



# Islamic Studies Diploma 2025 – 2027

“Are They Equal Those Who Know & Those Who Do Not Know”

(Surah al-Zumar : 9)



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# Islamic Studies Diploma

## 2025 -2027

### Aim:

- To develop a sound grounding in the fundamental aspects of Islam
- Safeguard ones faith in a time of an atheistic mindset growth
- Make Islam a cohesive lived reality
- To develop a foundation in Islamic Studies with a focus on community work
- To develop an understanding of the place of Muslims and Islam in contemporary Western society
- To aid Muslims in taking on leadership roles
- To encourage positive implementation of social solutions and develop positive role models in society
- To provide a program of spiritual development with a mentoring system

### Overview:

The Islamic Studies Diploma course is a unique programme taught by various expert scholars, teachers and activists that seeks to introduce and expose students to the fundamental values, concepts and subjects of Islam. The course focuses on providing learners with a sound grounding in the primary and secondary sources of Shari'ah. The lessons will be taught in English, utilising translated classical and modern Islamic books relevant to Muslims in contemporary western society.

The programme will take place over a period of 2 years, with study on a part-time basis; and will be delivered via a series of lectures, discussion groups and independent reading. The skills and knowledge developed will be transferable into the work place and the wider community.

### Programme:

The course of study will consist of the following subject areas:

**Topic 1:** *'Ulum al-Qur'an* (Sciences of the Qur'an) & Basic Exegesis of al-Fatiha (*Tafsir*)

**Topic 2:** *Seerah* (The Prophetic Biography : *Fiqh al-Seerah* Sh Ramadhan al-Buti ra)

**Topic 3:** *Ulum al-Hadith* (Sciences of Hadith) & selective reading of *Arba'een Nawawiyah* (Study of the Collection of 40 Hadith by Imam Nawawi (ra))

**Topic 4:** Classical and Contemporary *Aqidah* (Islamic Beliefs & Revealed Theology)

**Topic 5:** Spiritual Mentoring (*The Beginning of Guidance – Imam al-Ghazali ra*)

**Topic 6:** Islamic Law of Worship (*The Gift for the Seeker* Imam Abu Bakr al-Ahsaee ra)

**Topic 7:** Islamic Manners & Etiquettes (*min al-Adab al-Islam – Sh Abdul Fattah Abu Ghuddah ra*)

**Topic 8:** *Tazkiyyah* (Islamic Spirituality)

**Topic 9:** Contemporary Topics

The above topics will be coupled with some contemporary topics; many of the topics will be extended into seminars that will be opened up to the public.

### **Schedule:**

The course will run for 70 weeks, divided over two years. Each academic year will be 35 weeks in duration approximately. Learning sessions being held weekly. There will be a break during Ramadhan and during some holidays. Each session will be 2 hours in length, and will involve the study of a key topic including group discussion and a comfort break. Regular independent study will be set which is expected to take up about 2 hours a week.

### **Key Lecturer:**

Sheikh Muhammad Zaqr, (occasionally there will be other highly qualified `Ulema that will deliver lectures in their specialists fields)

### **Brief Introduction to Sheikh Muhammad Zaqr**

After graduating from Manchester University with a BA (Hons) in Politics and Economics in 1995, Sheikh Muhammad Zaqr studied in Damascus, Syria for 8 years at the Prestigious Abu Noor Institute and studied several classical disciplines of Islamic knowledge at the hands of some of the prominent holders of the tradition. In addition, Sheikh Muhammad Zaqr has studied in Jordan, Mauritania and has been blessed with the opportunity to spend time in the illuminated city of Tarim, Hadramawt; where he studied at the eminent Institute Dar ul Mustafa, under the qualified hands of some of the most illustrious guides of knowledge. Being classically trained in the sacred sciences he has attained formal ijaza's in the various Islamic Disciplines such as: Qur'anic Tafsr, Ahādith, Fiqh, Logic, Aqīdah, Arabic Language and Rhetoric. Other than having attained iftaa in the Hanafi Fiqh he is also conversant in the Shafi'i and Hanbali Schools of Jurisprudence. Moreover, he is highly qualified in the field of Aqīdah thus specializing in this branch of Islamic Knowledge. Furthermore he is the founder of many Islamic initiatives in the UK; and in particular the 'Islamic Mission of Awareness and Da'wah', 'Darul Arqam Educational Trust', 'Revive Darul Arqam Humanitarian Charity', 'Rumi Revival Tour' and 'Spiritual Tours'.

