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) & Tawheed

This term deepens the understanding of Islamic ethics and the core concept of monotheism.

1. Akhlaq (Islamic Ethics and Morals)

- **Review from JSS3:** Reiterate the definition and importance of Akhlaq as the study of moral character and conduct in Islam, derived from the Qur'an and Sunnah.
- **Detailed Virtues and Their Sources (Qur'an, Hadith & Sunnah):**
    - **Truthfulness (Sidq):**
        - **Qur'an:** "O you who have believed, fear Allah and be with the truthful." (Qur'an 9:119)
        - **Hadith:** "Indeed, truthfulness leads to righteousness, and righteousness leads to Paradise." (Bukhari, Muslim)
        - **Sunnah:** The Prophet (PBUH) was known as Al-Sadiq (the Truthful) even before prophethood.
    - **Honesty (Amanah):**
        - **Qur'an:** "Indeed, Allah commands you to render trusts to whom they are due..." (Qur'an 4:58)
        - **Hadith:** "There is no faith for him who is not trustworthy, and there is no religion for him who does not keep his promise." (Ahmad)
        - **Sunnah:** The Prophet (PBUH) was known as Al-Amin (the Trustworthy), entrusted with people's belongings.
    - **Patience (Sabr):**
        - **Qur'an:** "Indeed, Allah is with the patient." (Qur'an 2:153)
        - **Hadith:** "No one has been given a gift better and more encompassing than patience." (Bukhari, Muslim)
        - **Sunnah:** The Prophet (PBUH) endured severe persecution in Makkah and hardships during battles with great patience.

    - **Justice (Adl):**
        - **Qur'an:** "O you who have believed, be persistently [upholders of justice], witnesses for Allah, even if it be against yourselves or parents and relatives." (Qur'an 4:135)
        - **Hadith:** "The most beloved people to Allah on the Day of Resurrection and the nearest to Him will be the just leaders." (Tirmidhi)
        - **Sunnah:** The Prophet (PBUH) established justice in Madinah and ensured fair dealings even with non-Muslims.
    - **Kindness and Compassion (Rahmah):**
        - **Qur'an:** "And We have not sent you, [O Muhammad], except as a mercy to the worlds." (Qur'an 21:107)
        - **Hadith:** "Show mercy to those on earth, and the One in the heavens will show mercy to you." (Tirmidhi)
        - **Sunnah:** The Prophet (PBUH) showed compassion to orphans, the poor, animals, and even his enemies.
    - **Forgiveness and Tolerance:**
        - **Qur'an:** "And pardon [people] and overlook [their faults]. Indeed, Allah loves the doers of good." (Qur'an 3:134)
        - **Hadith:** "Allah does not increase a servant in anything but honor by his pardoning [others]." (Muslim)
        - **Sunnah:** The Prophet (PBUH) forgave the people of Makkah after its conquest, despite years of persecution.
    - **Modesty (Haya):**
        - **Hadith:** "Modesty is part of faith." (Bukhari, Muslim)
        - **Importance:** Guides appropriate dress, speech, and behavior for both men and women.
    - **Respect for Elders and Parents:**
        - **Qur'an:** "And your Lord has commanded that you worship none but Him, and that you be dutiful to your parents." (Qur'an 17:23)
        - **Hadith:** "Paradise lies under the feet of mothers." (An-Nasa'i, Ahmad)
- **Application of Akhlaq in Daily Life:** How these virtues guide interactions within family, school, community, and society at large. Emphasize that Islam is a way of life that encompasses all aspects of human conduct.

2. Tawheed (Monotheism)

- **Definition:** The fundamental concept in Islam that affirms the absolute oneness of God (Allah). It is the most important principle in Islam.
- **Central Message:** There is no deity worthy of worship except Allah.
- **Types of Tawheed:**
    - **Tawheed al-Rububiyyah (Oneness of Lordship):**
        - **Meaning:** Belief that Allah alone is the Creator, Sustainer, Provider, and Controller of everything in the universe. He is the only Lord.
        - **Implication:** No one shares in His dominion or power.
        - **Qur'anic Example:** "Indeed, your Lord is Allah, who created the heavens and the earth in six days and then established Himself above the Throne." (Qur'an 7:54)

    - **Tawheed al-Uluhiyyah (Oneness of Worship):**
        - **Meaning:** Belief that Allah alone is the one who deserves to be worshipped and served. All acts of worship (prayer, fasting, supplication, sacrifice, reliance, love, fear, hope) must be directed only to Him.
        - **Implication:** Avoiding Shirk (associating partners with Allah) in worship. This is the main purpose of all prophets' messages.
        - **Qur'anic Example:** "You alone do we worship and You alone do we ask for help." (Qur'an 1:5)
    - **Tawheed al-Asma wa al-Sifat (Oneness of Names and Attributes):**
        - **Meaning:** Belief in Allah's names and attributes as they are mentioned in the Qur'an and authentic Hadith, without distorting their meaning, denying them, likening them to creation, or questioning their "how."
        - **Implication:** Allah has perfect and unique attributes (e.g., The All-Knowing, The All-Hearing, The All-Seeing, The Most Merciful, The Most Just). He is unlike His creation.
        - **Qur'anic Example:** "There is nothing like unto Him, and He is the All-Hearing, the All-Seeing." (Qur'an 42:11)
- **Importance of Tawheed:**
    - It is the foundation of Islam and the first pillar of faith (Shahada).
    - It clarifies the relationship between Allah and His creation.
    - It liberates humanity from servitude to anything other than Allah.
    - It provides spiritual peace, moral guidance, and a sense of purpose.
    - It is the essence of all prophetic messages.
- **Shirk (Polytheism/Associating Partners with Allah):**
    - **Definition:** The opposite of Tawheed. It is associating partners with Allah in His Lordship, worship, or names and attributes.
    - **Types:** Major Shirk (leads to disbelief) and Minor Shirk (e.g., showing off in worship, swearing by other than Allah).
    - **Examples of Major Shirk:** Worshipping idols, graves, saints; believing others have power to benefit or harm like Allah; seeking help from dead people; magic.
    - **Consequences:** The greatest sin in Islam, unforgivable if one dies without repentance.