

Islamic Knowledge Competition: Study Notes Age 12 & 13

(Participants of this group must learn the contents of Study Notes for Group A, B, C & D)

Basic of Islam

Five pillars of Islam

- Ash-Shahadah (The Declaration of faith)
- As Salaah (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 Risaalah of Muhammad ﷺ.

The other four pillars are the main duties in Islam, called Ibadah.

Ibadah includes any activity which is done to please Allaah. Salaah, Zakah, Sawm and Hajj are the main four forms of worship or Ibadah. If we perform those regularly and correctly we come closer to Allaah. Those are like a training program for a Muslim to shape life around.

Study:

- The meaning and significance of Tawhid and Risaalah
- 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 Salaah?
- Significance of Salaah: 'Our salaah is the first thing we will be asked about when we die and stand'- explain in relation to the benefits of Salaah.
- Lessons of Salaah
- Meanings of Tasbih (uttering) which are recited in Rukoo and Sujood
- Meanings of Qibla, Qiyam, Rukoo, Sujood, 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 Qur'aan

Allaah has guaranteed the protection of the Qur'aan. The words of the Qur'aan were revealed to Prophet Muhammad ﷺ 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 ﷺ.

Among the Muslims there are always some people who memorize the whole Qur'aan by heart.

The Qur'aan would always be preserved by memorization and printing. Some companions of the Prophet ﷺ memorized the Qur'aan. 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 Qur'aan and went over it with the Prophet before his death were Ubay ibn Kab(R), Mu-aaz ibn Jabal(R), and Zaid ibn Thabit(R).

It is reported that the **Qur'aan was indeed written down by the companions.** But it was not bound as a single volume. Prophet Muhammad ﷺ dictated the revelation to some 48 companions and it was written down accordingly. The Prophet under guidance of Allaah

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through Angel Jibrail determined the arrangement of the verses of the Qur'aan. The Prophet ﷺ also gave instructions for the arrangement of the verses of the Qur'aan. This way the order and the arrangement were well known to the Muslims due to the daily recitation of the Qur'aan in their prayers. When people came to Madina to learn about Islam, they were provided with copies of the chapters of the Qur'aan, to read and memorize.

Angel Jibrail used to recite the Qur'aan once a year with the Prophet ﷺ and he recited it twice with him the year he died.

All parts of the Qur'aan were in written form in separate written materials. It was written on paper, dry skin, papyrus, etc. The order of the verses within each Soorah was fixed, but the sheets on which the Soorah was written were still in a loose arrangement. i.e. not bound into a volume. The Qur'aan was in this form during the Prophet's time and also during Abu Bakr's(R) and Omar's(R) time.

Collection of the Qur'aan into a volume:

- During Abu Bakr's(R) rule, he instructed Zaid Ibn Thabit(R) to collect the Qur'aan 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 Qur'aan.
- Uthman(R) borrowed the collection of the Qur'aan, 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 Qur'aan have remained the same to this day.

Today's volume of the Qur'aan has vowel marks (tashkil) to help in the pronunciation and diacritical marks to help tell the difference between similar letters. All old Qur'anic script is completely without diacritical points or vowel 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 Prophet's death. There are also copies from the first and second centuries A.H.

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

Understanding the Qur'aan

It is easy to understand the messages and teachings of the Qur'aan.

Allaah said in the Qur'aan, "We have indeed made the Qur'aan easy to be remembered (and to be understood). Is there anyone that remembers (and understands) it." 54:17.

When a soorah's beginning portion is found to be revealed before Hijra that sura is called a **Makkyia, Meccan Soorah**. There are 85 Makkan suwar.

When a soorah's beginning portion is found to be revealed after Hijra, even if some ayat are revealed before Hijra that soorah is called a **Madanyia, Medinan Soorah**. There are 85 Medinan suwar.

The main topics of the Meccan Suwar are:

- Allaah and His unity (Tawheed).
- Resurrection and the day of Judgment.
- Righteous conduct.

