



Core Curriculum

1 God, Religion and Islam: An Introduction

1.1 The Problem of Evil, Suffering and Pain

Word : The emotional problem of evil

Meaning : People's dislike or even hatred of God who permits suffering in the world. They are angry that God doesn't do anything about it.

Word : The intellectual problem of evil

Meaning : This problem sees God and evil as mutually incompatible from a logical perspective.

1.2 God, Allah and Religion

Word : Allah

Meaning : Arabic word for God

Word : Deism

Meaning : Belief in God without belief in religion

1.3 Introduction to Islam

Word : Mecca

Meaning : city in modern day Saudi Arabia, the Prophet Muhammad's (s) place of birth.

Word : Abrahamic religion

Meaning : Religion that traces itself back to the Prophet Abraham (as)

Word : Orthodoxy

Meaning : right creed

Word : Orthopraxy

Meaning : right practice

1.4 What is "Religion" and What's the Point of it Anyways?

Word : Dīn

Meaning : Way of Life, Arabic term for Religion

1.5

A Brief Introduction to the Prophet Muhammad (s), the Prophet of Islam

Word : Ismāʿīl

Meaning : Ishmael

Word : Hanif

Meaning : Monotheist follower of Abraham (as) in pre-Islamic Arabia

Word : Hawa

Meaning : the carnal desires of the self

Word : Al-Amīn

Meaning : the truthful one, a name given to the Prophet Muhammad (s) as he was always truthful.

2 Foundations of Islam - Theology

2.1 Entering Islam: The Shahada

Word : Shahāda

Meaning : Testimony of faith that brings one into Islam

Word : Polytheism

Meaning : Belief in multiple gods

Word : Monotheism

Meaning : Belief in one God

Word : Dīn

Meaning : Religion

Word : Ghusl

Meaning : The major ablution (bath or shower) required in Islam so as to be able to perform obligatory ritual practices.

2.2 The Usūl al-Dīn: The Fundamental Beliefs of Islam

Word : Tawhīd

Meaning : Absolute Oneness and Unity of God

Word : Adalah

Meaning : Divine Justice

Word : Nubuwwa

Meaning : Prophethood

Word : Imamah

Meaning : Divine Leadership

Word : Qiyāmah

Meaning : Day of Resurrection, also known as the Day of Judgment

Word : Usūl al-Dīn

Meaning : Fundamental Beliefs of Islam

2.3 **Tawhīd: The Unity and Oneness of God in Islam**

Word : Shirk

Meaning : Polytheism, idol worship, associating partners with Allah

Word : Tawhīd

Meaning : Absolute Oneness and Unity of the Muslim God

Word : Ibāda

Meaning : worship, lit. means “to enslave oneself to something”

Word : uṣūl al-dīn

Meaning : the five foundational beliefs of Islam

2.4 **Adala: Divine Justice in Islam**

Word : Adāla

Meaning : divine justice

Word : Subjective

Meaning : Depends on human opinion

Word : Objective

Meaning : A truth that does not depend on human opinion

Word : Tāghūt

Meaning : Crossing the boundaries of Allah, like idol worship or making corruption

Word : Al-Ghanī

Meaning : One of God’s names and attributes, means the “Self-Sufficient”

Word : Al-Ālim

Meaning : God as the All-Knowing

Word : Al-Hakīm

Meaning : God as the All-Wise

Word : Tawhīd

Meaning : Oneness and Unity of God

2.5 **Nubuwwa: The Purpose of Prophethood in Islam**

Word : Wahī

Meaning : direct revelation by God through the medium of the Archangel Gabriel

Word : Ilhām

Meaning : divine inspiration

Word : Nabī

Meaning : Prophet

Word : Sunnah

Meaning : Sunnah is the tradition, practice or culture of the Prophet.

Word : Hadīth

Meaning : The oral tradition where the Sunnah is preserved.

Word : Rasūl

Meaning : Messenger who brings a whole system of laws. All rasūls are nabīs.

