

Qualification Guide

OCNLR Level 2 Certificate in Islamic Studies

OCN London Qualification Guide

OCNLR Level 2 Certificate in Islamic Studies
Qualification No: 610/7995/9

OCN London aims to support learning and widening opportunities by recognising achievement through credit-based courses and qualifications, promoting high standards of excellence and inclusiveness. We are proud of our long-term role and unique history in providing innovative learning solutions for a wide range of learners and particularly those who have not previously benefitted from education.

At the heart of what OCN London offers is:

- a commitment to inclusive credit-based learning;
- the creative use of credit with responsive, demand-led qualification development;
- high quality service and support;
- respect for and encouragement of diversity – in learners and learning approaches, partners and settings;
- the development of people, capacity and resources that will ensure effective business partnerships.

To navigate within this Qualification Guide

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General Information

This qualification guide contains details of everything you need to know about the **OCNLR Level 2 Certificate in Islamic Studies**. It makes reference to the curriculum areas covered and identifies the learners for whom the qualification has been developed. The guide also covers important aspects of assessment and moderation that are particular to the qualification. The guide should be used by all involved in the delivery and assessment of the qualification. The Account Manager for your Centre will provide support and advice on how to seek approval to offer the qualification.

If you are not yet an OCN London Approved Centre but wish to use this qualification, then please contact us on enquiries@ocnlondon.org.uk for details of the Centre Approval application process.

Qualification Overview

The **OCNLR Level 2 Certificate in Islamic Studies** qualification has been developed to provide learners with a structured, accessible, and intellectually substantive introduction to Islam across belief, worship, prophetic biography, finance, family life, scholarship, character, and the practical operation of Islamic teaching in Muslim countries.

The **OCNLR Level 2 Certificate in Islamic Studies** qualification is regulated by Ofqual, the qualifications regulator for England, and is registered on the Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF). It is not a licence to practise.

Qualification details

This Qualification is available at Level 2 only.

Level 2 Certificate

- Qualification Number: 610/7995/9
- Qualification credit value: 18
- Operational start date: 9th September 2026
- Review date: 30/09/2029
- Total Qualification Time (TQT): 180
- Guided Learning Hours (GLH): 120
- Assessment requirements: internally assessed, internally and externally moderated

Purpose of the qualification

The purpose of the **OCNLR Level 2 Certificate in Islamic Studies** qualification is to enable learners to develop foundational knowledge and understanding of the core teachings of Islam across belief, worship, prophetic biography, ethics, and practical day-to-day matters.

The qualification is taught using neutral descriptive language (e.g., “Muslims hold that...”, “Islamic scholarship teaches...”) while presenting the tradition sympathetically and from within its own scholarly framework. This approach makes the qualification suitable both for Muslim learners deepening their understanding of their faith and for non-Muslim learners seeking comprehensive religious literacy in Islam.

The qualification is delivered within the Sunni Islamic tradition, recognising the breadth of mainstream Sunni scholarship across the four Sunni schools of jurisprudence (Hanafi, Maliki, Shafi'i, Hanbali) and the three classical schools of Sunni theology (Ash'ari, Maturidi, Hanbali/Ahl al-Hadith).

Who the qualification is for

The **OCNLR Level 2 Certificate in Islamic Studies** qualification is suitable for learners aged 15+ who wish to:

- develop a structured understanding of Islamic beliefs and practices;

- gain a recognised qualification that supports progression into further religious or theological study;
- support roles in Muslim community settings (mosques, supplementary schools, charitable organisations, chaplaincy support, community work);
- gain comprehensive religious literacy in Islam for academic, professional, or interfaith purposes.

While the majority of learners are expected to be Muslim – including new Muslims, mosque volunteers, supplementary school assistants, and those entering recognised pathways of religious learning – the qualification is equally appropriate for non-Muslim learners studying Islam for academic, professional, or personal interest, including those working in interfaith, education, healthcare, social work, public service, and policy contexts where understanding Islam is valuable.