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The main topics of the Medinan Suwar are:

Addition to the same topics of the Meccan Suwar, 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 Ayah. This is called **Asbab -An – Nuzool**. The explanation and interpretation of the Qur'aan by the renowned scholars of Islam is called **Tafseer**. A Mufassir is a Muslim scholar who does the Tafseer (commentary) of the Qur'aan,

A 'mufassir' 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 'Tafseer' and to reports of the Prophet, his companions (Sahaba) and their followers (tabieen).
- Abstains from using unfounded explanations.
- To explain the Qur'aan by using other parts of the Qur'aan, by using the Prophet's sunnah and by using reports from the sahaba and finally the reports from tabi'oon.

Some famous Sahaba, whose reports are useful in Tafseer are:

Abu Bakr ® , Omar ® , Othman ® , All. Ibn Massud ® , Ibn Abbas® , Ubay ibn Ka'b® , Zaid Ibn Thabit® , Abu Musa Al-Ashari® and Abdullaah Ibn Zubair® .

Most important 'tafaseer' of the Qur'aan are:

Tafseer at-Tabari (d310 AH.), Tafseer Ibn-Kathir (d774 A.H.), Tafseer al-Zamakhshari (d539 A.H.), Tafseer al-Razi (d606 A.H.), Tafseer al-Baidhawi (d685 AH), Tafseer al-Jalalain (d911 A.H.)
Tafseer al-Manar (d1354 A.H.), Maarif ul Qur'aan,
Fee DHilaal-ul-Qur'aan (d1386 A.H.), Tafheem -al-Qur'aan (d1400 A.H.), Tafseer AL-Qurtubi and Tafseer An-Nasafi.

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

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

Tafseer Ibn-Kathir was written by Ismail Ibn Amr Ibn Kathir who lived in Damascus and was a student of ibn-Taymiyah. It is a widely used Tafseer, with emphasis on soundness of reports, referring a reader to other relevant ayat on the topics discussed. It has been translated in multiple languages including English.

Tafseer al-Jalalayn was written by Jalal al-Mahalli and completed by JalaaludDeen al-Suyuti.

Tafseer 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 alone for explaining the soorah al-Fatiha. It is also known as al-Tafseer al-Kabeer (the large Tafseer).

Tafseer al-manar was written by Muhammed Rashid Rida, the well known student of Imam Muhammed Abduh (d 1 323) of Egypt. The Tafseer is in 12 volumes covering only about (1/3) of the Qur'aan,

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since its author died before completing it. This Tafseer refers to current everyday problems facing Muslims.

Fee DHilal-ul -Qur'aan (In the Shade of the Qur'aan) was written by Sayyid Qutb of Egypt, mostly during his imprisonment (1954-64). Tafseer 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

Tafheem-al-Qur'aan (Towards Understanding the Qur'aan) was written by Abul Ala Mawdudi of Pakistan.

Written in Urdu, completed in 1973 and has been translated into different languages including English. This one of the best available complete Tafseer. Mawdudi used the standard technique of providing an explanation of the Qur'anic verses from the Sunnah of the Prophet ﷺ, 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 Qur'aan translated to other languages during the time of the Prophet. When the Prophet sent a message to Heraclius, the Byzantine emperor, it contained an Ayah (3:64), the message was translated including that Ayah. Also, the Muslims translated ayat from soorah 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 Allaah?

Mozeza is an event which happens through a messenger only by the will of Allaah 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 Allaah.

Why is the Qur'aan 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 the 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.

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- 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 Qur'aan is a unique, supreme book of guidance from the Lord of the Universe (Rabbul-alameen). 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 Qur'aan 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). Gasses 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 Water Cycle.(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 be 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 Qur'aan 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 Qur'aan

Memorize last 15 suwar of the Qur'aan

Memorize and study the meaning:

- Verses 190-194, soorah Al-Imran (soorah 3).
- Verses 105-111 of soorah Al-Isra (soorah 17).

[Click for Meaning and Teaching of above Ayats](#)

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Study of Hadith

Truthfulness

The Prophet ﷺ 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

The Prophet ﷺ 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 ﷺ

Prophet ﷺ 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

The Prophet ﷺ said: "One who tries to help the widow and the poor is like a warrior in the way of Allaah." Mentioned in Bukhari

Duty and obligation to neighbors

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

Modesty

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

General questions

What are the names of 25 prominent Prophets mentioned in the Qur'aan?

