Grade 1 Islamic Religious Education

Terms 1, 2 and 3 - notes for 14 topics

IN EVERY TOPIC

- What you will learn and the key words.
- Short, clear notes with worked examples.
- Questions to try and a topic test, with the answers at the back.

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Strand 1.0 Qur'an | Term 1

1.1 Arabic Alphabet

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

By the end of this topic you should be able to:

- identify the Arabic alphabet in three-letter words in readiness for reading the Qur'an
- listen actively to three-letter words to enhance fluency in reading the Qur'an
- read three-letter words with vowels correctly in readiness for reading the Qur'an

KEY WORDS

alphabet, letter, harakat (vowel marks), fat-ha, kasra, dhamma, tanween, sukun, Qur'an.

1. Why we learn the Arabic alphabet

The Arabic alphabet

The Qur'an was revealed in Arabic. Learning the Arabic alphabet helps us read the Qur'an ourselves. Arabic is written from right to left.

The teacher points to the chart and says the first letters: alif, ba, ta, tha. Learners repeat after the teacher.

2. Revising the letters

Letter revision

The class says all the letters in order from the chart, first together, then in groups.

Game: the teacher names a letter; a learner finds its flashcard and holds it up.

3. The short vowels: fat-ha, kasra, dhamma

Harakat (vowel marks)

Fat-ha is a small line above the letter and gives the sound "a" (ba). Kasra is a small line below the letter and gives "i" (bi). Dhamma is a small curl above the letter and gives "u" (bu).

The teacher shows each mark on the chart and reads: ba, bi, bu; ta, ti, tu. Learners repeat.

4. Tanween and sukun

Tanween and sukun

Tanween is a doubled vowel mark and adds an "n" sound: fat-hatain gives "an", kasratain gives "in", dhammatain gives "un" (ban, bin, bun).

Sukun is a small circle above a letter and means the letter has no vowel; it is stopped. The teacher models each one; learners repeat.

5. Finding letters in three-letter words

Letters in words

The teacher shows three-letter word cards, for example ka-ta-ba (he wrote), dha-ha-ba (he went), ja-la-sa (he sat).

Learners point to the first letter on the right, then the second, then the third, and name each one.

6. Listening to three-letter words

Listen and repeat

The teacher (or a recording of a qualified reciter) reads three-letter words slowly: ka-ta-ba, ja-la-sa, fa-ta-ha, dha-ha-ba. Learners listen once, then repeat.

Listen for each vowel: is it a, i or u?

7. Reading three-letter words with fat-ha

Reading words

Words with fat-ha on every letter: ka-ta-ba, ja-la-sa, fa-ta-ha, dha-ha-ba, na-sa-ra.

Pairs read the word cards to each other. If a partner makes a mistake, say kindly: "Let us try again together."

8. Reading words with different vowels

Mixed vowels

The teacher prepares word cards with different vowels and some sukun. Learners pick a card from the box, look at each vowel mark, and read the word, with the teacher checking.

Sort the cards: words with only fat-ha in one pile, words with other vowels in another.

9. Forming words from letters

Word building

The teacher gives letter cards with vowel marks. Learners arrange three cards from right to left to make a word the teacher says, then read it.

Example: arrange ka, ta, ba to make ka-ta-ba.

10. Reading together and appreciating the alphabet

Review

Groups pick cards from the basket, read them, and pronounce them for the class. The class listens and repeats.

Knowing the letters and vowels is the first step to reading the Qur'an. Practise every day at home or madrasa.

TRY THESE

1. In which language was the Qur'an revealed?
2. Which way is Arabic written?
3. Find the letter the teacher names.
4. Say the letters with your group.
5. Which vowel mark gives the sound "a"?
6. Where is the kasra written?
7. What sound does fat-hatain add?
8. What does sukun mean?
9. Where does an Arabic word begin?
10. Name the first letter in ka-ta-ba.
11. Repeat ka-ta-ba.
12. Repeat ja-la-sa.
13. Read ka-ta-ba.
14. Read ja-la-sa.
15. Read the word you picked.
16. Which vowel marks are on your word?
17. Arrange the cards to make ka-ta-ba.
18. Read the word you formed.
19. Read a word card to the class.
20. Name the three short vowels.

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TOPIC TEST

T1. Say the first six letters of the alphabet after the teacher.
T2. Say the letters in order without the chart.
T3. Read three different letters with all three vowels.
T4. Point to a sukun on a word card and read the word with the teacher.
T5. Find a word card that starts with the same letter as yours.
T6. Listen to a new word and repeat it alone.
T7. Read five word cards without help.
T8. Read a word with a sukun to the class.
T9. Form a word and ask a partner to read it.
T10. Read three word cards to your family or madrasa teacher.

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Strand 1.0 Qur'an | Term 1

1.2 Selected Surahs (Al-Fatiha and An-Naas)

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

By the end of this topic you should be able to:

- read Surah Al-Fatiha correctly in readiness for swalah
- recite Surah Al-Fatiha in swalah
- read Surah An-Naas correctly in readiness for swalah
- recite Surah An-Naas in readiness for swalah

KEY WORDS

Qur'an, surah, ayah (verse), recite, Al-Fatiha, An-Naas, swalah, Mushaf.

