Grade 5 Islamic Religious Education

Terms 1, 2 and 3 - notes for 20 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 Selected Surahs: Al-Kauthar, Al-Maun, Al-Quraysh and Al-Fil

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

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

- read the selected surahs for spiritual nourishment
- recite the selected surahs for devotional activities
- outline the basic meaning of the selected surahs
- deduce lessons from the selected surahs

KEY WORDS

surah, recite, Mushaf, tajweed, guidance.

1. The Qur'an as our first source of guidance

The Qur'an as guidance

The Qur'an is believed by Muslims to be the word of Allah, revealed to Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), and is the first and most important source of guidance in Islam for how to live, worship, and treat others.

This sub-strand studies four short surahs (chapters) from the Qur'an: Al-Kauthar, Al-Maun, Al-Quraysh, and Al-Fil - each teaches a real, distinct lesson, which this sub-strand explores.

2. Reciting Surah Al-Kauthar

Reciting Al-Kauthar

The teacher, or a qualified reciter, reads Surah Al-Kauthar aloud from an authentic Mushaf, with correct pronunciation and tajweed, while learners listen closely and follow along.

Learners then attempt to recite it themselves, phrase by phrase, guided closely by the teacher, since correct recitation matters in Islam and is best learned by careful, repeated listening and guided practice, not from a written English approximation.

3. The general theme of Surah Al-Kauthar

The theme of Al-Kauthar

Surah Al-Kauthar is a very short surah in which Allah tells the Prophet that He has granted him "Al-Kauthar" - widely understood to refer to great abundance and blessing, including a special river or fountain in Paradise. The surah then instructs the Prophet to pray and give in the way of Allah out of gratitude.

This is a general summary of the surah's well-known theme, not a line-by-line translation - the exact wording and its full meaning are matters for a qualified teacher or the Mushaf's own translation and commentary (tafsir) to convey properly.

4. Lessons deduced from Surah Al-Kauthar

Lessons from Al-Kauthar

From the general theme of Al-Kauthar, common lessons drawn include: being grateful for Allah's blessings, responding to blessing with worship (prayer) and generosity (giving), and trusting that those who oppose good will not prevail in the end.

Learners discuss how gratitude and generosity, as modelled in this surah's theme, could apply to their own daily life.

5. Reciting Surah Al-Maun

Reciting Al-Maun

The teacher, or a qualified reciter, reads Surah Al-Maun aloud from an authentic Mushaf, with correct pronunciation and tajweed, while learners listen closely and follow along, then attempt guided recitation themselves.
As with Al-Kauthar, correct recitation depends on genuine, qualified guidance, never a written approximation alone.

6. The general theme of Surah Al-Maun

The theme of Al-Maun

Surah Al-Maun is widely understood as describing and criticising a person who denies the reality of the Judgement, is unkind or harsh to orphans, and does not encourage feeding those in need, along with those who pray carelessly, show off in their worship, and withhold even small, everyday acts of assistance (often translated as "small kindnesses" or "neighbourly needs").
This is again a general summary of the well-known theme, not a precise translation - learners should turn to a proper Mushaf translation or a qualified teacher for the surah's exact wording and meaning.

7. Lessons deduced from Surah Al-Maun

Lessons from Al-Maun

Common lessons drawn from Al-Maun's theme include: kindness to orphans and those in need is a real part of faith, sincere worship must be matched by genuine good actions, and small acts of kindness and assistance to others matter.
Learners discuss how kindness to those in need, as reflected in this surah's theme, could apply to their own daily life, such as within their school or neighbourhood.

8. Reciting Surah Al-Quraysh

Reciting Al-Quraysh

The teacher, or a qualified reciter, reads Surah Al-Quraysh aloud from an authentic Mushaf, with correct pronunciation and tajweed, while learners listen closely and follow along, then attempt guided recitation themselves.
As with the earlier surahs, correct recitation depends on genuine, qualified guidance.

