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MEER SIR ACADEMY

JMI MA International Studies Arab Islamic Culture Entrance Syllabus

Programme Code M 64

*India Arab Cultural Centre
Jamia Millia Islamia New Delhi*

Programme	M.A. International Studies Arab-Islamic Culture
Entrance structure	Two parts Part A and Part B
Part A	Multiple choice questions
Part B	Descriptive questions

Entrance Examination Overview

The entrance examination comprises two parts. Part A consists of multiple choice questions, while Part B consists of descriptive questions. Candidates are expected to demonstrate broad subject knowledge, contextual understanding, analytical ability and familiarity with relevant texts, theories and current affairs.

Official Syllabus Areas

- **Islamic culture and civilization:** Major institutions, ideas, values and historical developments associated with Islamic civilization.
- **India and the Arab world:** Historical, cultural, intellectual, commercial and contemporary connections between India and Arab societies.



- **Arab geography and pre Islamic history:** Physical and human geography of the Arab region and Arab history before the arrival of Islam.
- **Emergence of Arab Islamic culture:** Formation and growth of Arab-Islamic cultural traditions after the rise of Islam.
- **Arab socio cultural life:** Social structures, customs, institutions, language, literature and cultural practices.
- **Islam and its socio cultural aspects:** Islamic teachings and their relationship with society, culture, ethics, family and community life.
- **Islam and politics:** Political thought, governance, authority and major historical and contemporary debates.
- **Islamic movements:** Major reformist, revivalist, intellectual and socio political movements.
- **Abbasid caliphate:** Political and cultural history of the Abbasids and the development of learning, wisdom, science and philosophy.
- **Islam in the Indian subcontinent:** Historical spread, institutions, intellectual traditions and socio cultural contributions.
- **Contemporary Arab world:** Modern political, economic, social and cultural developments across Arab countries.
- **Arab culture and religion:** Religious diversity, cultural expressions and their influence on Arab societies.
- **Current affairs:** Important developments affecting the Arab world, Muslim societies, India-Arab relations and international affairs.

Expanded Preparation Guide

The following points provide a practical preparation framework based on the official syllabus. They clarify the scope for study without replacing the official wording.

1 Foundations of Arab Islamic civilization

- Arabian Peninsula: geography, tribes, trade routes, social organization and religious life before Islam.
- Life and mission of Prophet Muhammad, the emergence of the Muslim community and the early caliphates.
- Core features of Islamic culture, knowledge traditions, institutions, art, architecture and education.

2 Society culture and politics

- Family, community, ethics, social justice, gender, customs and everyday socio cultural life.
- Key ideas concerning authority, governance, consultation, caliphate and relations between religion and politics.
- Cultural, religious and social dynamics shaping Arab-Islamic societies across historical periods.

3 Abbasids learning and philosophy

- Rise and administration of the Abbasid caliphate and the importance of Baghdad.



- Translation movement, Bayt al Hikma and the growth of philosophy, science, medicine, mathematics and literature.
- Selected thinkers, scholars and debates associated with Islamic intellectual history.

4 India Arab relations and Islam in South Asia

- Early maritime, commercial, scholarly and cultural contacts between India and the Arab world.
- Spread and development of Islam in the Indian subcontinent; major institutions, traditions and contributions.
- Modern India-Arab political, economic, energy, diaspora and cultural relations.

5 Modern Arab world and Islamic movements

- Colonialism, nationalism, state formation, reform, revival and major Islamic movements.
- Contemporary Arab societies, regional organizations, political change, economy, conflict and cultural trends.
- Current affairs concerning West Asia, North Africa, the wider Muslim world and their global connections.

6 Literature texts and analytical skills

- Familiarity with significant Arab and Islamic literary works, authors, intellectual traditions and cultural texts.
- Ability to identify themes, compare viewpoints, place texts in context and construct clear descriptive answers.
- Use of relevant concepts and theories to analyse historical, cultural, religious and contemporary questions.

Part Wise Preparation

Part	Question type	Preparation focus
Part A	Multiple choice	Facts, chronology, terminology, personalities, places, movements, concepts and current affairs.
Part B	Descriptive	Explanation, comparison, contextual analysis, argument, examples and organised answer writing.