

Core Curriculum

Image not found or type unknown



5 The Qur'an and Hadith

5.1

Islam and Other Religions

Question : Who are the Ahl al-Kitāb?

Answer : They are the People of the Book, that is, people who belong to a religion that was divinely revealed within the line of the Prophet Abraham (as). They are Jews, Christians and Sabians.

Question : Is a polytheist an idol worshiper?

Answer : Generally yes, but some polytheists do not worship outside idols but are simply polytheistic in their beliefs.

Question : If a non-Muslim insults Allah or Islam, can I insult him or her back?

Answer : No, in 6:108, Allah teaches us to keep our manners. That produces an atmosphere of respect.

Question : Why is idol worship bad?

Answer : Because it keeps people from worshiping the true God and creator of the universe.

Question : What is a mushrik?

Answer : Someone who worships idols or gods other than Allah and associates partners with Allah who help Him maintain the world.

5.2

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

Question : Is the Qur'an the literal word of God, or simply the divinely inspired teachings of the Prophet Muhammad (s)?

Answer : Literal word of God

Question : What's the point of the Qur'an, what is it trying to do?

Answer : Guide mankind to salvation in the Hereafter.

Question : Is the Qur'an alone enough for us?

Answer : No, it needs teachers that are appointed by its author (Allah).

Question : Who are the teachers of the Qur'an?

Answer : The Prophet Muhammad and his Ahl al-Bayt (as)

Question : Is all knowledge in the Qur'an?

Answer : No, all knowledge of existence is in the divine tablet of God, which is different from the Qur'an

5.3

The Structure of the Holy Qur'an

Question : Is the Qur'an in chronological order?

Answer : No

Question : What month was the Qur'an revealed in?

Answer : Ramadan

Question : What is Layat al-Qadr?

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

Question : Was the Qur'an revealed all at once?

Answer : No, it was revealed gradually in a span of two decades.

Question : How many chapters does the Qur'an have?

Answer : 114

5.4

The Quran and Islamic law

Question : Does the Qur'an contain all of Islamic law?

Answer : No, it contains the general moral principles of the law

Question : What's the relationship of hadiths and the Qur'an in Islamic law?

Answer : The hadiths explain the details of the Qur'an's law which are not available in the book

Question : Who interprets the Qur'an?

Answer : The Prophet Muhammad (s) and his Ahl al-Bayt (as)

Question : What is Islamic law's most important source of law?

Answer : The Qur'an

Question : What is the second most important source of law after the Qur'an?

Answer : The hadiths of the Prophet (s) and his Ahl al-Bayt (as)

5.5

The Qur'an, Allah and Humankind

Question : Is the Qur'an for Muslims only?

Answer : No, it is for all of mankind

Question : What's the relationship between the Qur'an and the Prophet (s)?

Answer : The Qur'an, as a miracle, is proof of the Prophet's truthfulness.

Question : Is the Qur'an the literal word of God, or is it the inspired word of the Prophet (s)?

Answer : It is the literal word of God

Question : What's one of the primary purposes of the Ahl al-Bayt (as)?

Answer : As explainers of the Qur'an

Question : Is the Qur'an by itself complete?

Answer : No, it needs the Sunnah of the Prophet and the Ahl al-Bayt (as)

5.6

Hadith and Sunnah, difference and variations

Question : What is a hadith?

Answer : Hadith is a transmitted saying of the Prophet or the Ahl al-Bayt

Question : What is a hadith qudsi?

Answer : Saying of Allah as related by the Prophet but not in the Qur'an

Question : What is Sunnah

Answer : Sunnah is the practice and tradition of the Prophet (s)

Question : What is Sunnah Mustahabba?

Answer : A recommended practice of the Prophet

Question : Are hadiths available in books?

Answer : Yes

5.7

The Reliability of Hadiths

Question : What is a hadith?

Answer : Saying of the Prophet

Question : What is a chain of transmission?

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

Question : What is a sahih hadith?

Answer : Authentic, reliable hadith

Question : What is a weak hadith?

Answer : A hadith that has a questionable chain of transmission, like a liar among its narrators

Question : What are the major compendiums of hadith in the Shia Muslim world?

Answer : Kitab al-Kafi Man Lā Yahduruhu al-Faqih Tahdhib al-Ahkām Al-Istibsār

5.8

A Reflection on Verses of the Holy Qur'an

Question : Why do some people find the Qur'an boring?

Answer : For many reasons. Sometimes it is because their prime focus is their sole love of the world and as a consequence, they lose interest in matters of salvation.

Question : What are other reasons why the Qur'an seems unattractive to people?

Answer : People must focus on making their writings relevant and understandable, especially when it comes to communicating the Qur'an to the masses. Too much abstract discussion and pedantic writing alienates people from Islam's Holy Book.

Question : What is the greatest lesson we learn from Ya'qūb's (as) relation to his sons, especially after they got rid of their younger brother Yusuf (as)?

Answer : Patience instead of immediate punishment

5.9

Hadith al-Thaqalayn

Question : What is hadith al-Mubahala

Answer : It refers to an incident in history where the Prophet and his family and a group of Christians were to pray against each other to see whom God would favor and thereby establish the truth of Islam.

Question : What is Hadith al-Thaqalayn?

Answer : One of the last sermons of the Prophet where he designated the Qur'an and his Ahl al-Bayt (as) as his guiding successors after his death.

Question : How many did the Ahl al-Bayt (as) number during the lifetime of the Prophet (s)?

Answer : Five

Question : Who were the five members of the Ahl al-Bayt (as) during the lifetime of the Prophet (s)?

Answer : The Prophet, Fatima, Imam Ali, Imam Hasan and Imam Husayn (may the peace and blessings of Allah be upon them all)

Question : What's the main purpose of the Qur'an and Ahl al-Bayt (as)?

Answer : To guide mankind to salvation after the Prophet (s)

5.10

Imam Ali (as) and Nahj al-Balagha.

Question : Who compiled Nahj al-Balagha?

Answer : Al-Sharif al-Radi

Question : What kind of book was Nahj al-Balagha primarily meant for?

Answer : Arabic literature, but it also became a book of guidance for many Muslims due to its spiritual contents

Question : What are the contents of Nahj al-Balagha?

Answer : Sermons, letters and sayings of Imam Ali (as)

Question : When were most of Nahj al-Balagha's contents delivered?

Answer : During the Caliphate of Imam Ali (as)

Question : Is Nahj al-Balagha available in English?

Answer : Yes

Question : What does Nahj al-Balagha mean?

Answer : Peak of Eloquence

5.11

Taqlid and Tawḍih Al Masail Genre of Literature

Question : What is a Marja

Answer : A marja is a scholar whom one refers to as a source of reference for Islamic law

Question : What is Taqlīd

Answer : Taqlīd is the process of following the rulings of whom one thinks is the most knowledgeable scholar

Question : What is Tawzīh al-Masā'il?

Answer : 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.

Question : What is Minhāj al-Ṣaliḥīn?

Answer : The Arabic version of Tawzīh al-Masā'il, which are usually in Persian.

Question : Are the Tawzīh al-Masā'il available in English?

Answer : Yes, for most major Marjas in today's world, there exists English translations of their works.