
Please read this document in its entirety before attempting your assignment.

IFQH 101 Assignment (Spring 2025)

Topic:

1. The Role of the Prophet's Sunnah in Shaping Fiqh

The Sunnah of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) is crucial in forming Islamic law. This essay should explore its role in shaping fiqh through the following key areas:

a) *Understanding the Sunnah and Its Importance:*

- Define the Sunnah and explain its significance alongside the Quran as a primary source of Islamic guidance.

b) *Application of the Sunnah in Islamic Jurisprudence:*

- Describe how the Prophet's companions and early scholars used the Sunnah to make legal decisions.
- Provide examples of how the Sunnah has been applied in different areas of law, such as prayer and fasting.

c) *Contemporary Relevance of the Sunnah:*

- Discuss how the Sunnah continues to address modern issues, such as technology and finance.
- Reflect on its role in guiding contemporary scholars to solve new problems while maintaining Islamic values.

OR:

2. The Role of Fiqh in Preserving Islamic Identity

Islamic jurisprudence, or fiqh, is crucial in maintaining and strengthening Islamic identity. This essay will explore its role through the following simplified points:

a) *What is Fiqh and Why is it Important?:*

- Define fiqh and explain how fiqh helps Muslims practice their faith and maintain their religious identity.
- Discuss the importance of having a clear Islamic identity for Muslims, especially in diverse cultural settings.

b) *How Fiqh Helps Maintain Islamic Identity:*

- Describe how fiqh provides guidelines for daily life, helping Muslims stay connected to their faith.
- Give examples of how fiqh adapts to different cultures while keeping core Islamic values intact, such as dietary laws and prayer practices.
- Explain how fiqh promotes unity among Muslims by offering a shared set of rules and values.

c) *Fiqh in Today's World:*

- Discuss the challenges Muslims face in preserving their identity in modern societies, like cultural pressures and globalization.

- Explain how fiqh helps address these challenges by guiding Muslims to uphold their values in changing environments.

Word limit: Bachelors Level 1000 to 1200

Expectations:

1-Use Word document. Do not use notepad, WordPad or PDF.

2- Your paper should be a well drafted academic work, having a proper introduction, body and conclusion. For formatting and presentation, adhere to the following:

- a) Spacing: 1.5
- b) Regular Text: Times New Roman
- c) Size: 12 (body)
- d) Alignment: Justified
- e) Paper Size: A4

Notes:

(1) Word count does not include the reference list.

(2) Verses of the Qur'ān and Aḥādīth need not be in Arabic, provide the English translation only.

(3) Paraphrasing verses of the Qur'an and Aḥādīth is prohibited. However, you can use only that portion of the verse or ḥādīth which proves the point in context instead of quoting the entire verse or ḥādīth.

3-Writing Format: Your work must have at least 3 major headings:

a) Introduction: This is the first section of the paper. A good introduction should contain the following elements: (1) Basmalah (the phrase "In the name of Allah"); (2) Short background of the topic; and (3) The main point of the discussion. The introduction should be between 100 –150 words.

b) Body Paragraphs: This is the main body of your discourse and the second section of your paper. A good discourse should be well synthesized into distinct paragraphs. Observe conciseness, correctness, clarity, coherency, and comprehensiveness (5Cs of good writing) in your work.

c) Conclusion: This is the last part of your paper. It should bear –with conclusive tone-- the summary of your key findings. It should be between 100 – 150 words.

