



## 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

**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.

### 4.3 **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 :** Arafa

**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 Tawḍīh 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