Grade 7 Islamic Religious Education

Terms 1, 2 and 3 - notes for 16 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 Ulumul Qur'an

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

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

- state the reasons for the revelation of the Qur'an as a guide to mankind
- describe the stages of the revelation of the Qur'an as a sign of mercy to mankind
- narrate the incident of the first revelation of the Qur'an at Cave Hira to show the importance of seeking knowledge
- explain the reasons for the revelation of the Qur'an in portions for ease of its implementation
- assess the importance of the Qur'an in the day-to-day life of a Muslim as a divine guidance for humanity

KEY WORDS

Ulumul Qur'an, revelation (wahyi), Lauh al-Mahfudh, Laylatul Qadr, Cave Hira, Jibril (A.S.), guidance (huda), Mushaf.

1. Meaning of Ulumul Qur'an and revelation

Ulumul Qur'an

Ulumul Qur'an means "the sciences of the Qur'an": the study of how the Qur'an was revealed, recorded, compiled and understood.

Revelation (wahyi) is the way Allah (S.W.T.) communicated His message to His prophets. Muslims believe the Qur'an was revealed to Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.) through the angel Jibril (A.S.).

The Qur'an is the first source of Sharia; the Sunnah (Hadith) is the second.

2. Reasons for the revelation of the Qur'an

Reasons for the revelation

To guide all mankind to the straight path and to worship Allah (S.W.T.) alone.

As a mercy and a healing for the hearts of believers.

To confirm the earlier scriptures and correct changes made to them.

To distinguish right from wrong (it is called Al-Furqan, the criterion).

To give laws for worship, family, trade and justice.

As the lasting miracle of the Prophet (S.A.W.).

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3. Stages of the revelation of the Qur'an

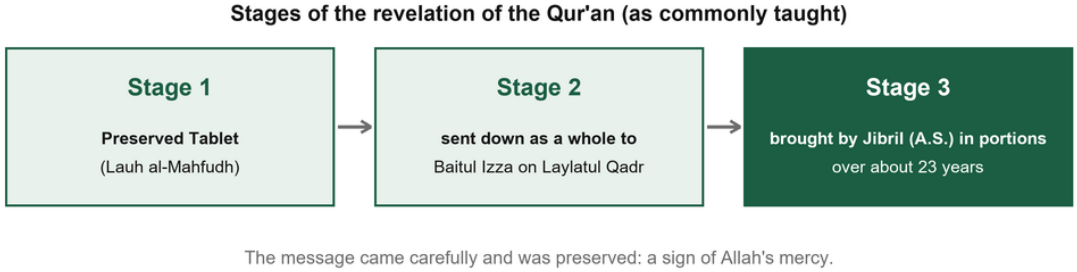
Stages as commonly taught

Stage 1: the Qur'an is preserved with Allah (S.W.T.) in the Preserved Tablet (Lauh al-Mahfudh).

Stage 2: it was sent down as a whole to the lowest heaven (Baitul Izza) on Laylatul Qadr in Ramadan.

Stage 3: Jibril (A.S.) brought it to the Prophet (S.A.W.) in portions over about 23 years, in Makkah and Madina.

These stages show Allah's mercy: the message came carefully and was preserved.



Stages of the revelation of the Qur'an

4. The first revelation at Cave Hira

The first revelation (traditional account)

Before prophethood, Muhammad (S.A.W.) often went to Cave Hira on Mount Nur near Makkah to reflect and worship.

In Ramadan, at about the age of 40, the angel Jibril (A.S.) came to him and commanded "Read!" (Iqra). He replied that he could not read. This happened three times.

Jibril (A.S.) then taught him the first verses, the opening verses of Surah Al-Alaq (Q.96:1-5), about Allah who created man and taught by the pen.

He returned home shaken; his wife Khadija (R.A.) comforted him and took him to her cousin Waraqa bin Naufal, who said this was the same angel who came to Musa (A.S.).

5. Lessons from the first revelation: seeking knowledge

Lessons on seeking knowledge

The first word revealed was "Read", showing that Islam values knowledge.

The verses mention the pen, showing the value of writing and learning.

Knowledge helps a Muslim to know Allah (S.W.T.), worship correctly and serve society.

