



Al-Maktoum College
of Higher Education



ADVANCED DIPLOMA IN ISLAMIC STUDIES PROGRAMME HANDBOOK

Academic Year 2021/22

SCQF level 10

Programme code: GM75 04

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1.1 WELCOME

This programme is relevant to any student who wants to learn about Islam and its connection with other revealed religions such as Christianity and Judaism regarding plurality and diversity. The programme will introduce students not only to the theology of Islam but its culture, civilisation and interaction with different people and nations in this globalised world. The students will be able to develop a critical approach to the study of Islam and its diverse methodologies.

1.2 STAFF

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Research Methodology Unit Coordinator: **TBC**

General admin enquiries should be emailed to studentadmin@almcollege.ac.uk

1.3 AIMS AND outcomes

This unique programme is designed to develop students' knowledge of the key areas of Islamic Studies. The course will introduce Islam in terms of its fundamental beliefs, history and development from the Arabian Peninsula to other parts of the world. Students will examine the key teachings of Islam as a religion and a civilisation that has encountered with other cultures and civilisations. They will also explore other areas such as women and Islam, Islamic core sources and Islamic ethics considering contemporary developments.

Through establishing a foundation and some critical thinking on the subject matter, candidates will become confident in addressing various challenges in response to their personal or professional situations through working in a multicultural society.

Programme Aims

- To introduce students to Islam, its history, belief system, key values and figures.
- To examine early historical events and the development of Islam, with special reference to the Makkan and Madinan
- To examine ethical theories, concepts and questions within the Islamic framework.
- To highlight the main themes of Islamic core sources.
- To explore issues regarding women and Islam by examining gender issues in light of religion and culture.

1.4 LEARNING HOURS

The programme is composed of 5 core units and an optional unit. Each unit makes up of 12 credits taught over 10 weeks. For each unit students must dedicate at least 120 hours of study, 20 contact hours and 98 independent study. The option of Arabic may require extra study hours.

Classes are made up of lectures, seminars and tutorials and you will have 2 hours of contact teaching per week.

1.5 UNIT INFORMATION

Full-time students will take three core units in the first semester and two core units with an optional unit in the second semester:

Compulsory

Unit code	Title	SCQF level	Credits
H37P 04	Introduction to Islamic Studies	9	12
H37R 04	Women and Islam	10	12
H37N 04	Islamic Ethics	10	12
H47004	Islamic Core Sources and Approaches	10	12
H9P904	Research Methodology	10	12

Optional

Unit code	Title	SCQF level	Credits
HP9G 04	Arabic as a Foreign Language 6	6	20
HP9J 04	Arabic as a Foreign Language 8	8	20
H46W 04	Islamic Economics and Finance	11	20
H46X 04	Islamic Commercial Law	11	20
H37S 04	Applied Islamic Banking and Insurance	11	20
H46Y 04	Islamic Accounting and Auditing	11	20

Introduction to Islamic Studies

This unit will introduce students to Islam, its history, important personalities in Islam, and its main sources and basic teachings. Development of Islam as a religion will be analysed in further details. The unit has been arranged in three parts: early period of Islam; Islam and diversity; and Islam in the contemporary world. On successful completion of this unit, students should be able to know creeds, practices and rituals of Islam; different phases during which the Quran was revealed to Prophet Muhammad and specific features of Makkan and Madinan verses; the early denominations of Islam, Islamic theology, jurisprudence and philosophy; as well as the position of Islam and Muslims in the contemporary world.

Women and Islam

The position of women in Islam is a lively in both the Islamic and western worlds. It is a subject often used by critics to portray Islam as a misogynist and oppressive religion. In their arguments their first point of reference is the plight of Muslim women in many Islamic societies. The advocates of women's rights in Islam, however, encourage differentiation between the teachings of Islam and diverse cultural practices. This unit is designed for candidates from all walks of life. The course will look at different dimensions of gender issues in Islam and among Muslims by exploring theological, political, cultural and practical perspectives.

Students will acquire introductory knowledge and understanding of women and gender issues in the contexts of religion and culture. This will be through cultural exploration and examination of social, legal and political issues in different Muslim contexts. The course will introduce Islamic feminism, and teach students how Islamic feminists claim and understand women's rights within an Islamic framework. This unit will cover some controversial issues on women issues such as marriage, divorce, dress code, purity, violence against women, parenthood, hijab, women's political participation, etc. Some of these issues will be covered in students' presentations as part of their independent study and assessment.

Through establishing a foundation and some critical thinking on the subject matter, candidates will become confident in addressing challenges in response to their personal or professional situations through working in a multicultural society.

Research Methodology in Social Sciences and Islamic Studies

The unit covers a variety of topics in research methodology, research method and social theory. Issues covered include topics in Critical Thinking and Writing; Referencing and Bibliography; Philosophy of Social Sciences; Theories of Social Sciences; Designing Research; Strategies and Frameworks of Research; The Management of Research; Research Methodologies; Research Methods; Approaches to Data Collection; Survey Methods; Observation Methods; Analysing Data; The Ethics and Politics of Social Research; Methodology of Muslim scholars in Scientific Research, Primary, Secondary and Disputed Sources of Islam and their application and Writing a Research Proposal.

Islamic Core Sources and Approaches

This unit will allow students to understand the Islamic core sources and approaches in depth. They will be introduced to the different sciences developed within Islamic studies from exegesis (*tafsir*) and methodology of hadith to Islamic law (*fiqh*) and principles of jurisprudence (*usul al-fiqh*). On successful completion of this unit, students should be able to grasp the structure of the Islamic core sources and their development in addition to how these sources are applied in a variety of contexts. They will also become familiar with the different methodological approaches developed by Muslim scholars within the Islamic tradition.

