



Core Curriculum

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 : Zakāt

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