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Cambridge Islamic Studies (CIS)

Course Overview

This flagship course offers a structured, academic, and spiritually grounded pathway through the Islamic sciences, aligned with the Cambridge Assessment International Education (CAIE) standards. Our methodology bridges the gap between traditional "sit-and-listen" learning and the rigorous analytical requirements of modern qualifications (IGCSE, AS, and A-Level).

At this pivotal stage of life, CIS serves as an anchor, rooting students in their faith tradition while equipping them with high-level transferable skills: critical thinking, nuanced writing, and historical analysis. We move beyond simple memorization, training students to engage with the Quran, Sunnah, and classical texts as living sources of guidance and intellectual rigor.

Difficulty Level

This course is designed for young scholars and motivated beginners. While no advanced prior knowledge is required, students should have a foundational ability to read the Arabic script. The curriculum is progressive, taking students from basic conceptual understanding to the ability to analyze complex theological and legal arguments.

Class Structure

The course utilizes a "Blended Traditional" model:

1. Live Sessions: 2 hours of weekly remote teaching focused on discussion and deep-dives.
2. Guided Study: Weekly video reinforcements, assigned readings from classical and contemporary texts, and structured independent study.

Course Framework

The 40-week academic year is divided into four 10-week modules, mirroring the Cambridge assessment pillars:

Quarter	Theme	Focus Areas
Q1	Sirah & History	Life of the Prophet ﷺ, the Rightly Guided Caliphs, and the early Community.
Q2	Scripture & Revelation	The history of the Quran, Hadith sciences, and methods of preservation.
Q3	Law & Ethics (Fiqh)	Pillars of Islam, Jurisprudence, and applying Rulings to contemporary life.
Q4	Belief & Philosophy	Articles of Faith (Aqidah), Sectarianism, and Islam in the modern world.

Quarterly Breakdown

1. Quarter 1: Sirah and the Early Community
 - a. Historical Context: Pre-Islamic Arabia and the Makkan period.

- b. The Prophetic Character: Applying the Shama'il and Prophetic ethics to modern identity.
 - c. Analytical Skills: Evaluating primary sources and historical narratives.
 2. Quarter 2: Quranic & Hadith Sciences
 - a. The Revelation: History of compilation and the Asbab al-Nuzul (reasons for revelation).
 - b. Hadith Studies: Classification of Hadith, the Sihah Sittah, and the role of Sunnah in Law.
 - c. Arabic Focus: Reading basic Arabic texts and identifying key terminology.
 3. Quarter 3: Fiqh & Daily Practice
 - a. The Five Pillars: Deep dive into the conditions, integrals, and evidences (Adillah) for worship.
 - b. Ethics of Conduct: Islamic rulings on trade, family, and social justice.
 - c. Contemporary Application: Navigating modern challenges using traditional frameworks.
 4. Quarter 4: Aqidah & Modern Thought
 - a. Fundamentals of Creed: Study of the Attributes of Allah and the Unseen.
 - b. Comparative Analysis: Understanding Islam's place among world religions and secular ideologies.
 - c. Spiritual Growth: Internalizing the "Purpose of Life" and developing a scholar's mindset.
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Class Resources

- **Core Syllabus:** Cambridge IGCSE (0493) and A-Level (9488/9013) official guides.
 - **Classical Texts:** Excerpts from Quran, Hadith, Safinat al-Najah (Fiqh Shafi'i), Murshid al Mu'in (Fiqh Maliki), Nur al Idah (Fiqh Hanafi), collections from Imam al Dardir, Imam al Laqqani, and Imam al Tahawi (Aqidah Ahle Sunnah).
 - **Digital Portal:** Access to recorded lectures, guided discussion boards, and PDF workbooks.
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Pathways

Upon completion, students may elect to sit for the official Cambridge exams. This course serves as the prerequisite for the 'Ālimiyyah and Iftā' programs at Turath Institute.

Expectations

To ensure a productive and enriching learning environment, the following expectations have been set for all students. Please review them carefully and strive to meet them throughout the course.

1. Respect for Shaykh, Students, and Resources

- All course materials (PDFs, translations, access to manuscripts, course recordings, etc.) are provided exclusively for the use of enrolled students. Do not share any of these resources outside the student group. This is an amana (trust) with Allah.
- Treat all course materials, including books, handouts, and digital resources, with care.
- Maintain a respectful demeanor toward the instructor and fellow students.
- Uphold the principles of adab (Islamic manners) in all interactions.
- This is a co-ed class, meaning men and women are welcome in the same space. The class will be segregated in line with Islamic principles of modesty and cultural values and etiquette.

2. Preparation

- Complete all assigned readings, exercises, or tasks before class.
- Attend all scheduled classes; recordings are provided. Consistent attendance is crucial for steady progress.

3. Participation

- Listen attentively and take notes; students are people of inkwells.
- Actively participate in our student portal discussions and activities to reinforce your understanding of the material.
- Engage respectfully with the instructor and peers, fostering a supportive and collaborative learning environment.
- Take advantage of the opportunities for Q&A.

4. Advocacy

- A student of knowledge must carry himself or herself with dignity and self respect. Turn away from every haram, fulfill every fard, and pray all the obligatory prayers in their earliest times.

- A student is an extension of the teacher, and in turn an extension of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. Be a worthy ambassador of Islam.

5. Practice

- People of knowledge say “You forget in a week what took a month to learn.” Set aside dedicated time each day (even if 15 minutes) for reviewing class material and completing assignments.
- Homework should be submitted on time and reflect your best effort.

6. Focus on Meaningful Learning

- Approach the course with a commitment to integrating the knowledge of Arabic with its application in understanding the Quran, Sunnah, and Islamic manuscripts. Apply what you learn each week.
- Embrace the journey. Learning is a life-long commitment. It must become a lifestyle change.

8. Feedback and Support

- Feedback is to be done privately, via [email](mailto:ibrahim.whitney@turathinstitute.org): ibrahim.whitney@turathinstitute.org.
- If you encounter difficulties in understanding or keeping up with the course, inform the instructor promptly. Support will be provided to help you succeed, with Allah’s permission.
- Constructive feedback is welcome. Share suggestions to improve the class experience.

9. Commitment to Growth

- Learning Arabic is a journey that requires patience, dedication, and consistency. Stay motivated by focusing on the purpose and benefits of your efforts.
- Encourage and support your fellow students, creating a sense of community within the class.

By adhering to these expectations, you will maximize your learning experience and contribute to a positive and enriching classroom environment.