

ISLAM, CITIZENSHIP AND EDUCATION (ICE): COMPASSION, NOT ROCKET SCIENCE

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The internationally acclaimed ICE project, though three years in the making, did not prove to be rocket science. Subtitled *Building Akhlaq, Adhab and Tahdhib*, it produced 44 lessons on the teaching of citizenship from an Islamic perspective for out of school hours madrasahs, independent Muslim schools, and government schools with a large number of Muslim pupils. Designed for 7-14 year olds the lessons are accompanied by a training video and other background materials. All are available free under creative commons license.

The programme's genesis will be outlined, and an explanation given as to why it was British government financed, but effectively community led. The processes undertaken to ensure that both Sunni and Shia fiqh were finally happy to endorse the materials, will be explored. The selection and clustering of the 44 lessons will be explained and exemplified, and their relationship with the English National Curriculum programmes of study explored.

The project startlingly concluded that not only were the principles of Islam and the principles of democratic citizenship broadly compatible but also that much of the early democratic thinking and practice had its roots embedded within the Islamic tradition. In addition, future possibilities for wider international programme roll out will be vigorously articulated.