Entry guidance

This qualification is suitable for learners aged 15+. To undertake this qualification, learners must have communication skills in English at approximately Level 1 or above (sufficient to engage with written learning materials and produce written portfolio evidence). No prior knowledge of Islamic Studies is required, although some familiarity will support engagement. Centres may, with prior agreement from OCN London, consider registering learners aged 14 on a case-by-case basis where appropriate safeguarding and academic readiness considerations are addressed.

Disclaimer on Faith-based Content

This regulated qualification includes material reflecting religious beliefs. OCN London does not endorse any particular faith or worldview. We promote equality, diversity, and inclusion, encouraging open-minded engagement with all belief systems.

Additional information

Use of Arabic terminology: Arabic terminology is used throughout the qualification where it carries specific religious meaning. Learners are not required to read or write Arabic, but transliterated Arabic terms are an essential part of the subject vocabulary.

Tradition and school of delivery: This qualification covers practical Islamic teachings that vary in detail between the four recognised Sunni schools of Islamic jurisprudence (Hanafi, Maliki, Shafi'i, Hanbali). Centres deliver the qualification primarily according to one school of their choice, with reference to other schools on specific issues where deemed relevant. This cross-referencing arises more frequently in the non-worship units than in the worship unit, and is indicated in the relevant unit guides. The qualification is not designed as a comparative study of the four schools, and the time available does not permit the depth of comparative coverage that would be required to do so meaningfully. Centres should declare in their delivery plan the

school they will be primarily teaching. The reference materials provided as part of this qualification draw on the Hanafi school as the default illustrative tradition.

UK legal context: The unit Family Life in Islam is delivered within the explicit context of UK law, including the recognition of marriage, the regulation of divorce, and the UK protective legal frameworks against forced marriage, domestic abuse, and coercive control. Centres should ensure tutors are familiar with both the Islamic teaching and the UK legal context being taught alongside it.

Progression and related qualifications

This qualification provides continuing professional development for:

- specialist Level 3 qualifications in Islamic Finance, Muslim Chaplaincy, or Community Leadership;
- non-regulated traditional Islamic learning programmes;
- voluntary or paid roles in Muslim community organisations;
- further academic study in Religious Studies, Theology, or related humanities subjects.

Guidance on delivering this qualification

At least one person in the delivery team must have, as a minimum a recognised qualification in Islamic Studies (e.g., Alimiyyah, BA in Islamic Studies/Theology, or equivalent traditional certification from a recognised seminary) or the equivalent from private study with tutors; together with a teaching qualification at minimum Level 3 (e.g., Level 3 Award in Education and Training) or higher. Alternatively, equivalent demonstrable teaching experience supported by ongoing CPD may be accepted in exceptional cases. Tutors should have at least one year of teaching or instructional experience in Islamic education, and should be able to draw on classical scholarship in Arabic when designing learning activities.

Please contact OCN London for decisions on particular qualifications if in doubt.

Structure of the qualification

Rules of combination for achievement

The **OCNLR Level 2 Certificate in Islamic Studies qualification** comprises 8 mandatory units. Learners must achieve 18 credits in total.

- 18 credits must be taken from the mandatory units

Qualification units

Ofqual Unit Reference Number	OCNLR Unit Code	Unit Title	Level	Credit Value	GLH
M/652/3882	DD3/2/LQ/001	Foundations of Islamic Belief (Aqidah)	2	2	14
T/652/3884	DD3/2/LQ/002	Rules of Islamic Worship (Ibadah)	2	3	20
Y/652/3885	DD3/2/LQ/003	The Life of Prophet Muhammad (Sirah)	2	3	19
A/652/3886	DD3/2/LQ/004	Islamic Finance and Transactions (Muamalat)	2	2	13
D/652/3887	DD3/2/LQ/005	Family Life in Islam	2	2	12
F/652/3888	DD3/2/LQ/006	Quran & Sunnah Studies	2	2	15
H/652/3889	DD3/2/LQ/007	Islamic Character & Conduct	2	2	14
L/652/3890	DD3/2/LQ/008	Islam in Society: Practice, Law & Governance	2	2	13

Assessment and Moderation

Assessment process

The assessment process for this qualification is as follows:

- The learners are assessed through activities that are internally set by tutor assessors;
- The activities must be designed to enable learners to meet the assessment criteria of the unit;
- Learners' portfolios of assessed evidence must be internally moderated at the Centre;
- The portfolios of assessed evidence will be externally moderated by an OCN London External Moderator.

