

## Islamic Knowledge Competition: Study Notes Grade 7 & 8

### Basic of Islam

#### Five pillars of Islam

- Ash-Shahadah (The Declaration of faith)
- As Salah (Five compulsory daily prayers)
- Az Zakah (Welfare contribution)
- As-Sawm (Fasting during Ramadan)
- Al-Hajj (Pilgrimage to Makkah)

The first pillar of Islam is Shahadah, which is about belief in Tawhid and Risalah of Muhammad (S).

The other four pillars are the main duties in Islam, called Ibadah. Ibadah includes any activity which is done to please Allah. Salah, Zakah, Sawm and Hajj are the main four forms of worship or Ibadah. If we perform those regularly and correctly we come closer to Allah. Those are like a training program for a Muslim to shape life around.

#### Study:

- The meaning and significance of Kalima Taiyibah, Tawhid and Risalah
- The timings of five daily prayers: What are the times when we should not pray?
- What is the importance of Taharah (cleanliness) and Niyah (intention) for Salah.
- Significance of Salah: 'Our salah is the first thing we will be asked about when we die and stand'- explain in relation to the benefits of Salah.
- Lessons of Salah
- Meanings of Tasbih (uttering) which are recited in Ruku and Sujud
- Meanings of Qibla, Qiyam, Ruku, Sujud, Tayammum
- Meaning of the word Zakah
- Which people are helped by Zakah
- Importance of Zakah in context of social welfare
- Good qualities developed by Sawm
- Morals and social lessons of Sawm
- Why Lailatul Qadr is an important night
- What is Hajj? What Hajj teaches us?
- Hajj is called the Annual International Muslim Assembly- explain

### History of the Quran

**Allah has guaranteed the protection of the Quran.** The words of the Quran were revealed to Prophet Muhammad (S)

throughout the last 23 years of his life. The Prophet used to memorize those and told his companions to memorize its words. The revelations were written down by his followers.

During the time of Caliph Abu Bakr (R), all those words and sentences were collected in the form of a book and were arranged following the direction given by the Prophet Muhammad (S).

Among the Muslims there are always some people who memorize the whole Quran by heart.

The Quran would always be preserved by memorization and printing.

Some companions of the Prophet (s) memorized the Quran. They were- AbuBakr(R), Omar(R), Uthman(R), Ali(R) and some women companions were- Aisha(R), Hafsa(R) and Umm Salma(R). The 3 companions who memorized the entire the Quran and went over it with the Prophet before his death were Ubai ibn Kab(R), Mu-az ibn Jabal(R), and Zaid ibn Thabit(R).

It is reported that the **Quran was indeed written down by the companions.** But it was not bound as a single volume. Prophet Muhammad (s) dictated the revelation to some 48 companions and it was written down accordingly. The Prophet under guidance of Allah through Angel Jibrail determined the arrangement of the verses of the Quran. Prophet (s) also gave instructions for the arrangement of the verses of the Quran. This way the order and the arrangement were well known to the Muslims due to the daily recitation of the Quran in their prayers. When people came to Madina to learn about Islam, they were provided with copies of the chapters of the Quran, to read and memorize. Angel Jibrail used to recite the Quran once a year with the Prophet (S) and he recited it twice with him the year he died.

**All parts of the Quran were in written form in separate written materials.** It was written on paper, dry skin, papyrus and etc.

The order of the verses within each Surah was fixed, but the sheets on which the Surah was written were still in a loose arrangement. i.e. not bound into a volume. The Quran was in this form during the Prophet's time and

also during Abu Bakr's(R) and Omar's(R) time.

#### Collection of the Quran into a volume:

- During Abu Bakr's(R) rule, he instructed Zaid Ibn Thabit(R) to collect the Quran from the various written material and from the memories of people. The collection was kept with him and then with Omar(R) and then with his daughter Hafsa(R).

- During Uthman's(R) rule, disputes had risen among Muslims in the vast Muslim empire about the correct manner of reciting the Quran.

