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.

Integrated Studies

At the JSS3 level, "Integrated Studies" will serve as an introductory summary of core Islamic concepts, touching upon the foundational elements of faith, practice, ethics, and history, presented simply and broadly.

Integrated Studies (Summary for JSS3 Level)

This section provides a basic overview of the key components of Islamic Studies.

1. **Qur'an (The Holy Book of Islam):**
    - **What it is:** The sacred scripture of Islam, believed by Muslims to be the literal word of God (Allah), revealed to Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) over 23 years.
    - **Importance:** It is the primary source of Islamic law, guidance, and beliefs. Muslims recite it, memorize it, and study its teachings.
    - **How it Guides Us:** Teaches about the oneness of Allah, the purpose of life, moral values, stories of prophets, and rules for living justly.
2. **Hadith (Sayings and Actions of Prophet Muhammad PBUH):**
    - **What it is:** Records of the sayings, actions, and approvals of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) as narrated by his companions.
    - **Importance:** Hadith explains and elaborates on the teachings of the Qur'an. It provides practical examples of how to live according to Islamic principles.
    - **Connection to Sunnah:** Hadith is the written form through which the Sunnah is preserved.
3. **Sunnah (The Practice of Prophet Muhammad PBUH):**
    - **What it is:** The practical example or way of life of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). It includes his words, actions, and silent approvals.
    - **Importance:** It serves as a model for Muslims to follow in all aspects of life, showing how to implement the Qur'anic teachings.
    - **Examples:** How to pray, fast, treat others, conduct business, etc.
4. **Akhlaq (Islamic Ethics and Morals):**
    - **What it is:** The study of good character, manners, and moral behavior in Islam. It's about developing virtues and avoiding vices based on Qur'an and Sunnah.

- **Key Principles:**
  - **Truthfulness (Sidq):** Always speaking the truth.
  - **Honesty (Amanah):** Being trustworthy and fulfilling trusts.
  - **Kindness and Compassion (Rahmah):** Treating all beings with mercy and gentleness.
  - **Justice (Adl):** Being fair and equitable in all dealings.
  - **Patience (Sabr):** Enduring difficulties with perseverance.
  - **Gratitude (Shukr):** Being thankful to Allah and to people.
- **Importance:** Akhlaq guides Muslims to live a life that is pleasing to Allah and beneficial to society.

5. **Fiqh (Islamic Jurisprudence/Law):**
   - **What it is:** The understanding and application of Islamic law derived from the Qur'an and Sunnah. It deals with practical rules for worship, transactions, and personal conduct.
   - **Examples:** Rules related to prayer (Salat), fasting (Sawm), charity (Zakat), pilgrimage (Hajj), marriage, and business dealings.
   - **How it Works:** Scholars use specific methodologies to deduce legal rulings from primary sources to guide Muslim practice.
6. **Seerah (Biography of Prophet Muhammad PBUH):**
   - **What it is:** The study of the life story of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) from his birth, his prophethood, his struggles, his migration (Hijra), to his establishment of the Islamic state in Madinah, and his passing.
   - **Importance:** Learning about his life helps Muslims understand the context of the Qur'an and Hadith, appreciate his character, and draw lessons for their own lives.
   - **Key Events (briefly):** Birth in Makkah, receiving revelation, persecution, Hijra to Madinah, battles, establishment of brotherhood, conquest of Makkah, farewell pilgrimage.
7. **History (Early Islamic History):**
   - **What it is:** The study of the development of the Muslim community and civilization from the time of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) through the era of the Rightly Guided Caliphs (Abu Bakr, Umar, Uthman, Ali).
   - **Importance:** Understanding the early history helps to grasp the spread of Islam, the establishment of its core institutions, and the challenges faced by the early Muslim community.
   - **Key Themes:** The spread of Islam, the establishment of justice, the development of Islamic governance, and the preservation of Islamic teachings.