9. The general theme of Surah Al-Quraysh

The theme of Al-Quraysh

Surah Al-Quraysh is widely understood as referring to the security and trading journeys (traditionally described as winter and summer trade journeys) that the Quraysh tribe of Makkah enjoyed, and calls on them to worship the Lord of the sacred House (the Kaaba), who provided them with food against hunger and safety against fear.
This is a general summary of the well-known theme only - learners should turn to a proper Mushaf translation or a qualified teacher for the surah's exact wording.

10. Lessons deduced from Surah Al-Quraysh

Lessons from Al-Quraysh

Common lessons drawn from Al-Quraysh's theme include: recognising that safety and provision come from Allah, and responding to blessings with worship and gratitude, rather than taking them for granted.
Learners discuss how recognising and being grateful for safety and provision could apply to their own daily life.

11. Reciting Surah Al-Fil

Reciting Al-Fil

The teacher, or a qualified reciter, reads Surah Al-Fil aloud from an authentic Mushaf, with correct pronunciation and tajweed, while learners listen closely and follow along, then attempt guided recitation themselves.

As with the earlier surahs, correct recitation depends on genuine, qualified guidance.

12. The general theme of Surah Al-Fil

The theme of Al-Fil

Surah Al-Fil is widely understood to refer to the traditionally-known "Event of the Elephant" - an account, well-known in Islamic history, of an army that came with elephants intending to attack the Kaaba in Makkah, and was, according to the traditional account, stopped by Allah sending flocks of birds that pelted the army with small stones, leaving them destroyed.

This is a general summary of a well-known traditional account, not a precise historical or scientific claim beyond that tradition - learners should turn to a qualified teacher or trusted Islamic historical sources for a fuller account.

13. Lessons deduced from Surah Al-Fil

Lessons from Al-Fil

Common lessons drawn from Al-Fil's theme include: trust in Allah's protection, even against seemingly overwhelming force, and recognising that sacred, respected things are protected, in ways beyond human power alone.

Learners discuss how trust in Allah during difficult or frightening situations, as reflected in this surah's theme, could apply to their own daily life.

14. Comparing all four surahs

Practical: comparing the four surahs

Materials: notes from previous lessons; small groups.

In groups, briefly summarise the general theme of each surah studied, and discuss what they have in common: each, in its own way, points toward gratitude to Allah, trust in His protection and provision, and living rightly (through worship, kindness, and honest dealings) in response.

This comparison helps fix the four surahs' themes clearly in memory, ready for the final reflection lesson.

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Surah	Verses	Main message
Al-Kauthar	3	Allah's great gift; pray and sacrifice for Him alone
Al-Maun	7	care for orphans and the needy; pray sincerely
Al-Quraysh	4	Allah gave food and safety; worship the Lord of the Kaaba
Al-Fil	5	Allah protected the Kaaba from the army with elephants

All four call us to thank Allah, trust Him and live rightly.

The four surahs and their main messages

15. Appreciating the Qur'an as our first source of guidance

Why the Qur'an is valued as guidance

Through even just four short surahs, learners have seen the Qur'an address gratitude, kindness to those in need, trust in Allah's provision and protection, and sincerity in worship - showing why it is considered the first and most complete source of guidance for a Muslim's life.

Appreciating the Qur'an means valuing both its recitation (a devotional act in itself) and its lessons (guidance for daily living) - and continuing to learn more of it, respectfully and under proper guidance, throughout life.

TRY THESE

1. What do Muslims believe the Qur'an is?
2. Why is the Qur'an the first source of guidance for a Muslim?
3. Who should lead the recitation of Surah Al-Kauthar in class?
4. What should learners do while the surah is first recited?
5. What does "Al-Kauthar" widely refer to?
6. What does the surah instruct the Prophet to do, out of gratitude?
7. Name one lesson commonly drawn from Al-Kauthar's theme.
8. How does the surah suggest responding to blessing?
9. Who leads the recitation of Surah Al-Maun?
10. What do learners do first, before attempting to recite themselves?
11. What kind of behaviour toward orphans does the surah criticise?
12. What kind of behaviour toward the poor does the surah criticise?
13. Name one lesson commonly drawn from Al-Maun's theme.
14. Why does the surah link sincere worship to genuine good actions?
15. Who leads the recitation of Surah Al-Quraysh?
16. What tribe does this surah's name refer to?
17. What journeys does the surah traditionally refer to?
18. What does the surah call the Quraysh to do?
19. Name one lesson commonly drawn from Al-Quraysh's theme.
20. What are Muslims called to avoid, based on this lesson?
21. Who leads the recitation of Surah Al-Fil?
22. What does "Fil" mean?
23. What is this surah traditionally known to refer to?
24. What was the army traditionally said to be attempting?
25. Name one lesson commonly drawn from Al-Fil's theme.
26. What situation might this lesson apply to in daily life?
27. Name the four surahs studied in this sub-strand.
28. Give one common thread found across the four surahs.
29. Name one theme covered across the four surahs studied.
30. Why is the Qur'an considered a complete source of guidance?