- Uthman(R) borrowed the collection of the Quran, which were kept with Hafsa(R) and ordered four companions among them Zaid Ibn Thabit(R) to rewrite the script in perfect copies.

- Uthman(R) sent those copies to the main centers of the Muslim world to replace other copies that were in circulation. Those copies of the Quran have remained the same to this day.

Today's volume of the Quran has vowel marks (tashkil) to help in the pronunciation and diacritical marks to help tell the difference between similar letters. All old Quraniic script is completely without diacritical points or vowels signs. Also there are no headings or separations between the Swar or any other kind of division or formal indication of the end of a verse.

In the Egyptian National Library there is a copy made of gazelle skin which has been dated 68 after Hijra (688 A.D.), 58 years after the Prophets death. There are also copies from the first and second centuries A.H.

**The current manuscript of the Quran printed in 1925 (1344 A.H.) in Cairo, Egypt** and it is based on the reading of Hafs as reported by Asim.

#### Understanding the Quran

It is easy to understand messages and teaching of the Quran. **Allah said in the Quran,** "We have indeed made the Quran easy to be remembered (and to be understood). Is there anyone that remembers (and understands) it." 54:17.

When a surah's beginning portion is found to be revealed before Hijra that sura is called a **Makkyia, Mekkan Surah.** There are 85

Mekkan surahs.

When a surah's beginning portion is found to be revealed after Hijra, even if some ayat are revealed before Hijra that sura is called a **Madanyia, Medinian Surah**. There are 85 Medinian surahs.

**The main topics of the Mekkan Surah are:**

- Allah and His unity (Tawheed).
- Resurrection and the day of Judgement.
- Righteous conduct.

**The main topics of the Medinian Surah are:**

Addition to the same topics of the Mekkan Surah, new topics were added. e.g. legal rulings, addressing the people of the book (Jews and Christians).

It is important to understand the particular occasion or situation of revelation of that particular Ayat(s). This is called **Asbab -Al – Nuzul**.

The explanation and interpretation of the Quran by the renowned scholars of Islam is called **Tafsir**. A Mufasssir is a Muslim scholar who does the tafsir (commentary) of the Quran,

**A 'mufasssir' must have following qualifications**

- Be of sound and strong belief (aqeeda).
- Be fluent in the Arabic language, mastering its grammar, structures, etc.
- Be highly qualified in Islamic sciences, e.g. Hadith and Fiqh.
- Refers to other 'tafsir' and to reports of the Prophet, his companions (Sahaba) and their followers (tabieen).
- Abstains from using unfounded explanation.
- To explain the Quran by using other parts of the Quran, by using the Prophet's sunnah and by using reports from the sahaba and finally the reports from tabiun.

**Some famous Sahaba, whose reports are useful in tafsir are:** Abu Bakr ® , Omar ® , Othman ® , All. Ibn Massud ® , Ibn Abbas® , Ubay Ibn Kab® , Zaid Ibn Thabit® , Abu Musa Al-Ashari® and Abdullah Ibn Zubair® .

**Most important 'tafsir' of the Quran are:**

Tafsir al-Tabari (d310 AH.), Tafsir Ibn-Kathir (d774 A.H.), Tafsir al-Suyuti (d911 A.H.), Tafsir al-Zamakhshari (d539 A.H.), Tafsir al-Razi (d606 A.H.), Tafsir al-Baidhawi (d685 AH), Tafsir al-Jalalain (d911 A.H.)

Tafsir al-Manar (d1354 A.H.), Maref ul Quran, Fizilal-al-Quran (d1386 A.H.), Tafhim -al-Quran (d1400 A.H.), Tafsir A-Qurtobee and Tafsir An-Nasfee.

**Tafsir al-Tabari was written by** Ibn Jarir al-Tabari who lived in Iraq and traveled to Egypt and Syria.

This tafsir is based mainly on reports from Prophet (S) , the shahaba and the tabieen. It is one of the voluminous scholarly works (30 volumes) and one of the early tafsir which is referred to by almost every subsequent scholar.