☐ **Prophets mentioned in Qur'an**

The Qur'an mentions a number of prophets, many of whom are also found in the Bible and other religious texts. While there is a common Islamic belief that there have been 124,000 prophets throughout history, the Qur'an explicitly names 25 of them. These prophets are revered in Islam as individuals chosen by God to deliver His message to humanity.

Here is a list of the prophets mentioned in the Qur'an:

- Adam (Ādam)
- Idris (Enoch)
- Nuh (Noah)
- Hud
- Saleh
- Ibrahim (Abraham)
- Lut (Lot)
- Ismail (Ishmael)
- Ishaq (Isaac)
- Ya'qub (Jacob)
- Yusuf (Joseph)
- Ayyub (Job)
- Shu'ayb (Jethro)
- Musa (Moses)
- Harun (Aaron)
- Dhawud (David)
- Sulayman (Solomon)
- Ilyas (Elias)
- Al-Yasa (Elisha)
- Yunus (Jonah)
- Dhu'l-Kifl (possibly Ezekiel)
- Zakariyya (Zachariah)
- Yahya (John the Baptist)
- Isa (Jesus)
- Muhammad SAW

☐ **Books mentioned in Qur'an**

The Qur'an mentions several divine books that were revealed to prophets before Muhammad. Muslims believe in all of these books as part of their faith, though they hold that only the Qur'an remains in its original, unaltered form.

The books mentioned in the Qur'an are:

- Tawrat (Torah): Revealed to Prophet Musa (Moses).
- Zabur (Psalms): Revealed to Prophet Dhawud (David).
- Injil (Gospel): Revealed to Prophet Isa (Jesus).
- Suhuf Ibrahim (Scrolls of Abraham): Revealed to Prophet Ibrahim (Abraham).
- Suhuf Musa (Scrolls of Moses): Mentioned in conjunction with the Scrolls of Abraham, believed to have been revealed to Prophet Musa.
- Al-Qur'an (The Qur'an): The final divine book, revealed to Prophet Muhammad.

☐ **Notable angels in Islam**

In Islam, angels (malāʾikah) are celestial beings created by God from light, who carry out His commands. While there are countless angels, some are more prominent and frequently mentioned in the Qur'an and prophetic traditions. The most notable angels are often referred to as the archangels.

Here is a list of some of the most notable angels in Islam and their roles:

- Jibril (Gabriel): Jibril is considered the chief of all angels. His primary role is to deliver God's revelations to His prophets, and he is most famously known for delivering the Qur'an to Prophet Muhammad. He also brought messages to other prophets, such as Isa (Jesus) and Musa (Moses).
- Mikail (Michael): Mikail is the angel of mercy and sustenance. His role is to manage natural phenomena, such as rain, wind, and crops, ensuring that God's creations receive the provisions they need to survive.
- Israfil (Raphael): Israfil is the angel responsible for blowing the trumpet to signal the Day of Judgment. He will blow the trumpet twice: the first time to end all life on Earth, and the second to resurrect all beings for judgment.
- Izra'il (Azrael): Izra'il is the Angel of Death. His duty is to separate the soul from the body at the time of death. In the Qur'an, he is referred to as "Malak al-Mawt" (the Angel of Death).

Other notable angels include:

- Munkar and Nakir: These two angels are responsible for questioning the deceased in their graves about their faith and deeds.
- Raqib and Atid: These are the two recording angels. Raqib sits on a person's right shoulder and records their good deeds, while Atid sits on the left shoulder and records their bad deeds.

☐ **Prophet Muhammad PBUH Wives, Children, Companions** etc

The wives of Prophet Muhammad are highly revered in Islam and are known as the "Mothers of the Believers" (Ummhāt al-Mu'minīn). He married a total of 11 women, with some sources also including Maria al-Qibtiyya, a Coptic Christian woman who bore him a son.

