

# “Single Narrative Index”

1. An Islamist equivalent of the COPINE scale used to assess the gravity of indecent images of children is proposed.
2. Publications describing the UK counter-terrorism strategy (“CONTEST”) refer to the core ideology of the contemporary global Jihadi Islamic movement as a unifying and dogmatic “single narrative”, following the teachings of Osama Bin Laden and his mentors and followers that the necessary future path of world affairs is their interpretation of Islamic scripture as leading inevitably and rightly to a global Salafist Caliphate governed by Sharia and with survivors having no faith but Islam.<sup>1</sup>
3. The term “Single Narrative” appears an agreeably neutral way of assessing degrees of Jihadist dogma and, moreover, one which more knowledgeable advocates, commentators, Judges and prosecutors will recognise. We therefore provisionally call this scoring table the “Single Narrative Index”.
4. Computer files and folders, and printed or audiovisual materials can be scored from 1 to 10 as set in the table attached. Assessing material is necessarily a subjective exercise and one that is likely to require experience and appropriate language skills. SNI scoring may be of assistance in comparing the apparent degree of commitment and intent as between individuals and groups who may come before the Courts; at the higher end the material either supports or is of relevance to terrorism offences.
5. Some commonly found materials require careful grading. One example might be the “Dirty Kuffar” rap video. The words might suggest a score of 7 (Full Jihad), but, depending on context, the uncharacteristic use of irony, satire and western rap style might suggest a score of 4 (Xenophobic Islam).
6. Effectiveness or authenticity of technical or scriptural material is not part of the test. Thus, for example, the commonly found and widely distributed Mujaheddin Explosives Handbook and Mujaheddin Poisons Handbook would prima facie merit a score of 10, notwithstanding that they are inaccurate and ineffective rewrites of training material used in the 1980s campaign against the Soviet Army in Afghanistan.
7. Comments and discussion are welcome.

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<sup>1</sup> **Countering International Terrorism: The United Kingdom’s Strategy, Cmnd 6888, July 2006, p8.**

SNI	Type	Examples
1	Unconnected	Western or hobby or family material; English language news reports: Internet commerce, social networking, music and video sites.
2	Non English unconnected	Secular Arabic, Farsi, Urdu or other foreign language material, e.g. Al Jazeera reports, newspapers, government and academic publications, non Islamic or Islamist news groups and websites.
3	Basic Islam	Elementary religious material – Quran and Hadiths, moderate orthodox scholars, some Nasheeds. Excludes material offering more than a moderate personal interpretation of the obligation of Jihad.
4	Xenophobic Islam	As for basic Islam but including or emphasising hostility to other religions and to apostates. Many Nasheeds. Material which a Muslim interested in the full spectrum of the religion might read or view, without necessarily evincing commitment or sympathy to militant Jihadism.
5	Jihadi Islam	Core texts and foundation documents for those interested in studying the Salafist view of Jihad – Milestones, Outb, Join the Caravan, the Absent Obligation, etc Suitable for scholarship or passing interest or may underpin commitment. Reports and web pages from Jihadi watch sites (on the basis that many of them reproduce Jihadi material, and that some of them (such as PRISM) do so extensively as to become a source accessed by committed advocates of Jihad.
6	Core Jihad	More intense texts, fatwas, lectures and sermons. Mashari al Ashwaq (the medieval “Book of Jihad”). Documents and videos related to Jihad and Mujaheddin activity and struggles in Chechnya, Bosnia, and other regions. This category includes regional or local activity but excludes calls for <u>Global</u> Jihad, such as some North African Islamists’ views of Jihad.
7	Full Jihad	Material including documents videos, audio recordings and lectures, from sources including Bin Laden, Al Qaida, the As Sahab media house, Al Zhawahiri, Al Zarqawi, urging commitment to a global Islamic jihad. Recruitment initiatives. Related and supporting propaganda material. Documents and material offering ideological, political and

		theological support for suicide bombing (e.g., ruling on the permissibility of self-sacrificial operations).
8	Operational Jihad	Videos and texts showing bombings, shaheed (suicide) missions and training methods. Videos and/or other media with a main focus on active combat with western, Russian or Chinese forces.
9	Extreme Jihad	Beheading videos, other audio-visual or written material encouraging acts of extreme violence against kuffar (outsiders, non believers).
10	Terrorist Jihad	Explicit instructions, orders, training manuals, documents and videos. Encyclopedia Jihad. Martyrdom vest preparation video. Mujaheddin terror manuals. Reconnaissance material directly and clearly related to terrorist activity and operations.