121895 - Ruling on working in a centre that corrects exam papers that include subjects that are contrary to sharee'ah

the question

I work in a centre that corrects exam papers. The work involves adding up marks and entering them into the electronic system or returning the papers to where they should be kept, or printing them to be taken for checking. These exam papers include religious studies with questions about the beliefs and practices of the Christians, Jews, Muslims, Sikhs and others. Is my work permissible?.

Detailed answer

It does not seem that the work you are doing is haraam, for a number of reasons:

1.The nature of the work that you are doing, which is adding up marks and entering them into the electronic system or printing the papers, is permissible.

2.The nature of the material that is being worked on, such as mathematics, physics, biology, languages, computers and cooking, is in general permissible.

But there remains the issue of the religious studies material, which includes some things that are undoubtedly contrary to the teachings of Islam or at least includes a discussion of religions from a western point of view which involves a lot of distortion and off-putting presentation of Islam.

But as the nature of your work is based on simply adding up marks and printing, without teaching this material or correcting the information mentioned in the answer papers, this does not involve directly helping in sin and transgression.

However, there is still some reservation about it, because there is some sort of help involved. Even though does not go as far as being haraam, but it is better to be on the safe side, as the Prophet (blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) said: "Leave that which makes you doubt for

that which does not make you doubt.” Narrated by al-Tirmidhi (2518); classed as saheeh by al-Albaani in al-Irwa’ (12).

However, you can continue working in your job whilst trying hard to avoid dealing with the papers that have to do with religious studies.