Here is a list of his wives:

- **Khadijah bint Khuwaylid**: His first and only wife for 25 years until her death. She was a wealthy and respected merchant and was his most steadfast supporter. She is considered the first person to accept Islam.
- Sawdah bint Zam'ah: A widow who had faced persecution for her faith. Muhammad married her after the death of Khadijah, providing her with security and companionship.
- Aisha bint Abi Bakr: The daughter of his closest companion, Abu Bakr. She was known for her exceptional memory, intelligence, and scholarship, & is a major source of hadith.
- Hafsa bint Umar: The daughter of the second caliph, Umar ibn al-Khattab. She was known for her piety and was entrusted with the preservation of the original manuscript of the Qur'an.
- Zaynab bint Khuzaymah: A widow known for her compassion and charitable work, which earned her the title "Mother of the Poor" (Umm al-Masākīn). She died only a few months after her marriage to the Prophet.
- Umm Salama (Hind bint Abi Umayya): A widow whose husband was a prominent companion of the Prophet. Her marriage to Muhammad provided her with support and protection.
- Zaynab bint Jahsh: A cousin of the Prophet. Her marriage to him followed her divorce from his adopted son, Zayd ibn Harithah, and is specifically mentioned in the Qur'an.
- Juwayriyah bint al-Harith: A woman from a conquered tribe. The marriage resulted in the release of hundreds of captives from her tribe, highlighting the Prophet's compassionate nature.

- Umm Habiba (Ramla bint Abi Sufyan): The daughter of Abu Sufyan, a leader of the Quraysh tribe and an early opponent of Islam. Her marriage to Muhammad was a strategic move that helped reconcile differences.
- Safiyyah bint Huyayy: A Jewish woman from the tribe of Banu Nadir. She was a captive after the Battle of Khaybar, and her marriage to the Prophet elevated her status and secured her protection.
- Maymunah bint al-Harith: The last woman Muhammad married. She was a devout woman who sought the Prophet's marriage as a way to honor him and serve Islam.

His children were:

- Qasim: His first son, who died in childhood.
- Zaynab: His eldest daughter.
- Ruqayyah: Another daughter, who married Uthman ibn Affan, the third caliph.
- Umm Kulthum: Another daughter, who also married Uthman after Ruqayyah's death.
- **Fatimah**: His youngest daughter, who married Ali ibn Abi Talib, the fourth caliph. She is a central figure in Islamic history and the mother of his grandsons, Hasan and Husayn.
- Abdullah: His youngest son with Khadijah, who also died in infancy.
- Ibrahim: His son with Maria al-Qibtiyya, who also died in infancy.

Khulafa ar-Rashidun

The Khulafā' ar-Rāshidūn (Arabic: الخلفاء الراشدون*, meaning "the Rightly Guided Caliphs") were the first four caliphs who led the Muslim community after the death of the Prophet Muhammad. They are highly revered in Sunni Islam for their close companionship with the Prophet and for their leadership, which is seen as a model for Islamic governance.*

The four Khulafā' ar-Rāshidūn, in order of their succession, are:

- Abu Bakr as-Siddiq (r. 632–634 CE): Abu Bakr was the first caliph and one of the closest companions of the Prophet Muhammad. His caliphate was crucial for consolidating the early Muslim state and suppressing internal rebellions known as the "Wars of Apostasy" (Riddah Wars). He is credited with preserving the unity of the nascent Islamic community.
- Umar ibn al-Khattab (r. 634–644 CE): Umar was the second caliph and is widely regarded as one of the most powerful and influential Muslim rulers in history. His ten-year reign saw a massive expansion of the Islamic empire, including the conquest of Syria, Egypt, and parts of the Persian Empire. He is also known for establishing key administrative and legal institutions that shaped the future of the Islamic state.
- Uthman ibn Affan (r. 644–656 CE): Uthman was the third caliph and a respected companion of the Prophet. His most significant contribution was the standardization and distribution of the Qur'an, a monumental effort that preserved its text in a single, authoritative version. His later years were marked by political turmoil and discontent, which ultimately led to his assassination.
- Ali ibn Abi Talib (r. 656–661 CE): Ali was the fourth and last of the Rightly Guided Caliphs, and he was the cousin and son-in-law of the Prophet Muhammad. His caliphate was plagued by civil war, known as the First Fitna, stemming from the conflicts over Uthman's assassination and the succession of leadership. His assassination in 661 CE brought an end to the Rashidun Caliphate and led to the establishment of the Umayyad dynasty.

