Grade 8 Islamic Religious Education

Terms 1, 2 and 3 - notes for 17 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 Modes of preservation of the Qur'an

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

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

- describe the modes of preservation of the Qur'an during the time of the Prophet (S.A.W.), the Rightly Guided Caliphs and presently for posterity
- recite chapters/verses of the Qur'an as a means of preserving it
- assess the importance of preserving the Qur'an to safeguard its authenticity
- cherish the Qur'an as a guide for mankind

KEY WORDS

preservation, hafidh (huffadh), scribe, compilation, Mushaf, standardisation, authenticity.

1. Preservation during the time of the Prophet (S.A.W.)

In the Prophet's time (traditional account)

Memorisation: the Prophet (S.A.W.) memorised each revelation and taught it; many companions memorised it (huffadh) and recited it in prayer.

Writing: scribes such as Zaid bin Thabit (R.A.) wrote verses as they were revealed on available materials: parchment, palm stalks, flat bones and stones.

Review: it is reported that angel Jibril (A.S.) reviewed the Qur'an with the Prophet (S.A.W.) every Ramadhan.

The order of verses was set by the Prophet (S.A.W.) as instructed.

2. Preservation during the time of the Rightly Guided Caliphs

Under the Caliphs (traditional account)

Abubakar (R.A.): after many huffadh died in the Battle of Yamamah, Umar (R.A.) advised compiling the Qur'an into one volume. Zaid bin Thabit (R.A.) gathered the written pieces and checked them against memorisers. The compiled copy was kept by Abubakar, then Umar, then Hafsa (R.A.).

Uthman (R.A.): as Islam spread, differences in recitation appeared. He had standard copies made from Hafsa's copy and sent to the main provinces, so all Muslims read the same text.

3. Preservation of the Qur'an in modern times

Today

Memorisation in madrasa and duksi, with many huffadh in Kenya and worldwide.

Printing of the Mushaf; translation of meanings into many languages (the Arabic text stays the reference).

Audio recordings, radio, television, apps and websites.

Qur'an recitation competitions.

Daily recitation in prayer.

Activity: learners recite a short surah they know, led by the teacher or a qualified reciter, using a Mushaf.

4. The importance of preserving the Qur'an

Why preservation matters

It keeps the Qur'an authentic: unchanged since it was revealed.
It is the main source of guidance and law (sharia) for Muslims.
It unites Muslims everywhere with one text.
It fulfils the belief that Allah (S.W.T.) has promised to protect the Qur'an.
Learners can show they cherish it by reading, memorising, acting on it, and handling it with respect.
Summary: memorisation and writing (Prophet's time), compilation (Abubakar), standardisation (Uthman), printing and technology (today).

TRY THESE

1. Name two ways the Qur'an was preserved in the Prophet's time.
2. What is a hafidh?
3. Which battle led to the compilation of the Qur'an?
4. Who led the work of compilation?
5. Name three modern ways of preserving the Qur'an.
6. Why is the Arabic text kept as the reference?
7. Give two reasons for preserving the Qur'an.
8. Who compiled the Qur'an into one volume?

TOPIC TEST

T1. Why was memorisation so reliable in Arabian society?
T2. Why did Zaid check written pieces against memorisers?
T3. Find out about a Qur'an competition in your county.
T4. Make a short presentation on modes of preservation.

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Strand 1.0 Qur'an | Term 1

1.2 Divisions of the Qur'an

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

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

- explain the divisions of the Qur'an for easy referencing
- identify the divisions of the Qur'an to facilitate the reading of the Qur'an
- describe the characteristics of Makkan and Madinan Surahs to ease learning

KEY WORDS

ayah (ayat), surah, juzuu, manzil, ruku', Makkan surah, Madinan surah.

1. Ayat and surah

Basic divisions

Ayah (plural ayat): a verse; the smallest division. The Qur'an has over 6,200 ayat (counts differ slightly by method of counting).

Surah: a chapter. There are 114 surahs, of different lengths; the longest is Surah Al-Baqarah and among the shortest is Surah Al-Kauthar.

Every surah except Surah At-Tawbah begins with the basmalah.

Activity: in groups, find a given surah and ayah number in the Mushaf.

2. Juzuu, manzil and ruku'

Divisions for reading

Juzuu: one of 30 equal parts, so one juzuu a day completes the Qur'an in a month (often done in Ramadhan).

Manzil: one of 7 parts, so the whole Qur'an can be read in a week.

Ruku': a short section or passage on one theme, marked in the margin of many Mushafs; a convenient length to recite in a rak'ah.

These divisions are for ease of reading and memorising.



Divisions of the Qur'an: for ease of reading and memorising.

Divisions of the Qur'an

3. Makkan surahs

Makkan surahs

Revealed mainly before the Hijrah (migration to Madinah); most surahs are Makkan.

