth as they can gain a formal qualification at the end of their study.
- ☪ It is a way to address the many contemporary issues which are of concern to and being discussed amongst the youth, and which affect their lives, but are possibly taboo to open social discussion.

How is the Edexcel GCSE in Religious Studies assessed?

- ⌚ Students sit a two hour examination to assess each Unit.
- ⌚ There are two questions set for each Unit, with a total of ten in the exam paper. Students choose to answer ONE complete question, making a total of five questions answered for each paper. This means students have a choice and are able to select the questions which they feel more confident in, thus maximising their chance of a higher grade.
- ⌚ It is possible for a student sitting the Edexcel GCSE RS to take both units/papers in one academic year to gain a full GCSE, or to sit one unit/paper in Year 1 of study, unit/paper two in Year 2 of study and then gain a full GCSE.
- ⌚ It is also possible for a student to sit only one paper and cash in a Short course qualification in the RS which is equivalent to half a GCSE.

What materials are available to support Teachers and Students?

- ⌚ Teacher /Student manual published by IEB – World Federation.
- ⌚ Examination papers and marking schemes booklets.
- ⌚ Past Inset materials.
- ⌚ Recommended Text Books:
 - “Islam in Today’s World” Student’s Book published by Hodder Murray. isbn: 0-7195-7528-1
 - “Islam in Today’s World” Teacher’s Resource Book, Hodder Murray. isbn 0-7195-7432-3
 - www.edexcel.org.uk – website.
- ⌚ Further Inset training can be arranged internally with IEB and also with Edexcel to support teachers in delivering and assessing the course.

Getting Started – points to consider:

- ⌚ **Materials:** Teachers and students will need a study manual.
- ⌚ **Time Frame:** Examinations are usually in late May/ Early June, teachers will need to consider time frame to cover all ten units (i.e. number of hours/weeks allocated). Unit K will take less time to teach than Unit D.
- ⌚ **Entry for the examination** – local Edexcel Examination Board office.

General Information: WF-Islamic Education Board ieb@world-federation.org

Syllabus Overview
Unit D: Religion and Life based on a Study of Islam

1. Believing in Allah:

- ◆ Nature of Allah
- ◆ Religious Experience & Belief in God
- ◆ Nature of a Religious Experience as seen in:
 - Night of Power
 - Salah
 - Zakat
 - Sawm
 - Hajj
- ◆ Believing in God supported by:
 - A religious upbringing
 - The Design and Cause Arguments
 - Search for Meaning & Purpose in Life
- ◆ Agnosticism and Atheism
- ◆ Responses to Evil & Suffering

2. Matters of Life and Death:

- ◆ Belief in Life after Death
- ◆ Sanctity of Life
- ◆ Abortion & Islamic attitudes
- ◆ Euthanasia & Islamic attitudes
- ◆ Contraception & Islamic attitudes

3. Marriage and Family Life:

- ◆ Cohabitation and Marriage
- ◆ Marriage & Islamic attitudes
- ◆ Divorce & Islamic attitudes
- ◆ Family Life in Islam
- ◆ Homosexuality & Islamic attitudes

4. Social Harmony:

- ◆ Women's Rights
- ◆ The Roles of Men & Women in Islam
- ◆ Racial Harmony & Islamic attitudes
- ◆ Religious Tolerance & Islamic attitudes

5. Option: Religion, Wealth & Poverty

- ◆ Islamic Teachings on Wealth & Poverty
- ◆ Muslim Person/Organisation working to relieve poverty in the UK &
- ◆ Muslim Person/Organisation working to relieve World Poverty through:
 - Emergency Aid/Disaster Relief
 - Education & Skills Training
 - Clean Water & Sanitation
 - Primary Healthcare
 - Orphan Welfare
- ◆ The need for development in the world
- ◆ Reasons for the lack of development

Unit K: Islam

1. Beliefs and Values:

- ◆ **Tawhid** – Muslim Beliefs about Allah
 - Shirk
 - Unity of Ummah reflected in: Salah, Zakah, Hajj & Shari'ah
 - Humans as Khalifa/Steward
 - Al-Qadr: Divine Decree and Human Freedom
- ◆ **Risalah**
 - Angels
 - Prophets – P. Adam, P.Ibrahim, P.Musa, P.Isa (p.b.u.t)
 - Holy Books
 - Prophet Muhammad (p.b.u.h) as the Seal of the Prophets
- ◆ **Akhirah** – Resurrection, Judgement, Reward & Punishment

2. Community and Tradition:

- ◆ Muslim beliefs about the Quran:
 - Nature & Authority, and respect of the Quran
 - Revelation to the Holy Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)
- ◆ Life of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)
 - The call to Prophethood
 - His work in Makkah
 - Hijrah and its significance
 - His work in Madinah
- ◆ Sunni and Shia
 - Reasons for the split
 - Different attitudes to leadership and authority

3. Worship and Celebration:

- ◆ Shahadah - a summary of Islamic belief
- ◆ The practice and significance of Salah
- ◆ The practice and significance of Zakah
- ◆ The practice and significance of Sawm & Id-ul-Fitr
- ◆ The practice and significance of Hajj & Id-ul-Adha

4. Living the Muslim Life:

- ◆ Shariah – sources & basis of Muslim life
- ◆ Jihad - Greater and Lesser
- ◆ Islamic Living: Dress laws, Food Laws, Alcohol & Gambling, Riba
- ◆ Birth Rituals
- ◆ Death Rituals

5. Options: The Mosque

- ◆ The Mosque – architectural features and reasons for them
- ◆ The Role & Function of a mosque in the Muslim community
- ◆ The Role & Function of an imam in a Sunni mosque
- ◆ Mosque organisations in the UK
- ◆ Different places and forms of worship among Muslims