Other lessons: reflection and worship in quiet places; the support of a good spouse (Khadija, R.A.); seeking advice from knowledgeable people (Waraqa).

6. Why the Qur'an was revealed in portions

Reasons for revelation in portions

Easier to memorise, understand and write down.

Laws came step by step so people could change gradually (for example the gradual prohibition of intoxicants).

To strengthen and comfort the Prophet (S.A.W.) during hardships.

To answer questions and respond to events as they happened.

To keep believers connected to fresh guidance over many years.

7. Importance of the Qur'an in daily life

Importance in daily life

Recited in every swalah.

Guides worship, character, family life, trade and justice.

Brings peace and healing to the heart; read for comfort and blessing.

Source of knowledge and law (Sharia).

Unites Muslims across the world.

Rewards for reading, memorising and acting on it.

8. Valuing the Qur'an as guidance: review

Review of Ulumul Qur'an

Reasons for revelation; the three stages; the first revelation at Cave Hira; revelation in portions; importance in daily life.

Respecting the Qur'an: handling the Mushaf with clean hands as taught, reading it often, acting on it, and teaching others.

TRY THESE

1. What does Ulumul Qur'an mean?
2. What is revelation (wahyi)?
3. Give three reasons for the revelation of the Qur'an.
4. What does Al-Furqan mean?
5. Where is the Qur'an preserved?
6. On which night was it sent down to the lowest heaven?
7. Where did the first revelation take place?
8. What was the first command?
9. Why is "Read" an important first word?
10. Which tool of learning is mentioned in Surah Al-Alaq?
11. Give three reasons for revelation in portions.
12. Give an example of a law introduced gradually.
13. Give three ways the Qur'an guides daily life.
14. In which act of worship is the Qur'an always recited?
15. Name the three stages of revelation.
16. Where was the first revelation?

TOPIC TEST

T1. Name the second source of Sharia.
T2. How does the Qur'an guide a Muslim in trade?
T3. In which month is Laylatul Qadr?
T4. Which lesson about knowledge comes from the word "Iqra"?
T5. Plan one way to improve your study habits this term.
T6. How can a learner use this lesson in memorising surahs?
T7. Plan a daily Qur'an reading time with your family.
T8. Write a short paragraph: "What the Qur'an means to me".

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Strand 1.0 Qur'an | Term 1

1.2 Selected Chapters (Surah)

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

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

- read surah Ad-Dhuha (Q.93:1-11) and surah Al-Balad (Q.90:1-20) correctly for spiritual nourishment
- explain the meaning of surah Ad-Dhuha (Q.93:1-11) and surah Al-Balad (Q.90:1-20) for better understanding
- deduce the lessons of surah Ad-Dhuha (Q.93:1-11) and surah Al-Balad (Q.90:1-20) for application in daily life
- apply the teachings of surah Ad-Dhuha (Q.93:1-11) and surah Al-Balad (Q.90:1-20) in their daily life to earn rewards from Allah

KEY WORDS

surah, ayah (verse), Makki surah, orphan (yatim), the needy (miskin), bounties (ni'mah), the steep path (al-aqabah), Mushaf.

1. Introducing Surah Ad-Dhuha

Surah Ad-Dhuha (The Morning Brightness)
Chapter 93, 11 verses, revealed in Makka.
Widely known background: after a pause in revelation, some opponents mocked that the Prophet (S.A.W.) had been abandoned; the surah came to comfort him.
Listen to the surah recited by the teacher or a qualified reciter from the Mushaf.

2. Reading Surah Ad-Dhuha

Reading steps
Step 1: the teacher (or qualified reciter) reads one verse at a time from the Mushaf; learners repeat.
Step 2: groups read two or three verses together; the teacher corrects pronunciation.
Step 3: individual learners read; others listen respectfully.
Recitation must follow an authentic Mushaf and a qualified reciter; this pack does not teach tajwid.

3. The meaning of Surah Ad-Dhuha

General meaning (widely known)
Allah swears by the morning brightness and the still night that He has not abandoned the Prophet (S.A.W.) nor is He displeased.
The hereafter is better than this life, and Allah will give him until he is satisfied.
Allah reminds him: He found him an orphan and sheltered him, found him unaware of the way and guided him, found him poor and made him self-sufficient.
So: do not oppress the orphan, do not turn away the one who asks, and speak of the bounties of your Lord.