4. Your evidences must be authentic, and your argumentation must be characterized by relevancy and clarity of deductions. Avoid distortion of textual data as much as possible.
5. Use only academically credible sources for your assignment instead of random internet sites. Do not use (Wikipedia) or (general Islamic forums).
6. Use your own words and avoid using too many quotes.
7. Make sure to consult other sources besides your prescribed texts. **A minimum of 5** sources (e.g., books, articles, reliable webpages, etc.) should be used and referenced accordingly.
8. Make sure you reference your work properly and that you cite every source. Use only APA method. Details of this referencing style can be access here:
<https://apastyle.apa.org/instructional-aids/student-paper-setup-guide.pdf>
 You may also make use of this free online tool
 (<https://www.scribbr.com/apa-examples/website/>) for easy generation of accurate APA style. Please note that the APA style must only be followed for referencing.
9. **Provide in-text citation in the body of your work, and a reference list** using the APA referencing style only.
10. The assignment is an individual effort and not group work. Do not copy, do not work in groups and be honest, always. Plagiarism will never be tolerated (Please refer to IOU's Plagiarism policy mentioned at the end of this document).
11. Use Arabic letter Romanization/transliteration chart as determined by the Library of Congress. The chart can be accessed from:
<https://www.loc.gov/catdir/cpsd/romanization/arabic.pdf>
13. Please note that failure to follow the above instructions will cause you to lose marks.

IFQH 101 Assignment Grading Rubric

Evaluative Particulars	Designated Marks
Presentation & Formatting	5
Length/Word Count	5
Introduction	10
Body Paragraphs	35
Conclusion	10
In-Text Citation & Reference List	20
Relevancy	10
Language Usage, Grammar, & Style	5
Total	100

Uploading Instructions

1. Create a new MS Word file. Before typing your answer, please add the following information on the first page:

- Student Name:
- Student ID:
- Course Name/Code:
- Assignment Question:
- Include in your assignment submission, a signed copy of The Student Plagiarism & Ethical AI Declaration

2. Please upload it as a Word Document only; do not make a PDF file and upload it as this hamper grading and giving comments on your work.

3. Before uploading, you should suffix your name to the file name and the course code. E.g., if a student is uploading an AQD 101 assignment, then the file name should be as follows: AQD101_FirstName

4. Please note that upon uploading your assignment file, it is saved in “draft” mode. To “submit,” you must press the *Submit* button. If you forget to submit by not clicking the *Submit* button, the file will remain in “draft” mode and not be considered for grading. Hence, note this point seriously and proceed accordingly.

5. Please note that students are allowed to make only one submission attempt. As your first attempt of submission will be the last, please ensure your assignment is relevant, correct and complete in all aspects.

IOU'S Plagiarism Policy & Ethical AI Usage

All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of the universe and peace and blessing be upon the last messenger Muhammad and all those who follow his path with righteousness until the Last Day.

Please read and understand this policy in detail before attempting any assignments at IOU.

Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said, "He who deceives us is not one of us." (Sahih Muslim)

Definition of Plagiarism:

A common form of deception in studies is plagiarism. Plagiarism is sometimes misunderstood when referring to copying alone; however, plagiarism is much deeper than just copying. It includes quoting without proper references, collaboration, and stealing other people's ideas while passing them off as one's own. Plagiarism is the "failure to acknowledge the ideas or writing of another" or "presentation of the ideas or writing of another as one's own" and should be read to cover intentional and unintentional failure to acknowledge the ideas of others. In this context, "others" means any other person, including a student, academic, professional, published author or other resource such as the Internet. The International Open University believes that failing to acknowledge the use of the ideas of others constitutes an important breach of the institution's Islamic and academic values and conventions.

Definition of Ethical AI Usage

Ethical AI Usage refers to the responsible and transparent use of artificial intelligence tools (such as ChatGPT, Grammarly, paraphrasing tools, or AI research assistants) to support academic work—not to replace or falsify it.

Students may use AI tools for brainstorming, language enhancement, or initial research, but the final work must reflect the student's own understanding, application to context, analysis, and critical thinking.

IOU Stance on Plagiarism & AI Usage

The International Open University will not tolerate plagiarism and unethical AI use in any form, and any student caught plagiarizing or engaging in Unethical AI use will be penalized. Depending on the severity of the transgression of plagiarism and/or unethical AI usage, the penalty could range from a reduction of marks to rejection of marks to rejecting the paper itself.

With respect to the assignments, the following constitutes plagiarism:

- 1) Copying someone else's assignment
- 2) Collaboration and working together on an assignment
- 3) Copying and pasting entire articles on the internet
- 4) Quoting someone else's work without referencing the author
- 5) Using someone else's ideas or words without referencing them

To avoid plagiarism, be sure to:

- Use quotation marks around a quote and cite the source.

