

VU LEARNING HUB

vulearninghub.xyz

HANDOUT

ISL2352

History and Compilation of Hadith

ISL2352 by VU Learning HUB

Prepared for VU students • Free study resources

<https://vulearninghub.xyz>

ISL2352

History & Compilation of Hadith

Study Handout

Complete lecture-wise notes for Virtual University students

About This Handout

This handout covers ISL2352 History and Compilation of Hadith -- how the Prophet's teachings were preserved, verified, and compiled. It is written in English with transliterated Arabic terms (no Arabic script), following standard academic conventions. The exam rewards precise terminology, chronological command, and the ability to authenticate and apply hadith. After each lesson, close the handout and restate the key terms and dates from memory.

Table of Contents

Lesson 1	Hadith: Definition, Authority, Anatomy
Lesson 2	The Prophetic and Companion Era
Lesson 3	The Canonical Collections
Lesson 4	Hadith Terminology (Mustalah)
Lesson 5	Narrator Criticism (Ilm al-Rijal)
Lesson 6	Fabrication and Its Critics
Lesson 7	Hadith in Law, Theology, and Life
Lesson 8	Studying Hadith: Texts and Revision
Lesson 9	Before the Canon: Muwatta and Musannafs
Lesson 10	Hadith and the Seerah
Lesson 11	Transmission: How Hadith Traveled
Lesson 12	Hadith and Qur'anic Exegesis
Lesson 13	Great Hadith Scholars
Lesson 14	Hadith Scholarship in South Asia
Lesson 15	Takhrij: Sourcing Hadith & Final Revision
Lesson 16	History & Compilation of Hadith

Lesson 1: Hadith: Definition, Authority, Anatomy

Learning Objectives

- Define Hadith and its authority
- Distinguish isnad and matn
- Explain Hadith's relation to the Qur'an
- Use basic terminology

Hadith (plural: ahadith) denotes the sayings, actions, tacit approvals, and descriptions of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). Alongside the Qur'an, it is the second foundational source of Islamic law and guidance: the Qur'an commands obedience to the Messenger, and the Sunnah explains and applies revelation -- how to pray, fast, give zakat, and conduct transactions. Without Hadith, the Qur'an's injunctions would lack operational detail.

The structure of a hadith: the isnad (chain of narrators -- 'A told me from B from C...') and the matn (the text/content). Classical scholarship scrutinized both: the isnad through narrator criticism (ilm al-rijal) and the matn for consistency with the Qur'an, reason, and established history. A hadith's authority depends on this two-fold authentication.

Key terms: Sunnah (the Prophet's normative practice), athar (reports from Companions), khabar (report generally). The Companions (Sahabah) -- those who met the Prophet believing in him -- are the first narrators; the Successors (Tabi'un) the second generation. This lesson's map: why Hadith matters, its anatomy, and the vocabulary of the science.

Key Terms & Definitions

- Hadith — Prophetic sayings, actions, approvals, descriptions.
- Isnad / matn — Chain of narrators / text of the report.
- Sunnah — The Prophet's normative practice.
- Sahabah / Tabi'un — Companions / Successors; first narrator generations.

Example / Illustration

- 'Actions are but by intentions...' (Bukhari/Muslim): isnad -- Umar ibn al-Khattab heard the Prophet say; matn -- the intention principle. Scholars verified each narrator's reliability AND the text's coherence.

Lesson Summary

- Hadith: second source; operationalizes the Qur'an.
- Isnad (chain) + matn (text) -- both authenticated.
- Sahabah then Tabi'un transmitted first.

Exam Pointers — Very Important

- ★ Define isnad and matn and explain why both are examined -- the foundational question.

Lesson 2: The Prophetic and Companion Era

Learning Objectives

- Trace early writing of hadith
- Explain oral-written coexistence
- Describe regional spread
- Identify al-Zuhri's role

During the Prophet's lifetime, companions memorized and some wrote: Abdullah ibn Amr's al-Sahifah al-Sadiqah ('the truthful script') is famous -- the Prophet permitted him to write. Others wrote: Ali's saḥifah (on zakat, blood-money), Abu Hurayrah's narrations via students. Writing coexisted with dominant oral transmission -- Arab memory culture was formidable, and the Prophet initially discouraged writing besides the Qur'an (to protect the Qur'an's textual integrity), later permitting it.