There is no additional external assessment for this qualification.

Devising assessments

Each unit has a supplementary page with information on the types of assessment activities that can (indicated as 'Optional' or 'O') and/or must (indicated as 'Prescribed' or 'P') be used to assess learners against the unit. Tutor assessors must always refer to this page before devising assessment tasks.

OCN London assessment guidance relevant to the units in this qualification is in the '[OCNLR Assessment Guidance and Ofqual Level Descriptors](#)' section of this qualification guide. The guidance includes a general description of the activity and the type of evidence that is appropriate. The activity or activities set must enable the learners to meet the standards detailed in the assessment criteria. Please contact OCN London for further guidance on devising appropriate assessments.

Centre devised assessments should be scrutinised by the Internal Moderator before use to ensure that they are fit for purpose. Centre devised assessments will be scrutinised by the External Moderator to ensure reliability and validity of assessment.

Marking assessment activities

Each activity must be marked against the identified assessment criteria in the unit and judged to be either achieved or not achieved.

Assessors need to ensure that the work in a learner's portfolio is:

- Authentic – it is the result of the learner's own performance or activity;
- Sufficient – enabling the assessor to make a consistent and reliable judgement;
- Adequate – appropriate to the level.

Where a series of activities are set, learners must demonstrate the achievement of the required standard identified in the assessment criteria in all activities. All of the assessment criteria in a unit must be met before the unit is deemed achieved.

The unit achievement is not graded. Units are either achieved or not achieved.

Standardisation

Standardisation is a process that promotes consistency in the understanding and application of standards in relation to assessment. It:

- compares assessment judgements from different tutor/assessors;
- promotes consistent judgements by different tutor/assessors;
- identifies good practice in assessment;
- promotes the sharing of good practice in assessment between centre staff.

Standardisation events should be held periodically within centres to ensure consistent and effective assessment practice. Standardisation events may also be held by OCN London and it is a requirement that each Centre offering units from this qualification must contribute assessment materials and learners' evidence for standardisation, if requested.

OCN London will notify Centres of the required sample for standardisation purposes and assessment materials, learners' evidence and tutor feedback may be collected by External Moderators.

Learners with particular requirements

If learners have particular requirements the Centre should refer to the 'Access to Fair Assessment Policy and Procedure' which can be found on our website at: [Access to Fair Assessment Policy and Procedure](#) and gives clear guidance on the reasonable adjustments and arrangements that can be made to take account of disability or learning difficulty, without compromising the achievement of the assessment criteria.

Requirements for tutor/assessors

To be sufficiently competent

In addition to being qualified to make assessment decisions, each assessor must be capable of carrying out the full requirements within the competency of the units they are assessing. This competence should be maintained annually through clearly demonstrable continuing learning and professional development.

Expert witnesses can be used where they have suitable expertise for specialist areas. The use of expert witnesses should be determined and agreed by the assessor.

To be sufficiently knowledgeable

Each assessor should possess relevant knowledge and understanding of the subject and so be able to make robust and reliable assessment decisions in relation to the subject.

Assessment Guidance and Ofqual Level Descriptors

For OCN London's Assessment Guidance and Ofqual's Level Descriptor relevant to this qualification, please click on the link below.

[Level 2 Assessment Guidance and Ofqual's Level Descriptors](#)



OCN London

70 Gracechurch Street, London, EC3V 0HR

www.ocnlondon.org.uk

enquiries@ocnlondon.org.uk

020 7278 5511