

Assessment 1 and 2 - Level 5

Political Interpretations of Islam

C1: Essay

2,000-word essay (50%)

1. Discuss the different ways in which political interpretations of Islam have been articulated in historical contexts. Provide examples of these interpretations.
2. Discuss the work of a key 'reformer' within an Islamic context.
3. What are the significant differences between political approaches towards Islam in different contemporary Muslim contexts?
4. Drawing on your reading of sources, examine the different definitions of 'reform' and 'revolution' in diverse Muslim contexts.
5. What is the relationship between Islamic sources and Muslim politics?

C2: Case Study

2,000-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) with a focus on political-religious issues. The case studies presented in the module will provide indicators of best practice in this assignment. The intention is to give some 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 could 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 academic mechanisms are the same as an essay, in terms of referencing, source use, research and structure. 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.