### **Core Module Texts:**

#### **`Ulum al-Qur'an**

- Ahmed Von Denffer (1994), *Ulum al-Quran*, Leicester: Islamic Foundation
- Imam al-Qurtubi, *Tafsir al- Qurtubi*, Vol. 1, Trans: Aisha Bewley (2008), London: Dar al-Taqwa

#### **`Ulum al-Hadith**

- Dr M.M. Azami (1978), *Studies in Hadith Methodology and literature*, American Trust Publication
- Imam Nawawi (2009), *Imam Nawawi's commentary on the 40 Hadith*, Trans: Abdassamad Clarke, London: Ta-Ha Publishers

#### **Seerah**

- Sheikh Ramadan al-Buti 2007, *Jurisprudence of the Prophetic Biography*, Trans: Nancy Roberts, Damascus: Dar al-Fikr

#### **Tazkiyyah**

- Imam al-Ghazali (2010), *The Beginning of Guidance: Bidayatul al-Hidayah*, Trans: Mashhad al-Allaf, London: White Thread Press

#### **Classical and Contemporary Aqidah**

- Mustapha Mahmoud (1994), *Dialogue with an Atheist*, Trans: Yehia Mohammad, London: Dar al-Taqwa publishers

## **Assessment**

The course will be assessed by: **either two essays, or a final year exam.** The choice of assessment will be left to the discretion of the student in consultation with the teacher. **In addition** to the essays and exam there will be a group assessment that will take the form of a **public event** that concentrates on some facet that is neglected within the Muslim community. A **minimum attendance of 70 %** is also a requirement. The three assessment essay titles are:

**ESSAYS:**

<i>Date Due</i>	<i>Subject Area</i>	<i>Essay Title</i>
17 <sup>th</sup> March 2027	QURAN (one essay only)	Summarise the stages of compilation of the Quran and why it was necessary.  What is the principle theme of the Quran? Explain with reference to the sub-themes.  How is the Quran a miracle?
22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2026	HADITH (one essay only)	Summarise the various classifications of Hadith.  Provide a thematic synopsis of the Forty Hadith of Imam al-Nawwawi
12 <sup>th</sup> May 2027	AQEEDAH (one essay only)	In the chapter - He Begot None, Nor Was He Begotten - the atheist States: You say that God exists. The chief Among your proofs is the law of causation which stipulates every artefact creature or existence must have been brought into being by a maker creator or efficient cause... According to this logic it is logical to ask 'Who Created the creator'. Discuss with making reference to Surah Al-Ikhlaas ?  What is the 'Problem of Evil' How do we as Muslims - say that Evil is not a proof of the non Existence of God. Think about our conversations in class and that Evil is relative and how the Incident of Surah al-Kahf help us understand this.  One reality (from many) which disproves Darwinism and Evolution is Irreducible Complexity and the Flojella – please explain.  Write a short answer about those unreached by the Quran - are they going to be punished ? Mention this in regards to the term 'Fitrah'.  Give four reasons why Quran cannot be from a human but from Allah ?
27 <sup>th</sup> January 2027	SEERAH	How would you respond to a person who claims the Prophetic Biography is a grand narrative which has little importance to us today?  Take five instances from the Prophets ﷺ life and its relevance to our lives.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Subject Area</i>	<i>Exams</i>
6 <sup>th</sup> July 2025	ALL	2 hours  Exam would consist of 20 multiple choice questions and fill in the blanks and two essay type questions.

**IN ADDITION TO THE ASSESSMENT AN EVENT HAS ALSO TO BE ORGANISED**

<i>Date</i>	<i>Subject Area</i>	<i>Joint Group Event</i>
Week Commencing 18 <sup>th</sup> May 2025	TBC	A joint event organised by the students of the course which concentrates on some aspect of Islam which is neglected.

**Written Test Criteria**

- The exam papers for each module carry a maximum grade of 100 marks.
- The focus of the test is to assess knowledge acquisition. Therefore the number of marks awarded for each question depends upon the number of correct answers one recalls.
- The pass mark for the end of module written test is 50%. However if this mark is not obtained, there will be a possibility of a retake after receiving reflective feedback from the course leader.
- The descriptor for each grade is described below:

**0 - 49% = Unsatisfactory.**

Inadequate level of knowledge acquisition. Student is not considered to have reached a level of basic proficiency in the subject. Recommended to retake test.

**50%-60% = Pass – Satisfactory.**

The student has demonstrated a basic understanding and level of proficiency in the subject. A little over half of the issues concerning the subject are understood, yet there are many areas of weakness that require further reading and revision.

