

Assessment 1 and 2 - Level 5

Political Interpretations of Islam

C1: Essay

2,500-word essay (50%)

1. Discuss the ways in which politics has been articulated in Muslim contexts, focusing on how Qur'an and Hadith sources have been applied.
2. Provide an overview of a specific Islamic political party and its agenda, highlighting any particular relationship with Muslim values.
3. Does religious diversity play a role in political interpretations of Islam? Provide examples to illustrate your answer.
4. Discuss the relationship between notions of 'reform' and interpretations of Islam, focusing on the impact of globalisation as a means for these ideas to circulate. Explore different historical and contemporary approaches to illustrate your answer.
5. Show how Muslim political processes and approaches have operated in relation to a key contemporary issue. Choose from one of the following: (a) Environment. (b) Gender Issues (c) Technology. d) Covid-19. Indicate your choice on your essay.

C2: Case Study

2,500-word Case Study (50%)

The case study is an opportunity for an in-depth, analytical study of a specific region or Muslim majority country (outside of the Middle East and North Africa region) with a focus on political-religious issues. The intention is to give detailed contextualisation of specific issues and agendas that have been significant within the context under investigation. This might include historical factors, regional and global influences, and the ways in which politics and religion operate in a particular location. Reference should be made to institutions and organisations that fulfil specific religious or political agendas, alongside political parties that have promoted aspects of Islam in their activities or manifestos.

The case studies presented in the module will provide indicators of best practice in this assignment. It should reflect upon the approaches that are presented in the lectures and seminars.

The academic mechanisms are the same as an essay, in terms of referencing, source use, research and structure. The depth of analysis should reflect L6 requirements. Specific headers may be provided to break-down the topic. The choice of case study should be discussed with Gary Bunt prior to it being undertaken.

Possible Case Studies include:

- Malaysia
- Afghanistan
- Indonesia
- Pakistan
- Turkey
- Bangladesh
- Iran

More details on assessment requirements are on Moodle. Expectations and approaches towards the essays will be discussed in the lectures.