2.6 Imāmah or divinely guided leadership in Islam after the Prophet Muhammad.

Word : Imām of the Ahl al-Bayt (as)

Meaning : Divinely appointed leader after the Prophet Muhammad (s)

Word : Sunnism

Meaning : Those who follow Sunni Islam principally follow the opinions of the Prophet Muhammad's companions and the immediate followers of those companions.

Word : Shi'ism

Meaning : Those who follow Shi'i Islam are those who follow the opinion of the Prophet's Ahl al-Bayt (as)

Word : Ahl al-Bayt (as)

Meaning : The divinely selected guides for mankind from among the Prophet Muhammad's (s) Holy Household.

Word : 12 Imāms

Meaning : The twelve divinely appointed religious guides for mankind. The first Imām is the cousin and son-in-law of the Prophet Muhammad (s) called Ali ibn Abi Talib. The rest of the eleven Imams are descendants of Ali.

Word : Imāma

Meaning : Divinely appointed leadership after the Prophet Muhammad (s).

Word : Wahī

Meaning : direct revelation by Allah through the medium of the Archangel Gabriel. It is conditioned upon propagation.

Word : Ilhām

Meaning : Unmediated divine knowledge which God inspires His select few with, at least in its technical sense.

2.7 **Ma'ād: The Day of Judgment in Islam**

Word : Isrāfīl

Meaning : Angel who brings the Day of Judgment

Word : Yawm al-Dīn

Meaning : Day of Reckoning

Word : Qiyāma

Meaning : Day of Resurrection (Day of Judgment)

Word : Ma'ād

Meaning : Day of Resurrection (Day of Judgment)

Word : Munkir and Nakīr

Meaning : Angels in the grave who question about our relationship to God

Word : Mahdī

Meaning : The 12th Imām who will come in the end of times and spread good and justice around the world.

2.8 **The Sharī'a: Purpose and Practice**

Word : Sharī'a

Meaning : life or way of obedience and discipline towards God

Word : Dunyā

Meaning : the ephemeral aspect of the world

Word : 'Ālam

Meaning : the physical world, world of creation

Word : God as the Final Judge

Meaning : In Islam, God is the ultimate judge of all of mankind's deeds.

2.9 **The Islamic Concept of the Nafs: Battling the Human Ego**

Word : Fitrah

Meaning : Spiritual self

Word : Nafs

Meaning : Inner self or egoic self that commands to evil

Word : Al-Qalb al-Salīm

Meaning : The pure heart that is devoid of sin and full of the remembrance of God. This is the goal of mankind.

Word : Hawa

Meaning : Whims

Word : Shaytan

Meaning : The Devil, Satan

Word : Pride

Meaning : In Islam, it is thinking we are better than others and/or know more than God.

2.10 Satan, Jinns and Angels: Their Influence in the World

Word : Jinns

Meaning : Spiritual/intelligent beings made out of smokeless fire. They are invisible unless they take on make themselves visible.

Word : Angels

Meaning : Beings made out of light, they cannot sin and obey every command of Allah.

Word : Nafs

Meaning : It is our inner self, sometimes called the “self/ego that commands evil.” This aspect of the nafs must be fought against.

Word : Shaytān

Meaning : Satan, the Devil.

Word : Iblīs

Meaning : Leader of the Jinn, he is known as Satan or the Devil in English. He is a Jinn and not a fallen angel.

2.11 The Problem of Evil, Suffering and Pain

Word : The emotional problem of evil

Meaning : People’s dislike or even hatred of God who permits suffering in the world. They are angry that God doesn’t do anything about it.

Word : The intellectual problem of evil

Meaning : This problem sees God and evil as mutually incompatible from a logical perspective.

3 Foundations of Islam - Obligatory Acts

3.1 Accepting Islam: Putting Faith into Action

Word : Straight Path of Allah

Meaning : The path of correct belief and action that lead to salvation

Word : Islam

Meaning : submission

Word : ‘Amal

Meaning : religious action, ritual

3.2 **Jihād in Islamic Law and Spirituality**

Word : Nafs al-Mut’mainnah

Meaning : The self which has attained peace and tranquility, and does not need to struggle as much against desires as they have been pacified.