After his passing (11 AH / 632 CE), the Companions dispersed across the expanding empire, carrying hadith to Kufa, Basra, Syria, Egypt, Yemen. The first fitnah (civil strife) and the emergence of sects made verification urgent -- Ibn Sirin: 'they would ask about the isnad' once innovations appeared. Regional schools formed around Companion-teachers: Ibn Abbas (Makkah), Ibn Umar (Madinah), Ibn Mas'ud (Kufa).

The Successors systematized: al-Zuhri (d. 124 AH) -- commissioned by Caliph Umar ibn Abd al-Aziz to officially collect hadith (the first state-sponsored compilation); Hammad, Qatadah in Basra. Teaching circles (majalis) and dictation sessions (imla') professionalized transmission. By 150 AH, the raw material for the great collections was organized by narrator and topic in personal saḥifahs and early muṣannafs.

Key Terms & Definitions

- Al-Sahifah al-Sadiqah — Abdullah ibn Amr's written collection.
- Umar ibn Abd al-Aziz — Commissioned al-Zuhri's official collection.
- Al-Zuhri — d. 124 AH; systematizer of hadith.
- Imla' — Dictation sessions; transmission method.

Example / Illustration

- Al-Zuhri, ordered by the caliph (~99-101 AH), gathered hadith systematically -- the pivot from private saḥifahs to official compilation; his students (Malik, Ma'mar) carried it into the canonical books.

Lesson Summary

- Companions wrote (sahifahs) amid oral dominance.
- Dispersal + sects made isnad scrutiny urgent.
- Al-Zuhri's state commission pivoted to compilation.

Exam Pointers — Very Important

- ★ Explain the shift from oral to written with the Umar ibn Abd al-Aziz commission -- key history question.

Lesson 3: The Canonical Collections

Learning Objectives

- List the Six Books
- Explain Bukhari's and Muslim's methods
- Contrast musannaf and musnad
- Trace later scholarship

The third/ninth century produced the six canonical collections (al-Kutub al-Sittah): Sahih al-Bukhari (d. 256 AH) -- ~7,275 hadith (~2,600 unique), the most authentic; Sahih Muslim (d. 261) -- ~7,275 (~3,000 unique), arranged for legal use; Sunan Abu Dawud (d. 275) -- legal hadith; Jami' al-Tirmidhi (d. 279) -- with narrator/legal commentary; Sunan al-Nasa'i (d. 303); Sunan Ibn Majah (d. 273). 'The Two Sahihs' (Bukhari + Muslim) hold the highest rank; a hadith in both (muttafaq alayh) is the gold standard.

Al-Bukhari's method: 600,000 reports examined over 16 years; strict conditions -- contemporary narrators must have demonstrably met (liqa') for his Sahih; each hadith prayed over (istikhara) before inclusion. Muslim's: arranged by topic superbly, slightly less strict on meeting-proof. The authors' rigor -- traveling across the Muslim world, testing narrators -- is legendary and examinable.

Organization: musannaf (by topic -- the Six) vs musnad (by narrator -- e.g., Musnad Ahmad, ~30,000 hadith). Later: commentaries (Fath al-Bari on Bukhari -- Ibn Hajar; Sharh Muslim -- al-Nawawi), abridgments, and topical rearrangements. The canon stabilized by the 5th/11th century.

Key Terms & Definitions

- Al-Kutub al-Sittah — The six canonical collections.
- Muttafaq alayh — In both Bukhari and Muslim.
- Musannaf / musnad — By-topic / by-narrator arrangement.
- Fath al-Bari — Ibn Hajar's Bukhari commentary.

Example / Illustration

- Bukhari rejected a narrator after traveling months to him -- seeing the man deceive his camel with an empty feed-bag: 'one who deceives animals will deceive in hadith.' Method as character test.

Lesson Summary

- Six Books; Two Sahihs supreme.
- Bukhari: 16 years, liqa' condition, istikhara.
- Commentaries (Fath al-Bari) extended the canon.

Exam Pointers — Very Important

- ★ Name the Six Books with authors and dates, and Bukhari's conditions -- the central factual question.

Lesson 4: Hadith Terminology (Mustalah)

Learning Objectives

- Classify by continuity
- Grade sahih/hasan/da'if/mawdu'
- Explain mutawatir vs ahad
- Detect defects

Mustalah al-hadith (hadith terminology) classifies by isnad continuity and narrator reliability. By continuity: muttasil (unbroken chain), munqati' (gap -- a Successor missing the Companion link), mu'dal (two consecutive missing), mursal (Successor narrating directly from the Prophet -- debated), mu'allaq (Bukhari's suspended introductions -- often clarified elsewhere).