1.6 ASSESSMENT

Assessments are both formative and summative, including essays, presentations and exams.

All assessments aim to enhance your communication and IT skills, develop your problem solving and critical analysis as well as working to deadline.

For example, the group presentation is a chance for you to develop your presentation and communication skills which are important for employability. Formative assessments are used to provide you with an opportunity to develop your subject knowledge and skills, prior to using them in summative assessments.

The College adopts varied forms of assessment in order to indicate learner's progress based on diagnostic, formative and summative assessment.

Assessment is based on the following principles:

- Assessment methods and criteria are aligned to learning outcomes
- Assessment is approached holistically
- Assessment is purposeful and timely
- Assessment is reliable, fair, consistent and valid
- Students are supported for assessment

Students who are successfully re-assessed will be awarded a mark of no more than 50% (capped). Students may be re-assessed in failed components only once.

Students may not be re-assessed in an assessment that they have passed in order to achieve a higher mark.

Students who fail a component may resubmit assessed work within: 20 working days after the original submission date.

Deferred assessment: If illness or other exceptional circumstance prevents a student taking or submitting an assessment at the appropriate time, they may apply for a deferred assessment using the approved form. Such applications will be considered in the strictest confidence by the Unit Coordinator and the Programme Coordinator who will decide if the application shall be granted and the conditions under which such deferral is approved. Normally, deferred assessments shall be undertaken at least one day before students who were assessed on time received their marked work. If this is not possible, an alternative but equivalent assessment task must be set. Students taking deferred assessments will be awarded the mark they achieve.

Feedback :Feedback is a vital part of the learning process. In summative assessments, constructive feedback is provided in written format.

This will serve two purposes:

- it highlights the strengths and shortages of student's work; and
- it clarifies assessment decisions/marks.

1.7 EXTENSIONS

Student Administration will be responsible for recording any extensions which have been approved. Students must complete the Extension Request form which is available within the Student Resources section of the website www.almcollege.ac.uk/assessment/

The College aims to ensure fair and equal treatment in the assessment of all students and that no student is unjustly denied or unfairly granted the benefits of continuous assessment. Please consult the Summative Assessment Policy for more details. <https://www.almcollege.ac.uk/policies-documents/>

The College is aware that its aim of securing fair and equal treatment in the assessment of all students is ultimately inextricable from disability-related issues and is, therefore, anxious to ensure that proper provision/reasonable adjustment is always made. You can help the College to achieve this aim by communicating any relevant information to Student Administration studentadmin@almcollege.ac.uk

1.8 GRADING CRITERIA

Each unit will be assessed individually. You must meet the minimum evidence requirements as defined in the learning outcomes. The successful achievements, approved by the Academic Standards Committee, will count in determining progression and contribute to the award.

Under no circumstances shall any candidate be permitted to submit themselves for assessment in any element more than twice. In the case of a candidate failing to complete a prescribed element of assessment on time, permission for a second assessment will only be granted if the failure is on account of illness or other good cause. The result of that assessment will contribute towards progression and award. The passing rate should be not less than 50% of each element of assessments.

The grading scale is from 0% to 100%.

The pass mark for the Advanced Diploma in Islamic Studies is 45%

The Marking criteria which are used for Assessment			
Mark	Grade	Specific Grade Criteria	General Grade Criteria
70+	Distinction	<p>This grade is awarded for work of an exceptional quality, which meets the criteria in most areas.</p> <p>The work is well-written and shows a good understanding of the topic. It cites relevant arguments/material that is properly referenced. The work is supported by a coherent planned structure, with good grammar and presentation. Any arguments presented are well thought out, clear, and relevant to the topic.</p> <p>The work successfully answers the question(s) posed, shows a good grasp of key concepts and the ability to critically analyse these. and form a logical conclusion.</p> <p>The work is thorough and thoughtful and does not contain irrelevant information.</p>	<p>This grade should be awarded to work that shows outstanding merit in its argument and ability to engage with the topic. Its presentation, structure, judgements, and originality are highly commendable.</p> <p>The work shows an excellent understanding of the topic and use of relevant materials.</p>
60-69	Merit	<p>This grade is awarded for work of a high quality which meets the criteria in many areas.</p> <p>It is a competent piece of work which shows a good understanding of the topic and key issues. It is well-written and well-organised, and the argument is generally good.</p> <p>However, the work may contain some instances of poor grammar or referencing. The argument may be weak in some areas, and it may contain some irrelevant information. The work may lack originality or may rely heavily on class notes.</p>	<p>This grade should be awarded to work that shows a good understanding of the topic and is of high quality.</p> <p>There are not too many errors in terms of grammar, presentation, structure and referencing.</p>
45-59	Pass	<p>This grade is awarded for work of an adequate or good quality which meets the criteria in some areas.</p> <p>The work shows a good effort has been made, and many of the key concepts are included. However, the work does contain significant limitations. The work may show poor use of language and grammar, poor referencing, and poor structure.</p> <p>The argument is likely to be weak in some areas, and contain irrelevant information. Some relevant points may be lacking. The work may lack originality or may rely heavily on class notes.</p>	<p>This grade should be awarded to work that shows a reasonable level of understanding of the topic and its key concepts. The work shows sufficient effort has been made to answer the question and produce a clear argument, although this has not been achieved in all areas.</p>

1.9 READING LISTS

Reading lists will be available in the individual unit outlines.