Word : Nafs al-Lawwāma

Meaning : The self which struggles against immorality and evil

Word : Nafs al-Ammāra

Meaning : The ego or self that commands to evil

Word : Jihad al-Asghar

Meaning : Minor or Lesser Jihad, struggle and self-defense against hostile powers

Word : Jihad al-Akbar

Meaning : Greater Jihad, struggle against the evil self

Word : Jihad

Meaning : Struggle against Evil

3.3 **Salāt: Obligatory Ritual Prayers in Islam**

Word : Salāt al-Mayyit

Meaning : Funeral prayers

Word : Du‘ā

Meaning : Supplication

Word : Salāt al-Ayāt

Meaning : Prayers performed when special (awesome) natural events happen

Word : Nāfila

Meaning : Supererogatory prayers offered after one’s daily obligatory salāt

Word : Mustahab

Meaning : Recommended

3.4 **Ritual Purity in Islamic Law: Understanding Tahāra and Najāsa**

Word : Tahāra

Meaning : Ritual purity

Word : Najāsa

Meaning : Ritual impurity

Word : Janāba

Meaning : State of major ritual impurity which requires ghusl

Word : Tāhir

Meaning : A person or object that is ritually pure

Word : Najis

Meaning : A person or object that is ritually impure

Word : Ghusl

Meaning : Major ablution

Word : Wudū

Meaning : Minor ablution

Word : Ghusl Irtimāsī

Meaning : Major ablution by way of completely submerging oneself under water.

Word : Tayamum

Meaning : A method of ritual purification by using earth or dust.

3.5 The Five Categories of Islamic Law

Word : Wājib

Meaning : Obligatory

Word : Fard

Meaning : Quranic obligation

Word : Mustahab

Meaning : Recommended act

Word : Mubah

Meaning : Neutral act

Word : Makruh

Meaning : Disliked act (but not forbidden)

Word : Haram

Meaning : Forbidden act

Word : Wajib Kifaya

Meaning : Obligatory on society until a sufficient number of people act on it.

Word : Wajib Ayn

Meaning : Obligatory on everyone

Word : Niyya

Meaning : Intention behind a religious act

3.6

Tawalla and Tabarra, its Basics and Purpose

Word : Tawalla

Meaning : Love for the Prophet (s) and his Ahl al-Bayt (as).

Word : Tabarra

Meaning : Disassociating from the enemies of the Prophet and his Ahl al-Bayt (as).

Word : Wala

Meaning : To befriend

Word : Baraa

Meaning : To be free from, to disassociate

Word : Umbrella term

Meaning : A term that covers a broad selection of words that fall under the same category.

3.7 The Purpose of Zakat and Khums in Islamic Law

Word : Khums

Meaning : 1/5th tax one pays on one's sitting income

Word : Zakat

Meaning : 2.5% tax on one's sitting tangible income

Word : Marja

Meaning : A high ranking scholar of law that is a source of legal emulation

3.8 The Hajj Pilgrimage

Word : Muzdalifa

Meaning : A plain where Muslims must lead prayer vigils during the Hajj pilgrimage.

Word : Safa and Marwa

Meaning : Hills Muslims must pace between during Hajj rituals.

Word : Umrah

Meaning : The lesser pilgrimage. Similar to Hajj, but performed outside the Hajj season. It is not obligatory.

Word : Day of Arafah

Meaning : Most important day of the Hajj pilgrimage, 9th day of the Islamic month of Dhū al-Hijjah.

Word : Zamzam

Meaning : Spring of water in Mecca, appeared miraculously when the Prophet Ismā'īl (as) was dying of thirst.

Word : Hajj

Meaning : Pilgrimage to Mecca that all Muslims must perform at least once in their lifetime.