4. Lessons from Surah Ad-Dhuha

Lessons
Allah (S.W.T.) never abandons His servants; hard times pass.
Have hope and patience; the future and the hereafter can be better.
Care for orphans and treat them kindly.
Do not chase away or insult those who ask for help.
Be grateful and speak of Allah's favours.

5. Dramatising the teachings of Ad-Dhuha

Skits (from the design): treatment of orphans; responding to a beggar or a needy neighbour; thanking Allah for bounties.

Each skit shows the wrong way and then the right way, as the surah teaches.

After each skit, the class names the verse it reflects.

6. Introducing Surah Al-Balad

Surah Al-Balad (The City)

Chapter 90, 20 verses, revealed in Makka. "The City" refers to Makka.

Theme (widely known): people are created to face hardship and are tested; the "steep path" of good deeds leads to success.

Listen to the surah recited by the teacher or a qualified reciter from the Mushaf.

7. Reading Surah Al-Balad

Reading steps

Read in short sections: verses 1-7, 8-10, 11-16, 17-20.

The teacher (or qualified reciter) reads; learners repeat; then groups and individuals read.

Recitation must follow an authentic Mushaf and a qualified reciter.

8. The meaning of Surah Al-Balad (verses 1-10)

General meaning of verses 1-10 (widely known)

Allah swears by this city (Makka), in which the Prophet (S.A.W.) lived, and by parent and offspring.

Man is created to face toil and hardship.

Some think no one has power over them and boast of wasting great wealth, thinking no one sees them.

Allah reminds: He gave two eyes, a tongue and two lips, and showed man the two ways (of good and evil).

9. The meaning of Surah Al-Balad (verses 11-20): the steep path

General meaning of verses 11-20 (widely known)

Man has not attempted the steep path (al-aqabah). What is it?

Freeing a slave (helping someone out of bondage); feeding, in a day of hunger, an orphan relative or a poor person in misery.

And being among those who believe and advise one another to patience and to compassion.

These are the companions of the right hand; those who reject Allah's signs are the companions of the left, in the Fire.

10. Lessons from Surah Al-Balad

Lessons

Life has tests and hardships; be patient.

Allah sees everything; do not be proud or waste wealth.

Use the body's gifts (eyes, tongue, lips) for good.

Choose the good way even when it is hard.

Feed the hungry, care for orphans and the poor, and help those in bondage.

Encourage one another to patience and compassion.

11. Applying the teachings of both surahs

Ways to apply the teachings

Share food with a needy classmate or neighbour; donate to an orphanage or a feeding programme.
Speak kindly to people who ask for help.
Thank Allah daily for His bounties; share blessings with others.
Be patient in hardships; avoid waste and boasting.
Each learner writes a personal action plan and reports back after a week.

12. Appreciating the teachings of the selected surahs: review

Review of both surahs

Read both surahs together with the teacher.
Ad-Dhuha: Allah does not abandon His servants; care for orphans and the needy; be grateful.
Al-Balad: life is a test; take the steep path of good deeds; patience and compassion.
Learners report on their action plans.

TRY THESE

1. What is the number of Surah Ad-Dhuha?
2. How many verses does it have?
3. Who leads the reading?
4. What book is read from?
5. By what does Allah swear at the start?
6. Which three favours does Allah remind the Prophet of?
7. Give three lessons from Ad-Dhuha.
8. How should we treat someone who asks for help?
9. Which teaching did your skit show?
10. How should a needy neighbour be treated?
11. What is the number of Surah Al-Balad?
12. How many verses does it have?
13. How many sections is the surah read in here?
14. Who corrects pronunciation?
15. What is man created to face?
16. What do some people boast about?
17. What is the "steep path"?
18. Name two deeds of the steep path.
19. Give three lessons from Al-Balad.
20. How can the tongue be used for good?
21. Give two ways to apply Ad-Dhuha.
22. Give two ways to apply Al-Balad.
23. Give one lesson from Ad-Dhuha.
24. Give one lesson from Al-Balad.

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