**61%-70% = Merit – Good.**

The student has demonstrated an intermediate level of understanding and proficiency of the subject. Majority of the question are answered correctly, and the answers clearly show a good understanding; however a few minor mistakes have been made and there are a few areas that still require revision.

**71% = Distinction – Excellent.**

The student has demonstrated an advanced level of understanding and proficiency of the subject. All questions have been answered, with a few minor mistakes, moreover the answers reflect an exceptional command of the subject.

The criteria

1. Key issues addressed
2. Understanding of the subject
3. Effort and clarity of writing

**0-49% - Unsatisfactory**

Only one or no key issue has been addressed  
Shows little or no understanding of the subject  
Shows very little effort and no clarity in writing

**50% - 60% - Pass – Satisfactory**

1/2 key issues addressed  
Shows some understanding of the issues addressed  
Shows some effort and general clarity (very few confusing areas)

**61% - 70% - Merit - Good**

3 key issues clearly addressed  
Shows some understanding of the issues addressed  
Shows good effort and general clarity (very few or no confusing areas)

**71% + - Distinction - Excellent**

All issues clearly addressed  
Shows excellent understanding of all key areas  
Shows excellent effort and clarity of work

## Suggested Reading List

### ***Ulum al-Qur'an:***

- Ahmed Von Denffer (1994), *Ulum al-Quran*, Leicester: Islamic Foundation
- Mufti Taqi Uthmani (2006), *Approach to the Quranic Sciences*, New Delhi: Darul Ishaat
- Dr. M. Mohar Ali, *The Quran, and The Orientalists*, Ipswich: JIMAS Publishers
- Shah Wali ullah Dehlawi (2002) *Al-Fauz al-kabir fi usul al-Tafsir*, Trans: G.N Jalbani, New Delhi: Darul Ishaat

### ***Ulum al-Hadith:***

- Dr M.M. Azami (1978), *Studies in Hadith Methodology and literature*, American Trust Publication
- Zubair Siddiqi (1993), *Hadith Literature*, Cambridge: Islamic Text Society
- Mustafa As-Siba'ee (2008), *The Sunnah and its role on Islamic legislation*, Qatar: IIPH
- Dr Gibril F. al-Haddad (2005), *Sunnah Notes* (vols 1), Trans: Musa Furbur, London: Aqsa Publications
- Jonathan A C Brown (2009), *Hadith*, Oxford: One World Publications
- Dr Hashim Kamali (2005), *A Textbook of Hadith Studies*, Leicester: Islamic Foundation

### ***Aqidah al-Islamiyyah:***

- Imam Abu Ja'far al-Tahawi, *al-Aqidah al-Tahawiyyah*, Trans: Iqbal Ahmad Azami, Leicester: UK Islamic Academy
- Imam Abu Hanifa (2007), *Fiqh al-Akbar*, Trans: Abdur Rahman ibn Yusuf, London White Thread Press
- Mustapha Mahmoud (1994), *Dialogue with an Atheist*, Trans: Yehia Mohammad, London: Dar al-Taqwa publishers

### ***Hadith al-Nabawiyyah:***

- Imam Nawawi (2009), *Imam Nawawi's commentary on the 40 Hadith*, Trans: Abdassamad Clarke, London: Ta-Ha Publishers
- Ibn Rajab al-Hanbali (2007), *Compendium of Knowledge and Wisdom*, Trans: Abdassamad Clarke, London: Turath Publishers

### ***Seerah:***

- Sheikh Ramadan al-Buti 2007, *Jurisprudence of the Prophetic Biography*, Trans: Nancy Roberts, Damascus: Dar al-Fikr
- Martin Lings (1983), *Muhammad: His Life Based on the Earliest Sources*, London: Islamic Text Society
- Ibn Ishaq, *The Life of Muhammad*, Trans: A. Guillaume (1989), Oxford: Oxford Uni. Publishers

### ***Tazkiyyah***

- Imam al-Ghazali (2009), *A Letter to a Disciple: Ya Ayhal Walad*, Trans: T.J. Winter, Cambridge: Islamic Text Society
- Imam al-Ghazali (2010), *The Beginning of Guidance: Bidayatul al-Hidayah*, Trans: Mashhad al-Allaf, London: White Thread Press
- Imam al-Ghazali (2001), *Deliverance from Error: Munkidh min al-Dhalal*, Trans: R.J. McCarthy, Louisville: Fons Vitae
- Imam Abdullah ibn Alawi al-Haddad (2003), *The Book of Assistance*, Louisville: Fons Vitae