Word : Ka'ba

Meaning : Cube shaped building which is the direction for Muslim prayers. It is also the building around which Muslims circumambulate during the Hajj pilgrimage.

Word : Tawāf

Meaning : Circumambulation around the Ka'ba seven times in counter-clock wise fashion.

3.9 The Furū' al-Dīn: The Fundamental Practices of Islam

Word : Furū' al-Dīn

Meaning : The 10 fundamental obligatory practices of Islam

Word : Salāt

Meaning : five obligatory daily prayers

Word : Siyām

Meaning : Fasting during the month of Ramadan

Word : Hajj

Meaning : Pilgrimage to Mecca

Word : Zakat

Meaning : obligatory tax for the poor

Word : Khums

Meaning : 1/5th tax on one's sitting or special-sourced income

Word : Jihad

Meaning : Struggling for the sake of God

Word : Amr bi al-Ma'rūf

Meaning : Commanding the Good

Word : Nahī 'an al-Munkar

Meaning : Forbidding Evil

Word : Tawalla

Meaning : Loving the Prophet (s) and his Ahl al-Bayt (as)

Word : Tabarra

Meaning : Disassociating from the enemies of the Prophet and his Ahl al-Bayt (as)

Word : Wājib

Meaning : Obligatory act

Word : Farḍ

Meaning : Obligatory act that is in the Qur'an

Word : Tazkīyah

Meaning : spiritual purification

3.10 Fasting in Islam, its Purpose, Dos and Don'ts

Word : Siyām

Meaning : Fasting

Word : Ramadan

Meaning : Month in which one has to fast for 30 days

Word : Eid al-Fitr

Meaning : Festival marking the end of the 30 day long fast in Ramadan

Word : Suhūr

Meaning : predawn breakfast before a fasting day

Word : Iftār

Meaning : breaking one's fast at sundown or sunset.

3.11 Other Obligatory and Forbidden Acts in Islam

Word : Zina

Meaning : illicit intercourse

Word : Ghība

Meaning : gossiping, backbiting

Word : Nafaqa

Meaning : sustenance to one's wife and children

Word : Ribā

Meaning : usury and shark loans

Word : Kabā'ir (sing. Kabīra)

Meaning : major sin

3.12 Niyya: Religious Intention as the Foundation of Islamic Practice

Word : Niyya

Meaning : Intention

Word : Good Niyya

Meaning : Doing something with the intention of getting closer to God

Word : Bad Niyya

Meaning : Performing a religious action for the sake of something or someone other than God

Word : Qurbatan ila-Allah

Meaning : Wanting to reach closeness to Allah

3.13 Commanding the Good and Forbidding Evil in Islam

Word : Amr bi al-Ma'rūf

Meaning : Commanding the Good

Word : Nahī 'an al-Munkar

Meaning : Forbidding Evil

Word : Marja'

Meaning : Highest source of legal authority and emulation in Shia Islam

Word : Jihad

Meaning : Struggle, either against external aggressing forces or struggling against one's evil desires.

Word : Ummah

Meaning : Muslim community

4 Prophethood in Islam

4.1 A Brief Biography of the Prophet Muhammad (s): The Prophet's Childhood (PART I of III)

Word : Banu Hāshim

Meaning : Clan of the Prophet

Word : Quraysh

Meaning : Tribe of the Prophet

Word : Cave of Hira

Meaning : Cave the Prophet meditated and prayed in

Word : Hanīf

Meaning : An Arab who followed the monotheistic message of Abraham

Word : Mecca

Meaning : City the Prophet was born in

Word : Medina

Meaning : City the Prophet migrated to and found as his permanent base.

Word : Hijrah

Meaning : The Prophet's migration to Medina in the year 622.

Word : Khadījah

Meaning : The first wife of the Prophet

Word : Abū Ṭālib

Meaning : The uncle of the Prophet

Word : 'Abd Al-Muṭṭalib

Meaning : The Prophet's grandfather

Word : Qutb

Meaning : literally means pole. It is that perfect human being who is the cosmic and universal leader of all of God's saints and the mediator between the divine and human realms. His presence is necessary for the continued existence of the world.