- Reference all quotations and citations
- Reword/paraphrase. Don't write word for word what you have read. First, take notes in your own words, then write your assignment from your notes (not the text).

For more information on how to avoid plagiarism and how to properly cite a source, visit the following websites:

<http://www.collegeboard.com/student/plan/college-success/10314.html>

<http://www.infoplease.com/spot/plagiarism.html>

You may also test your understanding of plagiarism by using this link:

<https://ilrb.cf.ac.uk/plagiarism/tutorial/whatis1.html>

Unethical AI Usage Examples:

1. Submitting assignments fully written by AI without critical review or personal input.
2. Using AI tools to rewrite (paraphrase) entire sections without understanding the content.
3. Copying AI-generated research summaries, literature reviews, or reflections without acknowledging AI assistance.
4. Relying on AI for the complete structure, analysis, and content of an assignment.

To Use AI Ethically:

- Use AI for supportive purposes only (e.g., clarifying concepts, improving grammar).
- Critically review and modify AI-generated content to reflect your own understanding.
- Clearly declare any AI assistance you have used, where appropriate.
- Use AI responsibly to enhance your learning, not to bypass it.

Similarity Indicator

IOU reserves the right to submit all academic assignments to a plagiarism checker to produce similarity ratings for each assignment and AI-content detectors to produce similarity and AI-generated content ratings for each assignment. The similarity indicator provides a rating of how similar the text in the assignment is to resources available on the Internet while the AI-content check assesses the extent to which AI tools were used to generate the work.

In line with universal academic writing practices, IOU prefers that text be paraphrased in the student's words and not quoted directly, with the original author of the knowledge being duly cited and referenced. Any use of AI tools must also be transparently acknowledged, and students are reminded that over-reliance on AI-generated content may undermine academic integrity and the development of essential academic skills

As University-wide norm, IOU recommends that the similarity indicator does not exceed 20%.

Result of Plagiarism & Unethical AI Usage

Assignments a rating higher than or equal to 50% will be automatically rejected and validated for plagiarism and unethical AI usage through a manual check by the tutorial assistant or relevant academic. The student will be given a grade of 0 and there will be no second chances for submitting the assignment.

Any detected misuse of AI tools, including unacknowledged AI-generated content or over-reliance that compromises academic integrity, will be treated with the same seriousness as traditional plagiarism. The tutorial assistant or relevant academic will use the combined similarity and AI-content ratings, along with academic judgment, to determine the final grade of the submission

The Tutorial Assistant or relevant academic will use the similarity rating to determine the final grade of the submission.

Remember that we are Muslims studying Allah's religion, and so plagiarizing in Islamic Studies is a sin and can rob your studies of reward.

May Allah bless you all and success with your coursework. Ameen.

IOU Admin.

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الجامعة الدولية المفتوحة
International Open University

21 Kanifing Mosque Road, P.O. Box 2340, Kanifing South, KMC, The Gambia
☎ +2204379687 / +2203214700 🌐 www.iou.edu.gm

Student Plagiarism and Ethical AI Usage Declaration

I, the undersigned, hereby declare that the work I am submitting for this assignment is my own original work, and I have not engaged in any form of plagiarism or academic dishonesty. I understand that plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, copying someone else's work, quoting without proper citation, paraphrasing without acknowledgement, and using AI tools or any other resources without proper disclosure.

Ethical AI Usage Declaration: I further declare that any AI tools or content generators I have used in the preparation of this assignment have been properly acknowledged. I understand that over-reliance on AI-generated content may compromise the integrity of my work and academic growth. I confirm that I have followed the university's guidelines on ethical AI usage and have cited all sources appropriately.

I am aware that assignments found to be in violation of plagiarism or ethical AI usage policies will be subject to the university's penalties, including but not limited to automatic rejection or a grade of 0 for the assignment.

By signing below, I confirm that I have read and understood the university's plagiarism and ethical AI usage policies and agree to abide by them.

Student Name: _____

Student ID: _____

Course Name: _____

Assignment Title: _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____