**Tafsir Ibn-Kathir was written by** Ismail Ibn Amr Ibn Kathir who lived in Damascus and was the student of Ibn-Tymia. It is one of the widely used tafsir, with emphasis on soundness of reports, referring a reader to other relevant ayat on the topics discussed. English translation is available.

**Tafsir al-Suyuti was written by** Jalal al-Deen al-Suyuti.

**Tafsir al-Razi was written by** Mohammed Ibn Omar al-Razi. It is one of the most comprehensive work covering many areas in length; e.g. It has one volume only for explaining Surah al-Fatiha. It is also known as al-Tafsir al-Kabeer (the large Tafsir).

**Tafsir al-manar was written by** Muhammed Rashid Rida, the well known student of Imam Muhammed Abduh (d 1 323) of Egypt. The Tafsir is in 12 volumes covering only about (1/3) of the Quran, since its author died before completing it. This tafsir refers to current everyday problems facing Muslims.

**Fizilal-al Quran (In the Shade of the Quran) was written by** Sayid Qutb of Eygpt, mostly during his imprisonment (1954-64).

Tafsir was complete before he was executed by the Egyptian government because of his association with the Islamic movement. The author emphasized the difference between Islam and the non-Islamic systems, as well as the need to establish Islam in the individual and the social level.

English translation is available

**Tafhim-al-Quran (Towards Understanding the Quran) was written by** Abul Ala Mawdudi of Pakistan.

Written in urdu, completed in 1973 and has been translated into different language including English. This one of the best

available complete tafsir. Mawdudi used the standard technique of providing an explanation of the Qur'anic verses from the Sunnah of the Prophet (s), including the historical reasons behind the verses with views reflecting those of a sincere believer striving to apply the Qur'anic teachings

**Some parts of the Quran translated to other languages during the time of the Prophet.** When the Prophet sent a message to Herachus, the Byzantine emperor, it contained an Ayah (3:64), the message was translated including that Ayah. Also, the Muslims translated ayat from Surah Maryam (19) regarding the Prophet Isa (Christ) in front of the emperor of Abyssinia (Ethiopia today).

**What is the definition of a miracle (mo'jeza) from Allah?**

Mo'zeza is an event which happens through a messenger only by the will of Allah the Creator. It breaks the usual norms and serves as a proof for the truth and the claim by the messenger that he is the messenger of Allah.

**Why the Quran is called a miracle?**

- It's language and style excels other texts of the Arabic language.
- It's comprehensiveness cannot be matched.
- It's legislation and legal ruling and sophistication cannot be surpassed.
- It's narrations about the unknown can only result from a revelation from the creator (e.g. creation of the Universe. Day of the Judgment, Paradise, Hell fire, Stories of the Prophets, etc.)
- It has no contradiction with the most advanced sound discovery of all the branches of science.

It's fulfillment of all its prophecies.

- It is complete harmony with human natural need (fitra)
- It speaks to the human heart as well as the human faculty of reason at the individual level and at the group (Ummah, Jamaah) level.
- It was delivered 1417 years ago by a messenger, who could not read nor write.
- It transformed a group of 100,000 early Muslims through a quantum and giant step to one of the best examples for humanity in only 23 years.
- It answers the most important questions in human life. e.g. Why we are here in this world? Who created us?

What happens after we die? What about the nations before us? What is right and what is wrong? How can you be happy? etc.

- It corrects the current belief among the people of the Book.
- Its uniqueness in expressing wide varieties of topics from moral ethics to complex legal rulings.
- No other piece of literature, in any language, can match its combined beauty and sophistication, touching the heart and the mind.
- Its teaching strikes a well measured and balanced approach to all able aspects of human needs, e.g. making a living and praying.

**The Quran is a unique, supreme book of guidance** from the Lord of the Universe (Rabbul-allameen). If it is followed, the Lord guarantees the success in this life and in the hereafter. Throughout Islamic history, this fact has been proven time and time again.