4.2 **Bio: The Prophet Muhammad as a Prophet of God (PART II of III)**

Word : Banu Hāshim

Meaning : Clan of the Prophet

Word : Quraysh

Meaning : Tribe of the Prophet

Word : Cave of Hira

Meaning : Cave the Prophet meditated and prayed in

Word : Hanīf

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Meaning : literally means pole. It is that perfect human being who is the cosmic and universal leader of all of God’s saints and the mediator between the divine and human realms. His presence is necessary for the continued existence of the world.

4.3 **A Brief Biography of the Prophet Muhammad (s): The Prophet’s Character (PART III of III)**

Word : Banu Hāshim

Meaning : Clan of the Prophet

Word : Quraysh

Meaning : Tribe of the Prophet

Word : Cave of Hira

Meaning : Cave the Prophet meditated and prayed in

Word : Hanīf

Meaning : An Arab who followed the monotheistic message of Abraham

Word : Mecca

Meaning : City the Prophet was born in

Word : Medina

Meaning : City the Prophet migrated to and found as his permanent base.

Word : Hijrah

Meaning : the Prophet’s migration to Medina in the year 622.

Word : Khadījah

Meaning : The first wife of the Prophet

Word : Abū Ṭālib

Meaning : The uncle of the Prophet

Word : ‘Abd Al-Muṭṭalib

Meaning : The Prophet’s grandfather

Word : Qutb

Meaning : literally means pole. It is that perfect human being who is the cosmic and universal leader of all of God’s saints and the mediator between the divine and human realms. His presence is necessary for the continued existence of the world.

4.4

The Prophet Muhammad (s) as Messenger and Teacher

Word : Al-Amīn

Meaning : the truthful

Word : Al-Mu‘allim

Meaning : the teacher

Word : Rasūl

Meaning : messenger of Allah

Word : Seal of the Prophets

Meaning : the last of the prophets

Word : Al-Tabīb

Meaning : doctor for people’s souls and hearts

4.5 The Prophet and his Relationships

Word : No new vocabulary to add

Meaning : No new vocabulary to add

4.6 The Prophet’s Sunnah and Hadith

Word : Sanad

Meaning : Chain of oral transmission

Word : Hadith

Meaning : A report concerning the saying or action of the Prophet that has been orally transmitted to later generations.

Word : Sunnah

Meaning : Sunnah are the sayings and actions of the Prophet

Word : Chain of oral transmission

Meaning : Relating a word or sentence to another person by word of mouth, and then that person relating it to someone else.

4.7 Ghadīr and Arafah: The Two Last Sermons of the Prophet

Word : Ghadīr

Meaning : Pond which the Prophet (s) delivered his last sermon in

Word : Arafah

Meaning : Location where the Prophet (s) delivered his sermon concerning the crisis of human relationships

Word : Mawla

Meaning : Master of the Muslim Ummah

Word : Taqwa

Meaning : Piety and consciousness of God

4.8 **Jesus and Mary in Islam**

Word : Isa

Meaning : Jesus

Word : Maryam

Meaning : Mary

Word : Injīl

Meaning : Gospel

Word : Akhlaq

Meaning : Good moral character

Word : Straight Path

Meaning : Correct path towards God



5 The Qur'an and Hadith

5.1 **Islam and Other Religions**

Word : Ahl al-Kitāb

Meaning : People of the book

Word : Mushrik/Mushrikīm

Meaning : polytheist or idol worshiper

5.2 **What is the Qur'an? A Short Introduction to Islam's Holy Book**

Word : Al-Lawh al-Mahfūz

Meaning : The divine tablet

Word : Day of Arafah

Meaning : One of the last days of the Prophet where he delivered a sermon about following the Qur'an and his Ahl al-Bayt (as) sources of divine guidance and salvation.