1. Surah Al-Fatiha: the Opening

Al-Fatiha

Al-Fatiha means "The Opening". It is the first surah of the Qur'an and has seven verses. Muslims recite it in every rakaa of swalah.

Its general meaning: it praises Allah, the Lord of all the worlds, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful, Master of the Day of Judgement; it says we worship Him alone and ask Him alone for help; and it asks Him to guide us on the straight path.

2. Listening to Al-Fatiha

Listen and repeat

The teacher (or a recording of a qualified reciter) recites Al-Fatiha slowly, verse by verse. Learners listen once, then repeat each verse after the teacher.

We listen to the Qur'an quietly and with respect.

3. Reading the verses of Al-Fatiha

Reading from the chart

The teacher points to each word of Al-Fatiha on the chart (right to left) and reads. Learners read after the teacher, pointing with a finger in their own copy or on the chart.

Use the letters and vowels from 1.1 to help read.

4. Completing the verses with flashcards

Flashcard activity

The teacher shows a verse on the pocket board with one word missing. Learners choose the missing word flashcard and place it, then read the whole verse.

Do this for each verse.

5. Arranging the verses in order

Sorting verses

Each group gets the seven verses on strips. They arrange them on the pocket board from first to last, then read them aloud together.

The teacher checks the order and the reading.

6. Taking turns to recite and correct

Turn-taking
In pairs, one learner recites a verse; the other listens and helps if there is a mistake. Swap.
The teacher moves round, listens and corrects pronunciation.

7. Al-Fatiha in swalah

Al-Fatiha in prayer
In swalah, after the opening takbir (Allahu Akbar), Muslims recite Al-Fatiha while standing, in every rakaa. Without it the swalah is not complete.
Practise: stand quietly and recite Al-Fatiha together, as in swalah.

8. Reciting Al-Fatiha from memory

Review
Volunteers recite Al-Fatiha from memory to the class or the teacher. Others listen respectfully.
Muslims recite Al-Fatiha to praise Allah, to ask for His guidance, and because it is part of every swalah. Reciting the Qur'an brings peace and nourishes the soul.

9. Surah An-Naas: Mankind

An-Naas
An-Naas means "Mankind" (people). It is the last surah of the Qur'an and has six verses.
Its general meaning: we seek refuge (protection) in Allah, the Lord, King and God of all people, from the evil of the one who whispers bad thoughts and then hides, whether among jinn or people.

10. Listening to An-Naas

Listen and repeat
The teacher (or a recording of a qualified reciter) recites An-Naas slowly, verse by verse. Learners repeat each verse.
Notice that several verses end with the same sound, which helps us remember them.

11. Reading the verses of An-Naas

Reading from the chart
The teacher points to each word and reads; learners read after, pointing with a finger.
Use letter and vowel knowledge to read slowly and correctly.

12. Completing the verses with flashcards

Flashcard activity
Each verse appears on the pocket board with one word missing. Learners choose the right word flashcard, place it and read the verse.
Handle the flashcards with respect and store them carefully after use.

13. Arranging the verses in order

Sorting verses
Groups arrange six verse strips in order on the pocket board and read them together.
The teacher checks order and reading.

14. Taking turns to recite and correct

Turn-taking
Pairs recite verses to each other in turn. The listener helps kindly if there is a mistake.
The teacher moves round and corrects pronunciation.

15. When Muslims recite An-Naas

Seeking protection
Muslims recite An-Naas to seek Allah's protection, for example before sleeping and in the morning and evening. It can be recited in swalah after Al-Fatiha.
Practise: recite Al-Fatiha, then An-Naas, as in swalah.

16. Reciting both surahs

Review
Volunteers recite Al-Fatiha and An-Naas to the teacher or class. Others listen respectfully.
Reciting the Qur'an nourishes the soul: it brings peace, reminds us of Allah, and earns reward. Practise daily at home and madrasa.

TRY THESE

1. What does Al-Fatiha mean?
2. How many verses does it have?
3. How do we listen to the Qur'an?
4. Repeat the first verse after the teacher.
5. Read the first verse after the teacher.
6. Which way does your finger move?
7. Find the missing word for verse 1.
8. Read the completed verse.
9. How many strips are there?
10. Arrange the verses in order.
11. Recite the first verse to your partner.
12. Listen to your partner recite.
13. When is Al-Fatiha recited in swalah?
14. What is said before it?
15. Recite Al-Fatiha from memory.
16. Why do Muslims recite Al-Fatiha?
17. What does An-Naas mean?
18. Where is An-Naas in the Qur'an?
19. Repeat the first verse.
20. Repeat the second verse.
21. Read the first verse after the teacher.
22. Read the third verse.
23. Complete verse 1.
24. Read verse 1.
25. How many strips are there?
26. Arrange the verses in order.
27. Recite verse 1 to your partner.

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