By reliability: sahih (sound -- continuous, upright + precise narrators, no anomaly or hidden defect), hasan (good -- slightly lesser precision), da'if (weak -- a deficiency), mawdu' (fabricated -- the liar identified; must never be cited as prophetic). Sub-grades: sahih li-dhatihi vs li-ghayrihi (strengthened by corroboration).

By number of narrators: mutawatir (mass-transmitted -- certainty, e.g., 'whoever lies about me...'), mashhur/aziz/gharib (well-known/rare/solitary at some tier). Ahad (solitary) hadith still bind in law per the majority -- mutawatir is rare in legal hadith. Defects: shadh (anomaly -- contradicting the more reliable), mu'allal (hidden flaw -- the experts' fine art).

Key Terms & Definitions

- Sahih / hasan / da'if — Sound / good / weak.
- Mawdu' — Fabricated; never citable.
- Mutawatir — Mass-transmitted; certain.
- Shadh / mu'allal — Anomaly / hidden defect.

Example / Illustration

- Chain: trustworthy narrators, continuous, but one narrator is saduq (truthful) with weak memory -- hasan li-dhatihi; if two such chains corroborate, sahih li-ghayrihi.

Lesson Summary

- Continuity + narrator quality = grade.
- Sahih/hasan/da'if/mawdu' -- know the criteria.
- Mutawatir gives certainty; ahad still binds.

Exam Pointers — Very Important

- ★ Classify sample hadith by the sahih/hasan/da'if/mawdu' scale with reasons -- the terminology staple.

Lesson 5: Narrator Criticism (Ilm al-Rijal)

Learning Objectives

- Grade narrators
- Apply jarh/ta'dil rules
- Use biographical checks
- Answer modern skepticism

Ilm al-rijal (narrator criticism): each narrator graded -- thiqah (trustworthy), saduq (truthful), da'if (weak), kadhdhab (liar) -- via biography: birth/death dates (could they have met?), teachers/students, memory assessments, creed and conduct. Works: Ibn Hajar's Tahdhib al-Tahdhib (12 vols), al-Dhahabi's Mizan al-I'tidal. A narrator's hadith is accepted only if 'adl (upright) AND dabt (precise).

Jarh wa ta'dil (impugment and validation): the science's name -- scholars like Yahya ibn Ma'in, al-Bukhari himself, al-Nasa'i graded thousands. Principle: jarh (criticism) is accepted only if mufassar (explained -- vague 'he's weak' insufficient); ta'dil needs no explanation. When scholars differ, the detailed critic prevails.

The system worked: fabricators were named and shamed (al-Jawzqani's Kitab al-Abatil), sectarian forgers exposed, and honest-but-weak narrators quarantined to corroboration-only use. Modern relevance: the same critical method answers today's 'hadith vs Qur'an-only' debates -- the tradition authenticated itself rigorously.

Key Terms & Definitions

- 'Adl / dabt — Uprightness / precision; both required.
- Jarh wa ta'dil — Criticism and validation science.
- Thiqah / saduq / da'if — Trustworthy / truthful / weak grades.
- Tahdhib al-Tahdhib — Ibn Hajar's narrator encyclopedia.

Example / Illustration

- A narrator born 150 AH claiming to hear a Companion (d. ~100 AH): chronology kills the claim -- the biographical check every student can run.

Lesson Summary

- 'Adl + dabt = acceptable narrator.
- Explained criticism outweighs praise.
- Biography (dates!) exposes impossibilities.

Exam Pointers — Very Important

- ★ Explain 'adl and dabt and the jarh-mufassar rule -- methodology questions.

Lesson 6: Fabrication and Its Critics

Learning Objectives

- Explain fabrication causes
- Apply matn criticism
- Answer Qur'an-only arguments
- Assess Orientalist claims

Fabrication happened: political (Umayyad/Abbasid partisans), sectarian (ghulat exaggerations), theological polemics, and even pious fraud (forged 'virtue of deeds' hadith to encourage worship -- condemned: 'whoever lies about me deliberately...'). The scholars' response: isnad interrogation, matn criticism (contradiction with Qur'an/mass-transmitted Sunnah/reason/history), and blacklisting fabricators.

