

Level 1 Islamic Studies

Cambridge IGCSE 0493 Syllabus

Introduction

Level 1 Islamic Studies at Turath Institute is designed as a comprehensive, 10-month academic program. This Syllabus details our progressive pedagogical framework, core subject modules across six half-terms, required/recommended texts, our custom LMS, and actionable guidelines for parent involvement at home.

Learning Objectives:

Upon successful completion of Level 1, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate a detailed chronological understanding of the Sirah (Makkan and Madinan periods), analyzing key historical milestones and Prophetic leadership.
2. Analyze the historical preservation, compilation, legal status, and core theological themes of prescribed Qurʾān passages.
3. Apply the foundational principles of Ḥadīth authentication (isnād and matn) and extract moral teachings for personal and community life.
4. Explain the foundational tenets of Islamic belief (ʿAqīdah) and practical observances (ʿIbādah), alongside the governance of the Rightly Guided Caliphs.
5. Formulate clear, evaluative responses connecting 7th-century historical events and classical texts to modern, contemporary contexts.

Alignment with Accreditation Standards

Our pedagogy prioritizes *traditional Islam first*. We ground students in authentic classical understanding, spiritual development, and traditional texts. Simultaneously, our rigorous academic framework fully aligns with the *Cambridge IGCSE Islamiyat (0493)* assessment specification. This dual approach ensures that while students receive a deep, uncompromised Islamic education, they are fully equipped to excel in the formal Cambridge examinations if they choose to sit them.

Resources & Materials

Primary Course Textbook: Students will utilize the custom Level 1 Islamic Studies Textbook written by Ibrahim Whitney, specifically structured around our progressive 36-week delivery system. It features parallel Arabic-English scriptural texts, historical maps, primary source guides, and step-by-step writing matrices.

Recommended Reading: Supplementary classical translations and modern scholarly books available in the institute library.

LMS Integration (academy.turathinstitute.org): Our online student portal hosts weekly reading recommendations, automated vocabulary quizzes, primary source PDFs, and slide decks.

Term-by-Term Syllabus

Term & Dates	Main Focus Area	Core Topics Covered
Term 1a	Paper 1: Makkan Sīrah & Early Community	- Lineage, Birth, & Early life of Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of God be upon him) - Pre-Islamic Arabian context (Jāhiliyyah), ancestry, and early life of Prophet Muḥammad ﷺ. - Marriage to Khadijah (RA), family life, and his character as al-Amin ﷺ. - First revelation at Cave Ḥirā' and the call to Prophethood. - Secret and open preaching in Makkah, opposition, and major trials. - Boycott of Banū Hāshim & Banū Muṭṭalib, Year of Sorrow (ʿĀm al-Ḥuzn), Ṭā'if, and al-Isrā' wal-Mi'rāj.
Term 1b	Paper 1: Madinan Sīrah & First Community	- The Hijrah to Madīnah and events at Cave Thawr. - Establishment of the Madīnan state: Constitution of Madīnah and Muwākhāt (brotherhood). - Key military encounters: Battles of Badr, Uḥud, and al-Khandaq. - Diplomacy and expansion: Treaty of al-Ḥudaybiyyah, Conquest of Makkah, Ḥunayn, Siege of al-Ṭā'if, March of Tabūk, and the Farewell Pilgrimage (Ḥajjat al-Widā'). - Biographies of key Ṣaḥābah (Companions of Prophet Muḥammad ﷺ) - Biographies of the Ummahāt al-Mu'minīn (Mothers of the Faithful) and the primary Scribes of Revelation.
Term 2a	Paper 1: History & Themes of the Qur'ān	- Process of divine revelation (610–632 CE) and textual preservation under the Prophet ﷺ. - Official compilation under Caliph Abū Bakr (RA) and standardization under Caliph 'Uthmān (RA). - Legal status of the Qur'ān alongside Ḥadīth, Ijmā' (consensus), and Qiyās (analogy). - Group 1 Themes (God in Himself): Exegetical study of set passages (e.g., Āyat al-Kursī, Sūrah Al-Ikhlāṣ). - Group 2 Themes (God's Relationship with Creation): Exegetical study of set passages (e.g., Sūrah Al-Fātiḥah, Sūrah Al-An'ām).

Term 2b	Paper 2: Ḥadīth Methodology & Teachings	- Science of authentication: Evaluating isnād (chain of transmission) and matn (textual body). - Classification of traditions: Ṣaḥīḥ (sound), Ḥasan (good), and Ḍaʿīf (weak). - History of major collections and canonical compilers (e.g., Al-Bukhārī, Muslim). - Scriptural analysis of prescribed individual conduct texts (sincerity, intention, personal morality). - Scriptural analysis of prescribed communal responsibility texts (social justice, neighborly rights, brotherhood).
Term 3a	Paper 2: Beliefs & Worship & Early Caliphs (Pt. 1)	- The Six Articles of Faith (ʿAqīdah): Tawḥīd, Angels, Books, Prophets, al-Ākhirah, and al-Qadr. - The Five Pillars of Islam (ʿIbādah): Jurisprudential rules and purpose of Shahādah, Ṣalāt, Zakāt, Ṣawm, and Ḥajj. - Spiritual and communal significance of worship, alongside the correct application of Jihād. - Caliphate of Abū Bakr (RA): Election, Ridda Wars, compilation efforts, and consolidation. - Caliphate of ʿUmar (RA): Administrative reforms, territorial expansion, governance style, and martyrdom.
Term 3b	Paper 2: Caliphs (Pt. 2)	- Caliphate of ʿUthmān (RA): Achievements, administrative challenges, finalization of the Codex, and martyrdom. - Caliphate of ʿAlī (RA): Internal challenges, battles of Camel and Ṣiffīn, political governance, and martyrdom. - Evaluative reasoning: Assessing the Khulafāʾ al-Rāshidūn as timeless models for statecraft and moral ethics. - Comprehensive synthesis: Integrating the historical timeline, scriptural texts, and foundational theology across all six modules. - End-of-year academic student showcase.

How Parents Can Support at Home

Weekly Portal Check-ins: Log into academy.turathinstitute.org regularly to review weekly announcements, monitor quiz scores, and track upcoming prep assignments.

Encourage Discussion: Discuss weekly topics at home, specifically helping your child brainstorm modern applications of 7th-century historical events to build strong evaluative writing skills.

Review Materials: Ensure your child reviews their notes in the course textbook.

Maintain Consistency: Support your child's home study schedule to ensure weekly reading prep is completed before attending each live class session.