LESSON	DATE	HOLIDAYS/ KEY DATES	LESSON 1- 7pm-7.55pm	LESSON 2 -8.05pm -9pm
	<b>OCTOBER</b>			
1	22/10/2025		FIQH: ITHAF AL TALIB (GIFT FOR THE SEEKER)	ISLAMIC MANNERS
2	29/10/2025		FIQH: ITHAF AL TALIB (GIFT FOR THE SEEKER)	ISLAMIC MANNERS
	<b>NOVEMBER</b>			
3	05/11/2025		FIQH: ITHAF AL TALIB (GIFT FOR THE SEEKER)	ISLAMIC MANNERS
4	12/11/2025		FIQH: ITHAF AL TALIB (GIFT FOR THE SEEKER)	ISLAMIC MANNERS
5	19/11/2025		FIQH: ITHAF AL TALIB (GIFT FOR THE SEEKER)	ISLAMIC MANNERS
6	26/11/2025		FIQH: ITHAF AL TALIB (GIFT FOR THE SEEKER)	ISLAMIC MANNERS
	<b>DECEMBER</b>			
7	03/12/2025		FIQH: ITHAF AL TALIB (GIFT FOR THE SEEKER)	ISLAMIC MANNERS
8	10/12/2025		FIQH: ITHAF AL TALIB (GIFT FOR THE SEEKER)	ISLAMIC MANNERS
9	17/12/2025		FIQH: ITHAF AL TALIB (GIFT FOR THE SEEKER)	ISLAMIC MANNERS
	24/12/2025	<b>HOLIDAY</b>		
	31/12/2025	<b>HOLIDAY</b>		
	<b>JANUARY</b>			
10	07/01/2026		FIQH: ITHAF AL TALIB (GIFT FOR THE SEEKER)	ISLAMIC MANNERS
11	14/01/2026		FIQH: ITHAF AL TALIB (GIFT FOR THE SEEKER)	ISLAMIC MANNERS
12	21/01/2026		FIQH: ITHAF AL TALIB (GIFT FOR THE SEEKER)	ISLAMIC MANNERS
13	28/01/2026		FIQH: ITHAF AL TALIB (GIFT FOR THE SEEKER)	ULOOM SUNNAH
	<b>FEBRUARY</b>			
14	04/02/2026	<b>15TH SHABAN (03/02)</b>	FIQH: ITHAF AL TALIB (GIFT FOR THE SEEKER)	ULOOM SUNNAH
15	11/02/2026		FIQH: ITHAF AL TALIB (GIFT FOR THE SEEKER)	ULOOM SUNNAH
	15/02/2026	<b>HOLIDAYS (RAMADAN 17/02)</b>		
16	22/02/2026	<b>Date/Time TBC</b>	FIQH: ITHAF AL TALIB (GIFT FOR THE SEEKER)	ULOOM SUNNAH



	MARCH			
17	01/03/2026	Date/Time TBC	FIQH: ITHAF AL TALIB (GIFT FOR THE SEEKER)	ULOOM SUNNAH
18	08/03/2026	Date/Time TBC	FIQH: ITHAF AL TALIB (GIFT FOR THE SEEKER)	ULOOM SUNNAH
	18/03/2026	EID (19TH/20TH)		
19	25/03/2026		FIQH: ITHAF AL TALIB (GIFT FOR THE SEEKER)	ULOOM SUNNAH
	APRIL			
	01/04/2026	BANK HOLIDAY (03/04)		
	08/04/2026	BANK HOLIDAY (06/04)		
20	15/04/2026		FIQH: ITHAF AL TALIB (GIFT FOR THE SEEKER)	ULOOM SUNNAH
21	22/04/2026		SEERAH	ULOOM SUNNAH
22	29/04/2026		SEERAH	ULOOM SUNNAH
	MAY			
	06/05/2026	BANK HOLIDAY (04/05)		
23	13/05/2026		SEERAH	ULOOM SUNNAH
24	20/05/2026		SEERAH	ULOOM SUNNAH
	27/05/2026	ARAFAT/EID AL ADHA		
	JUNE			
25	03/06/2026		SEERAH	ULOOM QURAN
26	10/06/2026		SEERAH	ULOOM QURAN
27	17/06/2026		SEERAH	ULOOM QURAN
28	24/06/2026	(ASHURA 26TH JUNE)	SEERAH	ULOOM QURAN
	JULY			
29	01/07/2026		SEERAH	ULOOM QURAN
30	08/07/2026	SUMMER HOLIDAYS (06/07)	SEERAH	ULOOM QURAN
31	15/07/2026		SEERAH	ULOOM QURAN
32	22/07/2026		SEERAH	ULOOM QURAN
	26/07/2026		GRADUATION	GRADUATION
	29/07/2026		SUMMER BREAK	SUMMER BREAK