5.3 **The Structure of the Holy Qur'an**

Word : Shān al-Nuzūl

Meaning : Occasion of revelation for the Qur'an's verses

Word : Laylat al-Qadr

Meaning : Night of Power, night in which the Qur'an was revealed

5.4

The Quran and Islamic law

Word : Ijmā

Meaning : consensus of the muslim community or scholars

Word : ‘Aql

Meaning : intellect, used to derive laws from Islamic law

Word : Istinbāt

Meaning : formal inference from Islamic law

5.5 The Qur’an, Allah and Humankind

Word : N/A

Meaning : N/A

5.6 Hadith and Sunnah, difference and variations

Word : Hadith Qudsi

Meaning : Saying of Allah as related by the Prophet but not in the Qur’an

Word : Sunnah

Meaning : The practice and tradition of the Prophet (s)

Word : Sunnah

Meaning : Mustahabba: A recommended practice of the Prophet

Word : Siwāk

Meaning : toothbrush

5.7 The Reliability of Hadiths

Word : Sahih

Meaning : authentic hadith

Word : Da‘īf

Meaning : Weak hadith

Word : Tawātur/mutawātir

Meaning : Hadith that has many independent chains of transmission

Word : Chain of transmission

Meaning : A chain of narrators who relate a hadith from the Prophet or the Ahl al-Bayt (as)

5.8 A Reflection on Verses of the Holy Qur’an

Word : N/A

Meaning : N/A

5.9

Hadith al-Thaqalayn

Word : Thaqalayn

Meaning : Two Weighty Things

Word : Mubahala

Meaning : Imprecation

5.10 Imam Ali (as) and Nahj al-Balagha.

Word : N/A

Meaning : N/A

5.11 Taqlid and Tawḍih Al Masail Genre of Literature

Word : Marja

Meaning : scholar whom one uses as a source of reference for Islamic law

Word : Taqlid

Meaning : process of following the rulings of a scholar whom one thinks is the most knowledgeable scholar

Word : Tawzīh al-Masā'il

Meaning : It is a book that contains all the major answers to legal issues in almost all the major areas of Islamic practice and ritual by a Marja.

Word : Minhāj al-Ṣaliḥīn

Meaning : Arabic version of Tawzīh al-Masā'il

6 Measuring Good and Bad in Islam

6.1 The Effects of Our Actions in this World

Word : Khattā

Meaning : sin

Word : Waswasa

Meaning : the devil's whispers

Word : Riyā

Meaning : showing-off

6.2 The Gray Areas of Islamic Law and Morality

Word : Mubah

Meaning : neutral, permissible

Word : Makruh

Meaning : disliked by God, but not forbidden

Word : Mustahab

Meaning : Encouraged by God, but not obligatory

6.3 Heaven and Hell in Islam

Word : Jannah

Meaning : Heaven

Word : Jahannam

Meaning : Hell

Word : Ghayb

Meaning : Unseen

6.4 Life and Death in Islam

Word : Nihilism

Meaning : Worldview that nothing has ultimate meaning or purpose

Word : Subjective or relative morality

Meaning : morality that is produced by the human mind and is limited to human experience in this world only.

6.5 Guidance According to Islam

Word : Sirāt al-Mustaqīm

Meaning : Straight Path

Word : Hidāya

Meaning : Guidance

6.6 Fate and the Consequences of our Choices in Islam

Word : Qadar

Meaning : predestination

6.7 The Effect of Culture and Environment in Shaping our Religious Choices

Word : Istiqāma

Meaning : striving towards God

6.8 Major Sins in Islam

Word : Shirk

Meaning : Polytheism

Word : Yas

Meaning : Despair

Word : Āq al-Wālidayn

Meaning : Disobedience to Parents

Word : ‘Ibādah

Meaning : worship

Word : Kabā’ir

Meaning : major sins

6.9 Why Allah Allows People to Sin

Word : N/A

Meaning : N/A

6.10 Repentance and Forgiveness of Sins in Islam

Word : Tawbah

Meaning : repentance

Word : Shafa’ah

Meaning : intercession on the Day of Judgment

Word : Astaghfurallah

Meaning : “May God Forgive Me”

