



Centre for Distance & Continuing Education – University of Peradeniya  
General Degree Examination in Arts

**Syllabus - ISLAMIIC CULTURE**

**SCHEME OF EXAMINATION**

The Examination in Islamic Culture offered as a subject for the General Degree Examination in Arts shall consist of three Papers of three hours each, as follows.

- Islamic Culture I (ICG 1) : The Political History of Islam
- Islamic Culture II (ICG 2) : Fundamentals of Faith and Sectional Development
- Islamic Culture III (ICG 3) : Muslims Sciences, Fine Arts and Architecture

**ISLAMIC CULTURE I (ICG 1)  
THE POLITICAL HISTORY OF ISLAM**

From the time of the rise of the Umayyads to the fall of Baghdad in 1258 A.D. The candidates are expected to study the conception of Khilafat, its disintegration which resulted in monarchism, and the system of administration, Revenue and taxation, foreign policy internal conditions, intellectual aspects of life petty dynasties – causes of the downfall of the Umayyad and Abbasid dynasties.

**ISLAMIC CULTURE II (ICG 2)  
FUNDAMENTALS OF FAITH AND SECTIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

- (a) The Pillars of Islam – faith, prayer, fasting, Zakaath and Hajj, their importance in life.
- (b) The development of various philosophical sects such as Mutazilities and Ikhwan –us –safe , the rise of political parties based on the doctrines like the Kharjites and the Shites.

**ISLAMIC CULTURE III (ICG 3)  
MUSLIMS SCIENCES, FINE ARTS AND ARCHITECTURE**

- (a) History, Philosophy, Geography, Medicine , Astronomy, Music , Physics and Chemistry.
- (b) Calligraphy pottery, paper making, capets , painting and Arabesque
- (c) Saracenic , Moorish, Persian and Turkish schools of Architecture.

**Recommended Reading : (ICG 1)**

- P.K Hitti - History of the Arabs
- Joseph Hell - Arab Civilization
- Ammer Ali - Short History of the Saracens
- Muhammed Ali - The early califate
- SAQ Hussain - Arab Administration
- Khuda Bukhsh - Islamic Civilization
- MM Sheriff - A History of Muslim Philosophy
- Ala Moudoodi - Towards understanding Islam
- Kahzi Ayoob - An Introduction to Islamic Culture
- Reuben Levy - The Social Structure of Islam
- Mohammed Ali - The Religion of Islam

- (ICG 3)** -
- Thomas Arnold and A Guillam - The Legacy of Islam
- AMA Shubtery - Outlines of Islamic Culture