Islamic Studies: A Progressive Guide

Islamic Studies is the academic study of Islam. It covers various aspects of the religion, including its history, beliefs, practices, ethics, and laws, drawing from primary sources like the Qur'an and Sunnah.

Akhlaq (Qur'an, Hadith & Sunnah) & Seerah & History 1

This term reviews ethical concepts and begins a detailed study of the Prophet's life and early Islamic history.

1. Akhlaq (Islamic Ethics and Morals)

- **Review and Advanced Application:** Reinforce the understanding of Akhlaq, focusing on its role in building strong communities and personal character development.
    - **Patience and Forbearance in the Face of Adversity:** Deeper study of how these virtues were exemplified by the Prophet (PBUH) and early Muslims.
    - **Importance of Consultation (Shura):**
        - **Qur'an:** "...and consult them in the matter." (Qur'an 3:159)
        - **Sunnah:** The Prophet (PBUH) consulted his companions in matters.
        - **Application:** In family, business, and community decisions.
    - **Responsibility and Accountability:**
        - **Hadith:** "Every one of you is a shepherd and is responsible for his flock." (Bukhari, Muslim)
        - **Application:** Responsibility towards family, community, environment, and Allah.
    - **Hospitality and Generosity to Guests:** A highly emphasized virtue in Islam.

2. Seerah & History 1 (Life of Prophet Muhammad PBUH - Makkah Period)

This section focuses on the Prophet's life before and during his mission in Makkah.

- **Pre-Prophethood Life:**
    - **Birth and Early Life:** Born in Makkah (570 CE), orphaned early, raised by grandfather Abd al-Muttalib and uncle Abu Talib.
    - **Youth and Adulthood:** Known for honesty, trustworthiness (Al-Amin), and good character. Marriage to Khadijah (RA). Involvement in trading.
    - **The Building of the Kaaba and the Black Stone Incident:** Displayed wisdom in resolving the dispute among tribal leaders.

- **The Beginning of Revelation (610 CE):**
  - **Cave Hira:** Retreating for meditation.
  - **First Revelation:** Encounter with Angel Jibril (Gabriel) and the revelation of the first verses of Surah Al-Alaq.
  - **Khadijah's Support:** Her immediate belief and encouragement.
- **The Makkah Period (Call to Islam and Persecution):**
  - **Secret Call (First 3 years):** Preaching to close family and friends (e.g., Khadijah, Abu Bakr, Ali, Zayd ibn Harithah).
  - **Public Call:** Command to proclaim the message openly.
  - **Persecution of Muslims:**
    - **Reasons:** Threat to pagan traditions, economic interests (idolatry), social hierarchy.
    - **Forms of Persecution:** Mockery, ridicule, verbal abuse, physical torture (e.g., Bilal, Ammar's family), social boycott, economic hardship.
  - **Migration to Abyssinia (Ethiopia):**
    - **First Hijra (615 CE):** To escape persecution, some Muslims migrated to Abyssinia, a Christian kingdom ruled by the just King Negus.
    - **Second Hijra (616 CE):** Another group migrated.
    - **Outcome:** Protection and religious freedom, despite Quraish's attempts to bring them back.
  - **The Boycott of Banu Hashim (616-619 CE):**
    - **Reason:** Quraish's attempt to force Abu Talib to surrender the Prophet.
    - **Impact:** Severe economic and social hardship for the Prophet's clan.
  - **The Year of Sorrow (619 CE):**
    - **Death of Abu Talib:** The Prophet's protecting uncle passed away.
    - **Death of Khadijah:** His beloved wife and first supporter passed away.
    - **Impact:** Left the Prophet vulnerable and deeply saddened.
  - **Search for New Alliances (Ta'if):**
    - **Journey to Ta'if:** Prophet (PBUH) sought refuge and acceptance of Islam in Ta'if.
    - **Rejection and Abuse:** He was rejected and stoned.
    - **Divine Support:** Angel of the Mountains offered to crush the people, but the Prophet prayed for their guidance.
  - **Isra and Mi'raj (The Night Journey and Ascension):**
    - **Significance:** A miraculous journey from Makkah to Jerusalem and then to the heavens.
    - **Importance:** A spiritual upliftment for the Prophet, confirmation of his prophethood, and the institution of the five daily prayers.
  - **Pledges of Aqabah (621-622 CE):**
    - **First Aqabah Pledge:** Group from Yathrib (Madinah) accepted Islam.
    - **Second Aqabah Pledge:** Larger group pledged allegiance to the Prophet and promised to protect him, inviting him to Madinah.
    - **Significance:** Paved the way for the Hijra (migration) to Madinah, marking a turning point in Islamic history.