**What are some examples of how the Quran contained scientific facts only discovered by modern science in the last 50 years?**

1. Everything in the universe was compacted together and then split apart (big-bang theory). Gases spread throughout the universe and stars, planets and other things were formed. The Universe was in the shape of a fiery gas (21:30, 41:11).
2. All life originated from water (24:45, 21:30).
3. Matter is made up of minute particles (10:62).
4. The oxygen content of the air is reduced at higher altitudes (6:125).
5. The cycle how rains are formed (30:48, 24:43)
6. Everything consists of complementary elements (equivalent to male and female): animals, man, plants and inorganic material (36:36, 20:53, 22:5, 3:10, 13:3).

7. The embryo in the womb is enclosed by three coverings. A pregnancy occurs only when the ova and the sperm unite. The fertilized egg 'clings' in the womb. The fetus grows in stages until it is ready to born. (23:14, 40:67, 75:37, 23:14, 5:22, 39:6).
8. The fertilization of certain plants is done by the wind (15:22).
9. Microscopic organisms exist that are not visible to the naked eye. (96:1)
10. Each human has permanent individual fingerprints (75:4).
11. There may be life on the other planets. (30:26, 24:41, 19:93-95, 3:83)

**Although the Quran contains facts which agree with the discovery of sciences today this does not mean that it is a book of science.** We have to keep in mind that scientific facts are not absolute truths; they might change as human knowledge changes.

### **Study of the Quran**

Memorize the last 15 Surahs of the Quran  
Memorize and study the meaning: Verses 105-111 of Surah Al-Isrra (Surah 17).  
Visit [www.muslimville.com](http://www.muslimville.com) for teachings of those verses.

### **Study of Hadith**

#### **Truthfulness**

Prophet (S) said: "Guarantee me six things and I shall assure you of Paradise. (1) When you speak, speak the truth, (2) keep your promise, (3) discharge your trust, (4) guard your chastity, (5) lower your gaze and (6) withhold your hands from high-handedness."  
- Mentioned in Baihaqi

#### **Charity**

Prophet (S) said: "Every good action is a charity (sadaqa) and it is a good action to meet a friend with a smiling face." -  
Mentioned in Bukhari

#### **Love for Prophet (S)**

Prophet (S) said: "None of you has faith unless I (Prophet) am dearer to him than his

father, and his son and all mankind."

Mentioned in Bukhari

#### **Helping the needy**

Prophet (S) said: "One who tries to help the widow and the poor is like a warrior in the way of Allah." Mentioned in Bukhari

#### **Duty and obligation to neighbours**

Prophet (S) said: "By Allah, he has no faith (Prophet {S} repeated it three times) whose neighbours are not safe from his wickedness."  
Mentioned in Bukhari

#### **Modesty**

Prophet (S) said: "Modesty (Haya) is part of faith." Mentioned in Bukhari & Muslim

### **Examples of some general questions**

(Visit [www.muslimville.com](http://www.muslimville.com) for the answers.)

What to observe regarding reading the Quran?

What is Sajda-al-Tilawa?

What is "tajweed"?

Why is memorizing the Quran so important?

Who are called 'Qari'?

What is the meaning of 'Hafiz-ul-Quran'?

What is the dress code of Muslim boys?

What is the dress code of Muslim girls?

What is 'Hijab'?

What is 'Halal' and 'Haram'?

What is the meaning of 'Islam'?

Why 'Islam' is called 'peace'?

What do you mean by the belief in Messengers of Allah?

What are common messages of all the Prophets?

What were the common things the Prophets did?

What should we do as the followers of Muhammad (s)?

What is modesty? Why is it so important?

What is the importance of helping the poor and needy in Islam?

How should we treat our neighbours?

What is the importance of following the Prophet (S)?

What is the importance of following the Prophet (S)?

If you really love Prophet (S), what do you have to do?