Matn criticism principles: a hadith contradicting the Qur'an is rejected (or reinterpreted only with strong isnad); promising absurd rewards for trivial acts signals forgery; anachronisms (mentioning later events/places) expose it. Example: the 'virtues of ...' literature is heavily forged -- scholars quarantined it from law while some preachers still cite it -- know the scholarly stance.

Contemporary debates: Qur'an-only (munkirun al-sunnah) arguments -- answered by the Qur'an's own command to obey the Messenger and the impossibility of practicing Islam (prayer details!) without Sunnah; Orientalist skepticism (Schacht's 'back-projection' theory) -- answered by isnad-cum-matn analysis (Motzki) and early written evidence. The tradition's self-criticism is its strongest defense.

Key Terms & Definitions

- Mawdu' — Fabricated; causes: political, sectarian, pious fraud.
- Matn criticism — Text vs Qur'an, reason, history.
- Munkirun al-sunnah — Hadith-rejecters; answered scripturally.
- Isnad-cum-matn — Modern dating method (Motzki).

Example / Illustration

- 'Whoever prays X on Friday gets a palace in Paradise' with a chain through a known liar + absurd reward-to-act ratio = mawdu' on both isnad and matn grounds.

Lesson Summary

- Forgery had motives; scholars had methods.
- Matn vs Qur'an/reason/history exposes fakes.
- Self-criticism is the tradition's defense.

Exam Pointers — Very Important

- ★ Refute a fabrication using matn-criticism principles -- applied question.

Lesson 7: Hadith in Law, Theology, and Life

Learning Objectives

- Apply hadith in fiqh
- Contextualize via asbab
- Harmonize contradictions
- Connect to contemporary issues

Hadith in law (fiqh): the Sunnah specifies the Qur'an's generalities (prayer times from 'establish prayer'), qualifies absolutes, and founds independent rulings (prohibition of riba details, hudud procedures). Usul al-fiqh ranks sources: Qur'an, Sunnah, ijma', qiyas -- with Sunnah's grades (mutawatir/ahad, sahih/hasan) determining decisiveness. Hanafi caution with solitary hadith vs majority acceptance -- a madhhab-comparison point.

Hadith in theology and ethics: creed (attributes of God -- the Ash'ari/Maturidi/Hanbali handling of sifat hadith), eschatology, and the vast akhlaq corpus (character: honesty, mercy, neighbor-rights -- 'none of you believes until he loves for his brother...'). Hadith in daily life: duas, adab of eating/sleeping/travel -- the Sunnah as lived curriculum.

Contemporary application: bioethics (organ donation debates cite hadith on sanctity of the body), finance (hadith on riba/gharar underpin Islamic banking -- link to BNK725/ISL4868!), gender debates (contextualizing hadith via occasion-of-saying, asbab al-wurud). Method: authenticate, contextualize (asbab), harmonize apparent contradictions (mukhtalaf al-hadith -- e.g., via abrogation or specification), then apply.

Key Terms & Definitions

- Usul al-fiqh — Source-ranking methodology.
- Asbab al-wurud — Occasions of hadith utterance; context.
- Mukhtalaf al-hadith — Reconciling apparent contradictions.
- Akhlaq corpus — Character-ethics hadith.

Example / Illustration

- 'No bequest to an heir' (la wasiyyata li-warith): sahih; specifies Qur'an's bequest verses; applied in inheritance law -- text, grade, specification, ruling.

Lesson Summary

- Sunnah specifies, qualifies, founds rulings.
- Authenticate, contextualize, harmonize, apply.
- Akhlaq hadith shape daily Muslim life.

Exam Pointers — Very Important

- ★ Trace a ruling from hadith text to fiqh application -- the integration question.

Lesson 8: Studying Hadith: Texts and Revision

Learning Objectives

- Study key hadith deeply
- Practice commentary method
- Run the revision drill
- Write essay frames

Memorize-and-transmit: the Forty Hadith of al-Nawawi -- the syllabus within the syllabus (intentions, Islam/iman/ihsan, bid'ah, halal/haram...). Study five deeply: (1) 'Actions are but by intentions' (niyyah -- the foundation); (2) Jibril hadith (Islam, iman, ihsan -- religion's dimensions); (3) 'None of you believes until...' (social ethics); (4) halal/haram and the doubtful (wara' -- scrupulousness); (5) 'Part of one's Islam is leaving what doesn't concern him' (focus). For each: text (transliterated key phrases), grade (all sahih), theme, and one application.

