

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I have to understand all about citizenship before I start teaching these materials?

No, nobody does. Do not pretend to know everything about citizenship, and seek advice if in doubt. You may find it helpful to read Maurice Irfan Coles' discussion paper (available on the ICE website) as it covers all the key areas.

Do I need training in the programme before I start?

No, it is not required, but we strongly advise your madrasah follows the training notes online and on DVD. We are happy to answer any questions about the ICE training. You can, of course, follow the training notes by yourself, but it is often helpful to have a colleague to discuss them with.

What if I don't know the answer to any of the questions?

If you cannot answer a question, make a note of it and send it to us or ask others who are involved in using the materials.

Do I have to complete all the lessons for each key stage?

No, but we strongly advise you do the first three lessons in order because these include the key skills that students will develop in the course of the programme. If you wish, you can choose which other lessons you want to teach.

Do I have to follow all the lesson activities outlined?

No, but you may find it helpful to do so. Again, the evaluations told us that those who benefited most followed the course of study. The amount of material you cover will depend on your pace and on your class. You can adapt the materials as you go along to suit your own circumstances if you wish.

Can pupils take home the Pupils' Activity Sheets?

Yes, if you wish. We try to encourage this, as so much learning these days takes place outside the formal classroom setting.

Do I have to start each lesson with a recap?

It is very helpful because it reminds you and your pupils of previous learning.

Do I have to follow the instructions precisely? If the lesson plan says, for example, divide the class into groups of four or into small groups, do I have to? Or can we stay as a whole class?

It depends on the size and nature of your class and on the size of the classroom. Wherever possible, try to follow the instructions, but be adaptable.

You have suggested that selected pupils read the Qur'anic verses and the ahadith. What if I don't have anybody suitable?

In this case, please read them yourself and get all the pupils to recite them aloud.

How long should I spend on each lesson?

We recommend an hour for each lesson and you will need to adapt the lesson to fit the time.

What if the lesson timing goes wrong – can I continue next week?

Yes, but that will throw out the timings and you may need to revise the teaching programme.



What if the lesson does not capture the pupils' imagination at all and we have finished early – can we do something else?

Yes, you can choose to do something else. Our evaluations showed, however, that some lessons needed more rather than less time.

Can I use the Key Stage 2 materials for Key Stage 3?

We would discourage this, but the whole programme is designed to be as flexible as possible and you need to fit your lessons to suit the students you have.

Do I have to use all the materials?

If you wish to, you are at liberty to do so. You can, however, make a choice.

Do I have to use both Sunni and Shia references?

It is entirely up to your madrasah. We have used ahadith that scholars have agreed are acceptable to both Sunni and Shi`ah traditions. You may wish to compare the two schools of thought, or use only one.

Which Qur'an translations have you used and why have you not always quoted the complete ayah?

In the course of the trials we used a number of different translations. The scholars decided that, given the ages of the pupils, it was best to extract the key message from any one ayah, so the translations are as close to the original as possible but are not literal. For that reason we decided to include only the key messages rather than translate every word.

Will I need to do much preparation?

It is advisable to make sure you know what you are doing in advance, to read the materials, and to think about the lessons. Even if you read them just before you teach, that is preferable to not looking at the materials at all.

Where do I go for advice?

The Leicester-based ICE team will be happy to answer any questions, preferably by email – but we will respond to telephone enquiries too.

Will the pupils be offered a certificate for the work they have done?

Everybody will be given a certificate of participation, a copy of which you can download. We are exploring teacher certification in the longer term.