6.11 The Three Kinds of Rights in Islam

Word : Haqq

Meaning : right

Word : Haqq al-nafs

Meaning : rights of the self

Word : Haqq al-nās

Meaning : rights of others

Word : Haqq Allah

Meaning : rights of God

Word : Shirk

Meaning : Associating Partners with God

6.12 Sinning Against Others and their Delayed Punishment

Word : Ghībah

Meaning : Ghībah: Backbiting

Word : Zina

Meaning : Fornication

6.13 **Kufr in Islam**

Word : Kufr:

Meaning : Rejecting the truth

Word : Kafir

Meaning : Someone who commits kufr, that is, rejects the truth.

6.14 **Trivializing the Harām**

Word : Tāghūt

Meaning : powers of evil, head of which is Satan

6.15 **Benefits of Islamic Law in this World**

Word : N/A

Meaning : N/A

6.16 **Good and Bad Deeds: The Spiritual Consequences of our Choices**

Word : Redemptive Suffering

Meaning : Suffering that either forgives us of our sins and helps us turn back to God to ask for His help. It is a suffering that helps us grow spiritually.

7 The Legacy of the Prophet Muhammad (s) and his Ahl al-Bayt (as)

7.1 **Islam and Knowledge: the Importance of Islamic Education**

Word : ‘ilm

Meaning : knowledge

Word : ta‘līm

Meaning : to teach, to convey or instill knowledge

Word : tarbīyah

Meaning : to rear, to nurture someone spiritually and morally

Word : mu‘min

Meaning : someone who has deep faith in God

7.2

The Ahl al-Kisa

Word : Ahl al-Kisa

Meaning : The People of the Cloak, referring to the Prophet Muhammad(s), Imam Ali (as), Fatima al-Zahra (as), Imam Hasan (as) and Imam Husayn (as).

7.3 Imamah in the Qur'an

Word : Imamah

Meaning : Divine leadership

7.4 Fatima al-Zahrah (as)

Word : Tasbih of Fatima al-Zahra

Meaning : Tasbih of Fatima al-Zahra

Word : Fadak

Meaning : Fatima's garden which was gifted to her by her father (s).

7.5 A Brief Look at the Lives of the Imams (Imam al-Hasan until Imam Muhammad al-Baqir)

Word : N/A

Meaning : N/A

7.6 A Brief Look at the Lives of the Imams (Imam Jafar al-Sadiq until Imam Hasan al-Askari)

Word : Sayyid

Meaning : Descendent of the Prophet

7.7 A Brief Look at the Life and Importance of Imam al-Mahdi (aj)

Word : Ghaybat al-Sughra

Meaning : The 12th Imam's lesser or minor occultation

Word : Ghaybat al-Kubra

Meaning : The 12th Imam's greater or major occultation

Word : Akhir al-Zaman

Meaning : End of Days

Word : Zuhur

Meaning : The 12th Imam's reappearance at the End of Days

7.8

Salawat and Atonement in Islam

Word : Salawat

Meaning : conveying blessings upon the Prophet and his Ahl al-Bayt (as)

Word : Sahaba

Meaning : companions of the Prophet

Word : Allahumma Salli 'Alā Muhammad wa Āli Muhammad

Meaning : "O Allah, send your blessings upon Muhammad and upon the progeny of Muhammad"

Word : Assalamu alaikum wa rahmatullahi wa barakatuh

Meaning : may the peace of God be upon you as well as His mercy and blessings

7.9 The Companions (Sahaba) of the Prophet According to the Qur'an

Word : Sahabi

Meaning : companion of the prophet (s)

Word : Sahaba

Meaning : companions of the prophet (s)

Word : Muttabi

Meaning : obedient and faithful follower of the Prophet (s)

7.10 Clerical Hierarchies in Muslim Communities

Word : Alim

Meaning : Someone who possesses knowledge, i.e. cleric.