Commentary method: read matn, check grade, gather commentaries (Nawawi's own, Ibn Daqiq al-'Id), extract rulings and wisdoms, note contemporary relevance. Students should practice on one hadith fully -- the exam's applied section rewards this workflow.

Revision drill: timelines (Prophet -> Companions -> al-Zuhri 124 -> Bukhari 256), the Six (names/dates/grades), terminology pairs (isnad/matn, sahih/da'if, jarh/ta'dil, 'adl/dabt), and the fabrication refutation. Essay frames: 'Hadith authority' (Qur'anic basis + historical transmission + critical method); 'Compilation history' (oral -> sahifahs -> al-Zuhri -> Six); 'Defend the Sunnah' (vs Qur'an-only/Orientalists).

Key Terms & Definitions

- Forty Hadith — Al-Nawawi's essential collection.
- Niyyah — Intention; acts' foundation.
- Jibril hadith — Islam/iman/ihsan dimensions.
- Commentary method — Grade, gather, extract, apply.

Example / Illustration

- Hadith 1 (intentions): sahih (Bukhari/Muslim); fiqh -- niyyah conditions worship; tasawwuf -- sincerity; contemporary -- intention-auditing in work/study. One text, many sciences.

Lesson Summary

- Nawawi's Forty: the core syllabus.
- Commentary: grade, gather, extract, apply.
- Timelines + terms + essays = revision.

Exam Pointers — Very Important

- ★ Write a mini-commentary on one Nawawi hadith -- the applied capstone.

Lesson 9: Before the Canon: Muwatta and Musannafs

Learning Objectives

- Describe pre-canonical works
- Explain 'amal
- Use manuscript evidence
- Trace Bukhari's raw material

Before the Six: the Muwatta of Malik ibn Anas (d. 179 AH) -- the earliest surviving major compilation blending hadith with Madinan practice ('amal); ~1,700 reports. Malik's criterion: hadith + the lived Sunnah of Madinah -- practice ('amal) could outweigh a solitary report. Al-Shafi'i: 'no book on earth after the Qur'an more correct than the Muwatta' (before Bukhari's Sahih).

Other pre-canonical works: the Musannaf of Abd al-Razzaq (d. 211) and of Ibn Abi Shaybah (d. 235) -- massive topical collections preserving Companion/Successor fatwas alongside Prophetic hadith; the Sahifah of Hammam ibn Munabbih (d. ~131) -- a student's notes from Abu Hurayrah, surviving in manuscript (proof of early writing!); Ma'mar's al-Jami'.

Why they matter: they show the raw material Bukhari sifted -- the same hadith with fuller isnads; they preserve legal reasoning of the first generations; and manuscript evidence (Hammam's sahifah) refutes 'late invention' claims empirically. Exam angle: Muwatta's 'amal concept and the manuscript argument.

Key Terms & Definitions

- Muwatta — Malik's hadith-plus-practice compilation.
- 'Amal — Madinan lived practice as evidence.
- Musannaf — Abd al-Razzaq / Ibn Abi Shaybah collections.
- Hammam's sahifah — Manuscript proof of early writing.

Example / Illustration

- Malik rejects a solitary hadith on zakat details because Madinan 'amal (continuous practice) contradicts it -- practice as living transmission, stronger than one chain.

Lesson Summary

- Muwatta: hadith + Madinan practice.
- Musannafs preserved first-generation fiqh.
- Manuscripts refute late-invention claims.

Exam Pointers — Very Important

- ★ Explain the Muwatta's 'amal principle and its significance -- distinctive question.

Lesson 10: Hadith and the Seerah

Learning Objectives

- Use hadith for sirah
- Grade sirah reports cautiously
- Study shama'il
- Link to Seerah course

Hadith as biography: the Sirah (Prophet's life) rests on hadith-grade reports -- maghazi (campaigns) literature of Ibn Ishaq (d. 150, via Ibn Hisham) and al-Waqidi (d. 207; weaker in hadith but rich in detail). Shama'il (description -- al-Tirmidhi's al-Shama'il al-Muhammadiyah: appearance, character, habits) -- the beloved's portrait from authenticated reports.

Methodological caution: sirah reports were graded less strictly than legal hadith (al-Sakhawi: 'we are lenient in maghazi') -- know this nuance; modern scholars (e.g., al-Albani's Sahih al-Sirah) re-graded. Famous episodes with grades: the first revelation (sahih), the Hijrah (sahih), Isra'/Mi'raj (mutawatir in essence, details vary).