Al-Ashara al-Mubashshara

In Sunni Islam, a special group of ten companions of the Prophet Muhammad (ṣaḥābah) are particularly honored as the Al-Ashara al-Mubashshara (Arabic: العشرة المبشرون*), which translates to "the Ten Promised Paradise." It is believed that the Prophet Muhammad promised them a place in Paradise while they were still alive.*

The 10 Companions Promised Paradise

- Abu Bakr as-Siddiq: The first caliph and the Prophet's closest friend. Known as "the Truthful" (as-Siddiq) for his unwavering belief and support for the Prophet.
- Umar ibn al-Khattab: The second caliph, known for his strong leadership, justice, and the vast expansion of the Islamic empire.
- Uthman ibn Affan: The third caliph, known for his generosity and for overseeing the standardization of the Qur'an.
- Ali ibn Abi Talib: The fourth caliph, the Prophet's cousin and son-in-law, known for his courage and deep knowledge.
- Talha ibn Ubaydullah: A brave warrior who protected the Prophet during the Battle of Uhud, earning him the title "the Living Martyr."
- Zubayr ibn al-Awwam: The Prophet's cousin and a fierce warrior. He was one of the first converts to Islam and played a crucial role in early battles.
- Abd al-Rahman ibn Awf: A wealthy merchant who gave generously to the poor and to the cause of Islam. He was known for his piety and business acumen.
- Sa'd ibn Abi Waqqas: A skilled archer and military commander who led the conquest of Persia. He was one of the first to embrace Islam.
- Sa'id ibn Zayd: A cousin of Umar and an early convert. He was a devout and courageous companion who participated in many battles.
- Abu Ubaydah ibn al-Jarrah: Known as the "Trustworthy of the Nation" (Amīn al-Ummah). He was a respected commander and a man of great integrity and humility.

50 Companions of the Prophet

- Abu Bakr as-Siddiq
- Umar ibn al-Khattab
- Uthman ibn Affan
- Ali ibn Abi Talib
- Talha ibn Ubaydullah
- Zubayr ibn al-Awwam
- Abd al-Rahman ibn Awf
- Sa'd ibn Abi Waqqas
- Sa'id ibn Zayd
- Abu Ubaydah ibn al-Jarrah
- Mu'awiyah ibn Abi Sufyan
- Abu Hurayrah
- Anas ibn Malik
- Ja'far ibn Abi Talib
- Abdullah ibn Mas'ud
- Salman al-Farsi
- Khalid ibn al-Walid
- Ammar ibn Yasir
- Bilal ibn Rabah
- Zayd ibn Harithah

- Hamza ibn Abd al-Muttalib
- Abdullah ibn Abbas
- Abdullah ibn Umar
- Abu Dharr al-Ghifari
- Abu Ayyub al-Ansari
- Khadijah bint Khuwaylid
- Aisha bint Abi Bakr
- Hafsa bint Umar
- Fatimah bint Muhammad
- Umm Salama
- Umm Ayman
- Mus'ab ibn Umayr
- Zubair ibn al-Awwam
- Al-Arqam ibn Abi al-Arqam
- Uthman ibn Maz'un
- Ja'far ibn Abi Talib
- Usama ibn Zayd
- Amr ibn al-As
- Abu Sufyan ibn Harb
- Hind bint Utbah
- Wahshi ibn Harb
- Suhayl ibn Amr
- Ka'b ibn Zuhayr
- Abbad ibn Bishr
- Al-Nu'man ibn Muqarrin
- Habib ibn Zayd al-Ansari
- Zayd ibn Thabit
- Abbad ibn Bishr
- Hudhayfah ibn al-Yaman
- Abu Bakra Nufay ibn al-Harith
- Hassan ibn Ali
- Hussaini ibn Ali