

CAMBRIDGE IGCSE

Islamiyat 0493

Assessment Overview

Examinations 2028

How the qualification is assessed

The table shows the papers and components described for this syllabus. All candidates take the required components described below. A component's raw mark is the total available on that assessment; its weighting is the share of the qualification result, which may differ from its share of raw marks.

Paper or component	Duration	Raw marks	Weighting	Question or task structure
1: Paper 1	1 h 30 min	50	50%	Questions 1 and 2 compulsory; choose two of the remaining three
2: Paper 2	1 h 30 min	50	50%	Questions 1 and 2 compulsory; choose two of the remaining three

Read the weighting against your qualification route. A longer paper or a larger raw-mark total does not automatically mean a greater final weighting. Prepare for every component that applies to you, including practical, oral or coursework requirements where specified.

What each component requires

Assessment consists of two written papers. Each lasts ninety minutes, carries fifty marks and contributes fifty per cent of the qualification.

Paper 1 contains five questions, of which you answer four.

Question 1 is compulsory and presents three Qur'anic passages from the prescribed list. You select two and explain their themes and importance.

Question 2, on the history and importance of the Qur'an, is also compulsory. You then answer two further essay-style questions covering the life and importance of the Prophet or the first Islamic community.

Paper 2 follows the same overall pattern.

Question 1 is compulsory and presents four prescribed Hadith passages. You select two and explain their teachings and application.

Question 2, on the history and importance of Hadith, is compulsory. You then choose two further questions on the Rightly Guided Caliphs or the Articles of Faith and Pillars of Islam.

All answers are written in English, although familiarity with the Arabic text of the prescribed Qur'anic and Hadith passages is required.

The qualification is graded from A star to G.

Preparing the right kind of response

Select religious material that answers the question and explain its significance. Distinguish a statement of belief from an analysis of how it affects people's lives. Where comparison or evaluation is required, support the argument with relevant teachings and examples, while respecting diversity within traditions.

The assessment objectives are visible in the response itself: relevant knowledge, appropriate use of the stimulus or task, a clear method or explanation, and a conclusion where requested. The command word and mark allocation help show the depth required. An answer should respond to the actual question, not reproduce a memorised passage that only partly fits.

Timing and examination arrangements

Begin preparation with accurate, untimed work, then move towards the duration and conditions of your required component. Use mark allocations to guide pacing while allowing time to read instructions and check the response. Any practice pacing advice is study guidance, not a new Cambridge time rule.

Examinations are available in June and November. However, the syllabus is not offered in every administrative zone, so availability must be confirmed before registration. Private candidates may enter.

An approved examination centre confirms entries, available component options, deadlines and any practical or speaking arrangements. Preparation-course access does not itself constitute an examination entry. Answers are written in English. Familiarity with the prescribed Arabic passages supports understanding, but it does not replace the required explanation of their meaning and importance.

Key pointers: Know your required components, follow question choices precisely and practise the relevant response formats. **Next:** Open **Learning Resources** to see which materials support this preparation.