Characteristics: mostly short verses and short surahs; focus on tawheed (oneness of Allah), the Day of Judgement, Paradise and Hell; stories of earlier prophets; call to good morals; often address "O mankind"; strong, rhythmic style.

Examples (widely classified as Makkan): Al-Ikhlas, Al-Kauthar, Al-Fil.

4. Madinan surahs

Madinan surahs

Revealed after the Hijrah, when there was a Muslim community and state.
Characteristics: longer verses and surahs; laws on worship (fasting, zakat, Hajj), family, inheritance, trade and war; mention of the hypocrites and of the People of the Book; often address "O you who believe".
Examples: Al-Baqarah, Al-Imran, An-Nisa.
Comparison: Makkan = belief and morals; Madinan = laws for community life.

	Makkan surahs	Madinan surahs
When	mainly before the Hijrah	after the Hijrah
Length	short verses and surahs	longer verses and surahs
Main themes	tawheed, the Hereafter, morals	laws for worship, family, trade
Often address	"O mankind"	"O you who believe"
Examples	Al-Ikhlas, Al-Kauthar, Al-Fil	Al-Baqarah, Al-Imran, An-Nisa

Makkan and Madinan surahs compared

5. Practical: identifying divisions in the Mushaf

Group task

Materials: Mushaf, manila paper, markers.
Find: the start of juzuu 30; a ruku' marker; Surah Luqman and its ayah numbers; a surah marked Makkan and one marked Madinan in the surah heading.
Make a chart showing ayah, ruku', surah, juzuu and manzil from smallest to largest.
Present the chart to the class.

6. Appreciating the divisions: review

Summary

Ayah (verse), ruku' (section), surah (114 chapters), juzuu (30 parts), manzil (7 parts).
They help: finding and quoting verses; planning daily or weekly recitation; memorising in manageable parts; teaching in madrasa.
Makkan surahs: short, belief and morals; Madinan surahs: long, laws for the community.

TRY THESE

1. What is an ayah?
2. How many surahs are in the Qur'an?
3. How many juzuu are there?
4. How many manzil are there?
5. When were Makkan surahs revealed?
6. Give two characteristics of Makkan surahs.
7. When were Madinan surahs revealed?
8. Give two characteristics of Madinan surahs.
9. Which is the smallest division?
10. Order: surah, ayah, juzuu, from smallest.
11. How many juzuu and manzil are there?
12. Give two ways divisions help Muslims.

TOPIC TEST

T1. Why do ayah numbers help when quoting the Qur'an?

T2. Plan a reading schedule to finish the Qur'an in Ramadhan.

T3. Why did Makkan surahs stress tawheed?

T4. Why did laws come mainly after the Hijrah?

T5. Explain why surahs cannot be neatly ranked by size against juzuu.

T6. Set yourself a manzil-by-manzil weekly reading plan.

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Strand 1.0 Qur'an | Term 1

1.3 Selected verses (Al-Luqman 12-19)

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

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

- read the selected verses correctly for spiritual nourishment
- explain the meaning of the selected verses to ease application
- explain the teachings of the selected verses for character building
- apply the teachings of the selected verses in their daily lives

KEY WORDS

Luqman, hikmah (wisdom), shirk, gratitude, kindness to parents, arrogance, moderation.

1. Introducing Surah Luqman and reading verses 12-19

Surah Luqman

Surah Luqman is the 31st surah. Verses 12-19 record the advice of Luqman, a wise man to whom Allah (S.W.T.) gave wisdom (hikmah), to his son.

Reading: the teacher or a qualified reciter recites verses 12-19 from the Mushaf; learners follow and repeat with correct pronunciation.

Learners then read the translation of meanings in an approved translation.

2. Gratitude and tawheed (verses 12-13)

General meaning

Verse 12: Allah (S.W.T.) gave Luqman wisdom and told him to be grateful; whoever is grateful benefits himself, and Allah does not need anyone's thanks.

Verse 13: Luqman advises his son never to associate partners with Allah (shirk), describing shirk as a great wrong (injustice).

Teachings: be grateful in words and actions; hold firmly to tawheed.

3. Kindness to parents (verses 14-15)

General meaning

Verse 14: people are commanded to be good to their parents; the mother carried the child in weakness upon weakness and weaned it over two years; be grateful to Allah and to your parents.

Verse 15: if parents strive to make you associate partners with Allah, do not obey them in that, yet keep kind company with them in this world, and follow the way of those who turn to Allah.

Teachings: honour and serve parents; obedience to parents stops only where it would mean disobeying Allah; even then, stay kind.

4. Allah's knowledge and prayer (verses 16-17)

General meaning

Verse 16: even a deed the weight of a mustard seed, hidden in a rock, in the heavens or the earth, Allah will bring it forth; He is subtle and all-aware.

Verse 17: establish prayer, enjoin what is good, forbid what is wrong, and be patient over what befalls you; that is a matter of firm resolve.

Teachings: every deed counts; pray regularly; encourage good and discourage evil; be patient in hardship.