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TOPIC TEST

T1. Which of the four surahs have you heard recited before, if any?

T2. Practise the surah quietly at home with a family member who can recite it, and share how it went.

T3. Why might gratitude to Allah be an important response to receiving something described as abundant blessing?

T4. Write one sentence about how you could show gratitude to Allah this week.

T5. Practise this surah at home with appropriate guidance, and share how it went.

T6. Why might caring for orphans and the poor be seen as connected to true, sincere faith, rather than separate from it?

T7. Write one sentence about a specific act of kindness you will try this week, inspired by this surah.

T8. What have you heard about the Quraysh tribe before this lesson, if anything?

T9. Why might being reminded of safety and provision lead someone to feel grateful toward Allah?

T10. Write one sentence about something you are grateful for that keeps you safe and provided for.

T11. What do you predict this surah is about, based only on its name?

T12. Why might this event be remembered as an important sign of the Kaaba's protection, in Islamic tradition?

T13. Write one sentence about a time you had to trust that things would be alright, even when a situation felt difficult.

T14. Which of the four lessons from this sub-strand do you personally want to remember and apply most, and why?

T15. Write one sentence about how you will continue learning the Qur'an, respectfully and with proper guidance, after this sub-strand.

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Strand 2.0 Hadith | Term 1

2.1 Hadith on good Behaviour

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

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

- identify examples of good behaviour from the selected Hadith for character building
- discuss the significance of the selected Hadith in shaping the character of a Muslim
- apply good behaviour in day-to-day life

KEY WORDS

Hadith, character, behaviour, Sunnah.

1. What a Hadith is, and its role in shaping character

What a Hadith is

A Hadith is a recorded saying, action, or approval of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), passed down and collected by early Muslim scholars, and is, after the Qur'an, a major source of guidance in Islam - including guidance on good character and behaviour.

The teacher should always verify the exact wording and source of any Hadith taught, against a trusted, authenticated collection, before presenting it to the class.

2. Examples of good behaviour from Hadith

Good behaviour in Hadith

Hadith on good behaviour commonly teach values such as honesty, kindness, patience, controlling one's anger, and treating others fairly and with mercy. The teacher presents one or two specific, verified Hadith on this theme, discussing what character trait each highlights.

Discussing why these behaviours matter helps learners see Hadith not as abstract rules, but as guidance for real, everyday character.

3. Applying good behaviour in daily life

Applying good behaviour

The real value of these Hadith teachings is seen when learners apply them: showing honesty even when it is inconvenient, being kind to someone having a hard day, or staying patient in a frustrating moment.

Learners set one specific, realistic goal for applying a good behaviour from this sub-strand in the coming week.

TRY THESE

1. What is a Hadith?
2. What is the Hadith a major source of, after the Qur'an?
3. Name one good behaviour commonly taught through Hadith on this theme.
4. Why does the teacher present only specific, verified Hadith, rather than paraphrased ones?
5. Give one example of applying honesty in daily life.
6. Give one example of applying kindness in daily life.

TOPIC TEST

T1. Why might learning from the Prophet's example (through Hadith), not just the Qur'an alone, help a Muslim understand how to actually live out its teachings?

T2. Which good behaviour from this lesson do you find hardest to practise, and why?

T3. Check in with yourself at the end of the week: did you meet your goal? What did you learn?