Uses: sirah contextualizes hadith (asbab al-wurud for many rulings), grounds the Seerah course (ISL4760!), and feeds da'wah and children's education. The Prophet's character (khuluq) from shama'il -- mercy, humility, humor -- is itself a hadith curriculum.

Key Terms & Definitions

- Maghazi — Campaign/expedition reports.
- Shama'il — Prophetic description literature.
- Al-Shama'il al-Muhammadiyah — Al-Tirmidhi's portrait collection.
- Lenient grading — Sirah vs legal hadith standards.

Example / Illustration

- Al-Tirmidhi's Shama'il: 'The Prophet was neither tall nor short...' (hasan-sahih) -- description with grade; children memorize these -- love built on authentic description.

Lesson Summary

- Sirah rests on graded reports.
- Maghazi graded leniently -- know why.
- Shama'il: the beloved's authentic portrait.

Exam Pointers — Very Important

- ★ Explain why sirah grading differs from legal-hadith grading -- nuance question.

Lesson 11: Transmission: How Hadith Traveled

Learning Objectives

- Rank transmission modes
- Explain precision verbs
- Describe rihlah culture
- Note women's scholarship

How hadith traveled: sama' (hearing -- student hears shaykh recite; highest), qira'ah (reading back to the shaykh -- 'ard), ijazah (permission to transmit -- without direct hearing; common for books), munawalah (handing the manuscript with permission), mukatabah (written correspondence), wijadah (finding a book -- weakest). Each mode recorded in the transmission note ('haddathana' vs 'akhbarana' vs 'an') -- precision verbs!

The rihlah (travel for hadith): scholars crossed continents for one hadith -- al-Bukhari's 16 years, Ahmad ibn Hanbal's journeys, the Andalusian Baqi ibn Makhlad. The majlis al-imla' (dictation circle): shaykh dictates, students write, copies collated -- mass quality control. Women scholars: Umm al-Darda', A'ishah (major narrator!), and later muhaddithat like Karimah al-Marwaziyyah (Sahih Bukhari transmitter) -- hadith's egalitarian transmission history.

Isnad as credential: 'al-isnad min al-din' (isnad is part of religion -- Ibn al-Mubarak); the unbroken chain to the Prophet was the scholar's pride. Contemporary: ijazah culture continues (chains to Bukhari alive today); digitization (al-Maktabah al-Shamilah) transformed access -- opportunities and pitfalls (ungraded copy-paste!).

Key Terms & Definitions

- Sama' / ijazah — Hearing / permission; top transmission modes.
- Rihlah — Travel for hadith.
- Muhaddithat — Women hadith scholars.
- Tadlis — Concealing a gap with 'an.

Example / Illustration

- 'Haddathana' (he narrated to us) = sama'; 'an' (from) = ambiguous -- could hide a gap (tadlis!); scholars flagged mudallis narrators' 'an' reports.

Lesson Summary

- Sama' highest; wijadah lowest; verbs encode mode.
- Rihlah built the network; women transmitted too.
- Isnad: religion's credential system.

Exam Pointers — Very Important

- ★ Rank the transmission modes and explain the precision verbs -- technical question.

Lesson 12: Hadith and Qur'anic Exegesis

Learning Objectives

- Link hadith to tafsir
- Use asbab al-nuzul
- Grade tafsir reports
- Filter isra'iliyyat

Hadith explains the Qur'an: asbab al-nuzul (occasions of revelation -- why/when a verse came; e.g., the 'Verse of the Veil' context), tafsir bi'l-ma'thur (Qur'an explained by Qur'an, then Sunnah, then Companions -- Ibn Kathir's method), and legal specification (Sunnah detailing Qur'anic commands). The Prophet: 'I was given the Qur'an and its like with it.'

Grades in tafsir: marfu' (to the Prophet), mawquf (to a Companion -- authoritative in tafsir per many), maqtu' (to a Successor). Isra'iliyyat (Judeo-Christian lore via converts like Ka'b al-Ahbar) -- scholars filtered: accept what agrees, reject what contradicts, stay silent on the rest (the hadith's own rule).

Study method: take a surah (e.g., al-Fil or al-Ikhlās), gather its asbab and Prophetic commentary from Ibn Kathir/al-Tabari, grade key reports, and write the 'story' of the surah. This integrates ISL2352 with Qur'anic studies -- the exam loves cross-paper application.