	<b>AUGUST</b>			
	05/08/2026		SUMMER BREAK	SUMMER BREAK
	12/08/2026		SUMMER BREAK	SUMMER BREAK
	19/08/2026		SUMMER BREAK	SUMMER BREAK
	26/08/2026		SUMMER BREAK	SUMMER BREAK
	<b>SEPTEMBER</b>			
	02/09/2026	<b>BANK HOLIDAY (31/08)</b>		
33	09/09/2026		SEERAH	ULOOM QURAN
34	16/09/2026		SEERAH	ULOOM QURAN
35	23/09/2026		SEERAH	ULOOM QURAN
36	30/09/2026		SEERAH	ULOOM QURAN
	<b>OCTOBER</b>			
37	07/10/2026		SEERAH	ULOOM QURAN
38	14/10/2026		SEERAH	ULOOM QURAN
39	21/10/2026		SEERAH	ULOOM QURAN
40	28/10/2026		SEERAH	ULOOM QURAN
	<b>NOVEMBER</b>			
41	04/11/2026		SEERAH	ULOOM QURAN
42	11/11/2026		SEERAH	ULOOM QURAN
43	18/11/2026		SEERAH	ULOOM QURAN
44	25/11/2026		SEERAH	ULOOM QURAN
	<b>DECEMBER</b>			
45	02/12/2026		TAZKIYYAH	ULOOM QURAN
46	09/12/2026		TAZKIYYAH	ULOOM QURAN
47	16/12/2026		TAZKIYYAH	ULOOM QURAN
	23/12/2026	<b>HOLIDAY</b>		
	30/12/2026	<b>BANK HOLIDAY (28/12 &amp; 01/01)</b>		
	<b>JANUARY</b>			
48	06/01/2027		TAZKIYYAH	ULOOM QURAN
49	13/01/2027		TAZKIYYAH	AQEEDAH
50	20/01/2027		TAZKIYYAH	AQEEDAH

51	27/01/2027		TAZKIYYAH	AQEEDAH
	<b>FEBRUARY</b>			
52	03/02/2027		TAZKIYYAH	AQEEDAH
53	10/02/2027		TAZKIYYAH	AQEEDAH
54	17/02/2027		TAZKIYYAH	AQEEDAH
55	24/02/2027		TAZKIYYAH	AQEEDAH
	<b>MARCH</b>			
56	03/03/2027		TAZKIYYAH	AQEEDAH
57	10/03/2027		BIDAYAH HIDAYAH	AQEEDAH
58	17/03/2027		BIDAYAH HIDAYAH	AQEEDAH
	24/03/2027	<b>BANK HOLIDAY (26/03 &amp; 29/03)</b>		
59	31/03/2027		BIDAYAH HIDAYAH	CONTEMPORARY ISSUES
	<b>APRIL</b>			
60	07/04/2027		BIDAYAH HIDAYAH	CONTEMPORARY ISSUES
61	14/04/2027		BIDAYAH HIDAYAH	CONTEMPORARY ISSUES
62	21/04/2027		BIDAYAH HIDAYAH	CONTEMPORARY ISSUES
63	28/04/2027		BIDAYAH HIDAYAH	CONTEMPORARY ISSUES
	<b>MAY</b>			
	05/05/2027	<b>BANK HOLIDAY (03/05)</b>		
64	12/05/2027		BIDAYAH HIDAYAH	CONTEMPORARY ISSUES
65	19/05/2027		BIDAYAH HIDAYAH	CONTEMPORARY ISSUES
66	26/05/2027		BIDAYAH HIDAYAH	CONTEMPORARY ISSUES
67	02/06/2027		BIDAYAH HIDAYAH	CONTEMPORARY ISSUES
68	09/06/2027		BIDAYAH HIDAYAH	CONTEMPORARY ISSUES
69	16/06/2027		REVISION - OVERFLOW - ASSESSMENT PREPERATION	REVISION - OVERFLOW - ASSESSMENT PREPERATION
70	23/06/2027		ASSESSMENTS	ASSESSMENTS