Word : Maulana

Meaning : "Our master," in reference to a cleric of any rank, it is a term usually used by South Asians

Word : Ayatollah

Meaning : "Sign of God," a highly trained cleric who is a mujtahid

Word : Ayatollah al-Udhma

Meaning : "greater Ayatollah (Sign of God)," another name for a Marja

Word : Hawza

Meaning : Islamic seminary where Muslim clerics are trained in Law

7.11 Mosques in Islam

Word : i'tikaf

Meaning : practice of confining oneself to the Mosque for a number of days in order to perform religious rituals and activities.

Word : layat al-qadr

Meaning : Night of Power, the night in which the Qur'an was first revealed to the Prophet Muhammad (s)

Word : masjid al-haram

Meaning : The Kaba, it means the Sacred Mosque.

Word : Hawza

Meaning : Islamic seminary where clergy are trained

Word : Husayniyah

Meaning : A Husayniyah is a center of multiple purposes. It is primarily designed to be a place of mourning for the Ahl al-Bayt (as) as well as celebrating their birthdays. It is also used as a place for prayer.

7.12 The Philosophy of Karbala and Majalis

Word : Fakhr

Meaning : Haughtiness

Word : Akhlaq

Meaning : spiritual ethics, Godly and moral disposition

Word : Majalis (sing. Majlis)

Meaning : gatherings that commemorate the various tragedies that befell the Ahl al-Bayt (as), especially Imam al-Husayn (as).

7.13 A Brief Biography of Imam Ali ibn Abi Talib (as)

Word : Imam

Meaning : Divinely appointed leader to guide humankind

Word : Ghadeer

Meaning : Where Imam Ali (as) was declared the successor of the Prophet

Word : Fatimah al-Zahrah

Meaning : Wife of Imam Ali (as) and daughter of the Prophet Muhammad (s)

Word : Qutb

Meaning : Literally "pole," it refers to a perfect human being who is the cosmic and universal leader of all of God's saints and the mediator between the divine and human realms.

Word : Abū Tālib

Meaning : Imam Ali's father

7.14 The Battle of Karbala: A Brief History

Word : Yazid

Meaning : Son of Muawiyah, Caliph responsible for the murder of Imam al-Husayn (as).

Word : Karbala

Meaning : Town where Imam al-Husayn, his family and his close companions were massacred in.

Word : Kufa

Meaning : City which Imam al-Husayn (as) headed to in order to to avoid bloodshed in Mecca and Medina.

Word : Ashura

Meaning : Tenth day of Muharram, the day the battle of Karbala took place and Imam al-Husayn (as) was killed.

Word : Muharram

Meaning : First month of the Islamic calendar, the month in which Imam al-Husayn (as) was killed.

8 Islamic Relationships, Sects and Conflicts

8.1 Misconceptions about Shi'ism

Word : Takfeer

Meaning : accusing a Muslim of being a non-Muslim

Word : Turba

Meaning : baked clay that Shia Muslims prostrate on during their prayers

Word : Tahreef

Meaning : Distortion of the Qur'an

8.2 Major Sects of Islam

Word : N/A

Meaning : N/A

8.3 Islam and Religious Conflicts

Word : N/A

Meaning : N/A

8.4 Islam and Rights

Word : Haqq

Meaning : Right or Responsibility

Word : Huquq

Meaning : Plural of haqq

Word : Jizya

Meaning : Tax for Non-Muslims

8.5 **Sunnism and Shi'ism, beginnings and historical developments.**

Word : Twelver or Imami Shias

Meaning : Shias who believe in the 12 Imams

Word : Ismaili Shias

Meaning : people who believed in the first 6 Imams, but follow a different line of Imams after Imam Jafar al-Sadiq

Word : Proto-Sunnism

Meaning : The initial phases and building blocks of what we know as Sunnism today. Proto-Sunnism was a movement with many disparate groups that had contradicting views on law, theology and overall Islamic creed and doctrine. They were united only to the extent that they thought that the first two caliphs, Abu Bakr and Umar, were righteous