Adam(A) Idris(A), Nuh(A), Hud(A), Salih(A), Ibrahim(A), Harun(A), Isma'il(A), Ishaq(A), Lut(A), Ya'qub(A), Yusuf(A), Shu'aib(A), Ayyub(A), Musa(A), Dhul-kifl(A), Dawud(A), Sulaiman(A), Ilias(A), Al-Yasa(A), Yunus(A), Zakariyya(A), Yahya(A), Isa(A) & Muhammad

ﷺ

What is the meaning of the word 'Qur'aan'?

- The meaning of the word 'Qur'aan' is "the reading" or "that which is to be read".

What are the other names of the Qur'aan, mentioned in the Qur'aan itself?

The other names of Qur'aan, mentioned in Qur'aan itself, are:

Al-Furqan (the Criterion between right and wrong)

Kitabullah (the Book of Allaah)

Kalamullah (the words of Allaah)

What is the first word revealed to Muhammad ﷺ?

- The first word revealed to Muhammad ﷺ is "Iqra".

In which month the Qur'aan was revealed?

- The Qur'aan was revealed in the month of Ramadan.

How many suwar are in the Qur'aan?

- There are 114 suwar in the Qur'aan

What is the largest soorah in the Qur'aan?

- The largest soorah in the Qur'aan is Al-Baqara.

Name some suwar named after insects.

- Al-Nahl (the bee), Al-Ankabut (the spider) and Al-Naml (the ant).

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Name some suwar named after animals.

- Al-Baqarah (the cow), Al-Adiyat (the charging horses) and Al-Fil (the elephant).

Do all soorah begin with 'Bismillah hir rahmanir rahim'?

- Only soorah At-Tawbah of the Qur'aan does not start with 'Bismillah hir rahman ir rahim'

Who is called 'Qari'?

- Qari is the one who has learned and mastered perfect recitation of the Qur'aan. Qari means the excellent reader of the Qur'aan.

What is the meaning of 'Hafiz-UI-Qur'aan'?

- Whoever has memorized the Qur'aan is called Hafiz-ul-Qur'aan, meaning protector of the Qur'aan.

The Qur'aan tells us about some brave young believers who along with a dog slept for several years in a cave. What is the name given to that group of believers? Which soorah of the Qur'aan mentioned that incident?

- The group of brave young believers who along with a dog slept for several years in a cave is called As-safe Kahaf (the resident of the cave). The name of the soorah mentioned in the story of As-safe Kahaf is Al-Kahf (the Cave).

What is the name of the Prophet who was thrown in a well by his own brothers? Which soorah of the Qur'aan mentioned that incident?

-The name of the Prophet who was thrown in a well by his own brothers is Yusuf (A). The name of soorah mentioning the incident of Yusuf(A) is Al-Yusuf.

What is the name of the first house built to worship Allaah?

- The first house built to worship Allaah is Kaba.

Who first built Kaaba?

- Prophet Ibrahim (A) first built Kaaba.

What is the name of the stone on which Prophet Ibrahim (A) stood while building the Kaaba.

- The name of the stone on which Prophet Ibrahim (A) stood while building the Kaaba is Makame Ibrahim,

What is the name of the son of Prophet Ibrahim (A) who helped him build the Kaaba?

- The name of the son of Prophet Ibrahim (A) who helped him build the Kaaba is Ismail (A).

What is the old name of Makkah?

- Bakkah is the old name of Makkah. This is mentioned in the Qur'aan.

What is the old name of Madina?

- The old name of Madina is Yathrib and should not be used because the prophet renamed it..

Who is called Ansar?

- The muslim residents of Madina who gave shelter to the people who migrated from Makkah are called Ansar.

Who is called Muhajiroon?

- The group of people who migrated from Makkah is called Muhajiroon.

Which event marks the beginning of the Islamic Calendar year?

- The beginning of the Islamic Calendar year is marked by the event of migration of Muslims from Makkah to Madina.

What is the name of the mosque which Muslims used to face while praying before the Kabah?

- Muslims used to face Masjidul Aqsa (while praying) before the Kabah?

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What is the name of the fountain beside the Kabah?

- The fountain beside the Kabah is called Zamzam.

Who gave the advice to introduce Azan for prayer?

- Omar (R).

Who is the first person to call Azan?

- Bilal (R) is the first person to call Azan.

Name the uncle of Prophet who used to torture him along with his wife, whose name is mentioned in the Qur'aan.

