



Core Curriculum

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.