

IGCSE RELIGIOUS STUDY REPORT 2021

GCSE Islam Religious Studies course started in Aberdeen since August 2007 by Al-Noor Islamic school. It is a two-year course that consists of Unit 4 & Unit 11 that covers the topics on "Beliefs and Practice" and "Religion and Life" related to current social and community issues. Both units have 100% national exam and is governed under Edexcel Board (England).

Our record proves that the four batches of students May/June 2008 exam and May/June 2011 May/June 2014 and May/June 2017 performed excellently and most of them passed with grades A*, A, B, & C.

The GCSE Islam Course was run based on the syllabus issued and monitored by Edexcel.

Who and what is Edexcel?

Based from Edexcel website, <http://www.edexcel.com/aboutus/Pages/AboutUs.aspx>, Edexcel is a Pearson company (the world's largest education business and the owner of the FT and Penguin) and it is the UK's largest awarding body offering academic and vocational qualifications and testing to schools, colleges, employers and other places of learning in the UK and internationally.

Since the course is offered via Edexcel, the link to Edexcel must be initiated and it was duly established in 2007. Edexcel has laid down its specific requirements to be conformed for eligible candidates to sit for its examinations; amongst others is to be registered with an examination centre accredited and fulfil Edexcel specifications.

Due to the fact that the course is based on the standard examination offered in England and not in Scotland, further it is a specific course on 'Islam' paper, **there is no examination centre in the North East of Scotland** that can provide their examination facilities to accommodate this requirements.

After a lot of challenges our first batch of candidate managed to sit for exam in Aberdeen College through the help of GREC in 2008. Thereafter, Aberdeen International centre became the exam centre of Edexcel and provided facility for our students to sit for exam in 2010 and 2014. International centre is no longer exist as an exam centre of Edexcel. Therefore, our students sit for exam in alternative exam centre in "Albyn school" this year.

The aim of the course

The reference to GCSE Islam was made due to the absence of similar qualifications offered in Scotland. With the minimum age of 15 years old, this is to encourage the younger generation to attend the course and to maximise the use of their time for good and beneficial purpose.

No maximum age; and therefore this also open the opportunity for adults too to refresh, to share and to sharpen their knowledge and understanding.

The knowledge gained can also support the da'wah effort that the candidate will find beneficial and give more confidence when confronted with challenging questions on sensitive issues that generally avoided for open discussions.

Young Muslims in the UK face challenges as part of living in a multi-faith and multi-ethnic society. This course will enable them to deal with current problems and issues faced in modern Britain today.

Brief summary of the report of 2020/2021

In 2017 Syllabus were further changed and other religions were compulsory to take with Islam which was complicated. so we have decided to take for our students IGCSE (International GCSE Religious Studies). This is based on PAPER 1: BELIEFS & VALUES NAD PAPER 2: RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY.

This is an intensive course more in depth than GCSE RS. Our first bade registered for exam in 2020, because of Covid-19 restriction exam was cancelled. Our students further applied for sitting for exam in May/June 2021, unfortunately exam was cancelled again. We have taken Mock exam from our 15 Candidates and they all have predicted grade by the exam grading criteria of Edexcel board. 100% pass with A* As and Bs.

Mock test results Paper 1 May 2020 = 100%. Average pass grade 80%

Mock test results Paper 2 May 2020 = 100% pass. Average pass grade 95%

Final exam result August 2021 : 100% pass

Paper 1 - 5A*, 6 A, 3 B, 1 C = Average total pass grade **85%**

Paper 2 - 6A*, 5 A, 4 B, = Average total pass grade **90 %**

Students focused on study throughout the year 2019-2020, Our students did hard work during pandemic and prepared for their exam which has proved in the outstanding result 2021. Students achieved greater result which is per

more than expected. It was only possible with the dedication of our teachers and great effort of our students Alhamdulillah.

Students had received their predicted result and the professional certificate provided by AMIC.

TESTIMONIAL from previous students

- ❖ "As a mother, not that I don't know anything about Islam, but I wanted more assurance on what I already knew."
- ❖ "It's great to have this course and we attended together with friends and discussed about current issues we faced in the society."
- ❖ "Eye-opener! I thought I knew my religion, but there are lots more that I discover. Great experience!"
- ❖ "Highly recommended! You didn't realize how much knowledge you gained by attending this course!"
- ❖ "Its an excellent course which is enabling me to deal with the current issues in the society that I live in!"
- ❖ *And many more to be included here ...*

Conclusion:

Alhamdulillah, with the support of the mosque committee and the facility of the classes venue that provided in the mosque, we are smoothly running the GCSE Islam classes since 2013. We are looking forward get at least 20 students for the next session starting age 15

With continuous communication and mutual respect, we are hoping to foster better relationship and effective administration for the betterment and interest of the course and most importantly for the benefit of the students as a whole.

GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES MANAGEMENT

CO-ORDINATOR

FARIDA AMIN

AUGUST 2021