- Abu Lahab, uncle of Prophet Muhammad صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم, used to torture Muhammad صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم.

Name the uncle of the Prophet Muhammad صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم who was Shaheed in the battle of Uhud.

- Hamza (R), uncle of the Prophet Muhammad صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم, was killed (Shaheed) in the battle of Uhud.

Name the major battles fought by the Prophet against his enemies.

- Three major battles fought by the Prophet against his enemies are: the battle of Badr, the battle of Uhud and the battle of trench (Khandaq).

Name the Arabic months.

- Names of 12 Arabic months are: Muharram, Safar, Rabiul-Awal, Rabiul-Sani, Jamadiul-Awal, Jamadiul-Sani, Rajab, Shaban, Ramadan, Shawal, Jil Kath and Jilhajj.

In which year and month, the Prophet conquered Makkah?

- The Prophet conquered Makkah in the month of Ramadan of 10th Hijra.

What are the names of the two sons of Prophet Muhammad صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم and Khadijah (R) - who died at childhood?

- Al-Qasim and Al-Tahir.

What are the names of the four daughters of Prophet Muhammad صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم and Khadijah (R)?

- Fatima (R), Zaynab (R), Umm Qulsum (R), Ruqayyah (R).

What is the name of the youngest son of Prophet Muhammad صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم whose mother was Mariam (R)?

- Ibrahim (R).

In which Islamic year Hijri did the Prophet perform his last Hajj?

- The prophet performed his last Hajj in 10th Hijra.

In which Islamic year Hijra and month the Prophet died?

- The Prophet died in the month of Rabiul-Awwal in 10th Hijra.

What is the meaning of the word 'Masjid'?

- The meaning of the Arabic word "Masjid" is the place of prostration (sujud).

What is 'Mehrab', 'Minar' and 'Mimbar'?

The extension of the masjid in front of the place where the imam stands is called Mehrab.

The tower of the masjid building is called Minar.

The platform from where the imam delivers the speech during Friday prayer is called a Mimbar.

What is 'Halaal' and 'Haram'?

- The act or things permissible by the Qur'aan and Sunnah is called halal. And the act or things prohibited by the Qur'aan and Sunnah is called Haram.

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What is Sunnah?

- The life and teachings of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ is called Sunnah.

When is the 'Eid ul Fitr'?

- The first day of the month of Shawal in the Islamic calendar is Eid ul Fitr.

When is 'Eid ul Adha'?

- The 10th day of the month zil-Hajj in the Islamic calendar is Eid ul Adha.

What is the meaning of 'As Salamu Alaikum'?

The meaning of Assalamu Alaikum is Peace be upon you.

What is the importance of showing respect to others?

- Showing respect to others is a means of getting respect from others. Islam teaches us to respect our parents, teachers, relatives and neighbours. We should respect our friends, our younger brothers and sisters.

How should we behave with our parents?

- we should be kind to our parents
- we should take care of them
- we should talk to them politely and not be rude or shout at them

How should we treat our neighbors?

- we should be helpful towards our neighbors
- we should visit them when they are sick
- we should be polite with them and not quarrel
- we should not be jealous of them but should celebrate their happiness
- we should help them when they are in trouble

How should we be with our friends?

- we should befriend those who have good manners
- we should help friends whenever they need help
- we should not abuse our friends
- we should treat them with good manners and share our knowledge with them

What is modesty? Why is it so important?

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

Haya is a quality of a Muslim. It refers to feeling of shame when a bad act is done or something indecent happens.

What should we do as the followers of Muhammad ﷺ?

- The Prophet left two things for us, one the Qur'aan and the other his Sunnah. The Qur'aan is the Book of Allaah and the Sunnah is the teachings of the Prophet. So, as followers of the prophet we should follow the path of the Qur'aan and the Sunnah. We should preach to others to follow the same way.

If you really love the Prophet ﷺ, what do you have to do?

Allaah sent His guidance through the Prophets. They were men of great virtue and character. Their lives were truly pure and honorable. They are role models for mankind. They taught us how to obey Allaah-our Creator. None of the Prophets claimed to be God. They themselves obeyed Allaah and invited others to obey Him. Allaah sent prophets to all people at different times.