Key Terms & Definitions

- Asbab al-nuzul — Occasions of revelation.
- Tafsir bi'l-ma'thur — Tradition-based exegesis.
- Marfu' / mawquf — To the Prophet / to a Companion.
- Isra'iliyyat — Convert lore; filtered, not blindly taken.

Example / Illustration

- Surah al-Kawthar: asbab -- the Prophet consoled after his sons' deaths and mockery ('abtar'); tafsir -- Kawthar as the heavenly river (sahih Muslim) -- history + text + comfort.

Lesson Summary

- Sunnah: the Qur'an's authorized commentary.
- Asbab reveal the verse's occasion.
- Filter convert lore by the three rules.

Exam Pointers — Very Important

- ★ Use hadith to explain a surah's occasion and meaning -- applied tafsir question.

Lesson 13: Great Hadith Scholars

Learning Objectives

- Identify major scholars
- Match works to authors
- Plan a reading ladder
- Learn from scholarly method

The commentators: al-Nawawi (d. 676) -- Sharh Sahih Muslim + Forty Hadith + Riyadh al-Salihin (the devotional classic); Ibn Hajar al-'Asqalani (d. 852) -- Fath al-Bari (the Bukhari commentary; decades of work) + Nukhbat al-Fikar (mustalah primer -- memorize its definitions!); al-Suyuti (d. 911) -- al-Jami' al-Saghir, Tadrib al-Rawi (mustalah), encyclopedic output.

The muhaddith-reformers: Ibn Taymiyyah (d. 728) -- hadith-based critique of kalam and folk practices; al-Albani (d. 1999) -- re-grading project (Silsilat al-Ahadith al-Sahihah/Da'ifah) -- controversial but influential; Ahmad Shakir -- Musnad Ahmad edition. Know one contribution each.

Reading strategy: start with Nukhbah (terminology), then Nawawi's Forty with commentary, then Riyadh al-Salihin (thematic), then Fath al-Bari for depth. The scholars' lives teach method: Ibn Hajar's decades on one book -- depth over breadth.

Key Terms & Definitions

- Fath al-Bari — Ibn Hajar's Bukhari commentary.
- Nukhbat al-Fikar — Mustalah primer; memorize it.
- Riyadh al-Salihin — Nawawi's thematic devotional hadith.
- Tadrib al-Rawi — Suyuti's mustalah work.

Example / Illustration

- Question cites 'a commentary on Sahih Muslim' -- al-Nawawi; 'Nukhbat al-Fikar' -- Ibn Hajar (mustalah primer); 'Silsilat al-Ahadith al-Da'ifah' -- al-Albani (re-grading).

Lesson Summary

- Nawawi, Ibn Hajar, Suyuti -- know works.
- Nukhbah first, then Forty, then Fath.
- Depth (Ibn Hajar's decades) over breadth.

Exam Pointers — Very Important

- ★ Match scholars to works and contributions -- identification question.

Lesson 14: Hadith Scholarship in South Asia

Learning Objectives

- Trace South Asian hadith scholarship
- Explain madrasah curriculum
- Assess Shah Waliullah
- Apply method to public debates

Shah Waliullah al-Dihlawi (d. 1176/1762): the subcontinent's hadith renewer -- studied in Madinah (ijazah from Abu Tahir al-Kurdi), translated the Qur'an into Persian, wrote Hujjat Allah al-Balighah (hadith-based philosophy of Shari'ah). His sons: the Musnad translations; Shah Abd al-Aziz's Fatwas. The Ahl-i Hadith movement and Deobandi/Barelvi madrasahs all claim his mantle -- hadith-centered reform's fountainhead.

Institutions: Darul Uloom Deoband (1866) -- Dawra-e-Hadith (final year: the Six Books) as the alim-course capstone; Nadwatul Ulama (Lucknow); Barelvi madrasahs; the Ahl-i Hadith seminaries. Pakistani universities: Islamic Studies departments teaching mustalah; the Islamic Research Institute (Islamabad). Living tradition: khatm-e-Bukhari ceremonies -- the community celebrates completing the Sahih.

Contemporary Pakistani debates: moon-sighting hadith (unity of Eid!), blasphemy-law hadith citations, women's mosque-attendance hadith ('do not prevent...') -- hadith in public discourse. The student's skill: authenticate the cited hadith, contextualize, and elevate debate beyond slogans -- exactly this course's method.

Key Terms & Definitions

- Shah Waliullah — d. 1762; hadith renewer of India.
- Dawra-e-Hadith — Madrasah final year: the Six Books.
- Hujjat Allah al-Balighah — His hadith-based legal philosophy.
- Khatm-e-Bukhari — Sahih-completion ceremony.

Example / Illustration

- Khatm-e-Bukhari: students complete Sahih Bukhari in Dawra-e-Hadith; the ceremony -- community honoring hadith study; explain what the Six-Books capstone means pedagogically.

Lesson Summary

- Waliullah: Madinah ijazah to Indian reform.
- Dawra-e-Hadith: the Six Books as capstone.
- Authenticate public hadith citations.

Exam Pointers — Very Important

- ★ Assess Shah Waliullah's hadith project -- regional history question.

Lesson 15: Takhrij: Sourcing Hadith & Final Revision

Learning Objectives

- Perform takhrij
- Use digital tools critically
- Compare versions
- Run the master drill

Takhrij (sourcing): given a hadith text, find its source and grade -- the research skill. Steps: (1) search key phrases (digital: al-Maktabah al-Shamilah, dorar.net, sunnah.com); (2) collect all versions (turuq) and their isnads; (3) grade each chain (rijal check); (4) compare wordings (ziyadat -- additions; idraj -- interpolations); (5) conclude: the hadith's overall grade and best wording. Practice on famous texts -- the exam may give an unsourced hadith to source!

Digital tools: sunnah.com (English, graded), dorar.net (Arabic, takhrij engine), al-Maktabah al-Shamilah (library), Shamela.ws. Caution: verify against printed editions; grading labels vary (Albani vs Arna'ut) -- cite whose grading. The skill: never quote an unsourced hadith in writing -- takhrij everything.

Revision master-drill: timelines (Prophet 11 -> Companions -> al-Zuhri 124 -> Malik 179 -> Bukhari 256 -> Muslim 261 -> Nawawi 676 -> Ibn Hajar 852 -> Waliullah 1176); the Six (authors/dates); terminology grid (isnad/matn, sahih/hasan/da'if/mawdu', muttasil/mursal, 'adl/dabt, jarh/ta'dil); scholars-works matching; essay frames: 'Hadith preservation' (writing + memory + criticism), 'Compilation stages', 'Defending the Sunnah' (Qur'anic basis, historical evidence, vs skeptics).

Key Terms & Definitions

- Takhrij — Sourcing and grading a hadith.
- Turquq — Multiple versions/chains.
- Idraj — Interpolation into the text.
- sunnah.com / dorar.net — Digital takhrij tools.

Example / Illustration

- Given 'The best of you are the best to their families' -- search: Tirmidhi (hasan-sahih), Ibn Majah; versions compared; grade: hasan-sahih; application: family ethics -- full takhrij in 15 minutes with tools.

Lesson Summary

- Takhrij: search, collect, grade, compare, conclude.
- Verify digital results; cite whose grading.
- Timelines + terms + essays = readiness.

Exam Pointers — Very Important

- ★ Source an unsourced hadith text step by step -- the research capstone.

Lesson 16: History & Compilation of Hadith

Master drill (two per lesson): (1) isnad vs matn; (2) Hadith's Qur'anic authority; (3) al-Sahifah al-Sadiqah; (4) Umar ibn Abd al-Aziz commission; (5) al-Zuhri's role; (6) the Six Books (authors+dates); (7) Bukhari's conditions; (8) musannaf vs musnad; (9) sahih/hasan/da'if/mawdu' criteria; (10) mutawatir vs ahad; (11) 'adl and dabt; (12) jarh-mufassar rule; (13) Muwatta's 'amal; (14) maghazi grading leniency; (15) sama' vs ijazah; (16) tadlis; (17) asbab al-nuzul; (18) isra'iliyyat rules; (19) Nawawi/Ibn Hajar/Suyuti works; (20) Shah Waliullah's project; (21) takhrij steps; (22) matn-criticism principles; (23) refuting Qur'an-only claims; (24) Nawawi hadith commentary. Essay frames: preservation, compilation stages, defending the Sunnah.

Dates spine: 11 (Prophet's passing) -> 124 (al-Zuhri) -> 179 (Malik) -> 211/235 (musannafs) -> 256 (Bukhari) -> 261 (Muslim) -> 676 (Nawawi) -> 852 (Ibn Hajar) -> 1176 (Waliullah). Recite with one fact each.

Terminology grid: write all 20+ terms with one-line definitions from memory, then check. Final advice: in essays, always pair history (what happened) with method (how scholars

verified) -- that pairing is the course's thesis.