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HIGHLIGHTED HANDOUT

ISL1252

Introduction of Topics of Holy Qur'an

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ISL1252 - Introduction of Topics of Holy Qur'an

A structured study handout compiled from the course's lecture topics. Read each topic's objectives first, study the key concepts, then use the summary and exam tips for revision. ☰

ISL1252

Introduction of Topics of Holy Qur'an

Based on 45 lecture topics

Compiled for VU students as a structured study guide

*Concepts are summarized in the writer's own words;
use alongside your lecture videos for best results.*

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Course Introduction

The Holy Qur'an is the central text of Islam - the final revelation to Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), preserved in its original Arabic, guiding over a billion Muslims in belief, worship, and life.

Understanding its major themes is essential Islamic literacy. 

This course introduces the Qur'an's key topics systematically: its revelation and compilation, its structure, and its teachings on faith (iman), worship (ibadah), morality (akhlaq), social life, economics, and relations with other communities. Students learn how the Qur'an addresses the human condition - purpose, guidance, accountability - and how its teachings apply to contemporary life.

The approach is thematic and accessible: presenting what the Qur'an says on major topics, with key verses and their meanings, building a coherent understanding of the Qur'anic worldview.

How to use this handout: Each topic lists its learning objectives, explains the key concepts in simple words, defines important terms, gives an example where helpful, and closes with a summary plus exam tips. Topics marked **Very important** deserve extra revision.

Unit 1: The Qur'an: Revelation and Preservation

Topic 1: Revelation of the Holy Qur'an

Learning Objectives

- Explain the concept of wahi
- Describe the first revelation
- Outline the 23-year revelation period

Key Concepts

The Qur'an is wahi - divine revelation communicated by Allah to Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) through Angel Jibreel over approximately 23 years (610-632 CE). The first revelation came in Cave Hira: 'Iqra' (Read) - beginning with the command to seek knowledge.

Gradual revelation served wisdom: strengthening the Prophet's heart, answering emerging questions, legislating progressively (e.g. alcohol prohibition in stages), and easing memorization and implementation.

Muslims believe the Qur'an is the literal word of Allah - not the Prophet's composition - making its preservation and precise transmission a sacred trust. This belief shapes every aspect of Qur'anic study.

Key Points

- Wahi: divine revelation via Jibreel over 23 years.
- First word 'Iqra' - knowledge is foundational.
- Gradual revelation: wisdom in legislation and learning.

Key Terms

Wahi: Divine revelation.

Iqra: 'Read' - the first revealed word.

Jibreel: The angel of revelation.

Example

- *Alcohol's staged prohibition shows gradual legislation wisdom.*

Summary: The Qur'an descended gradually as divine guidance for a transforming community.

Exam Tips

- ★ Very important: first revelation and gradual wisdom.
- ★ Remember 23-year period.

Topic 2: Makki and Madani Surahs

Learning Objectives

- Distinguish Makki and Madani revelations
- Explain their thematic differences
- Discuss why the distinction matters

Key Concepts

Makki surahs (revealed in Makkah, 13 years): focus on faith foundations - Allah's oneness (tawhid), prophethood, afterlife, and moral character - addressing a hostile pagan society. Style: short, powerful verses, oaths, vivid imagery.

Madani surahs (revealed in Madinah, 10 years): legislation for the Muslim community - worship details, family law, economics, governance, and relations with other communities. Style: longer verses, detailed rulings.

The distinction aids interpretation: knowing context clarifies meaning and the progression from belief-building to law-giving. About 86 Makki and 28 Madani surahs (by common count).

Key Points

- Makki: faith foundations, powerful style; Madani: legislation, detailed.
- Context clarifies meaning and progression.
- 86 Makki, 28 Madani (common count).

Key Terms

Makki surah: Revealed in Makkah before Hijrah.

Madani surah: Revealed in Madinah after Hijrah.

Asbab al-nuzul: Occasions/causes of revelation.

Example

- *Short, oath-filled Makki verses vs. detailed Madani legal verses.*

Summary: Place and time of revelation shape the message's form and focus.

Exam Tips

- ★ Very important: thematic differences.
- ★ Remember the counts.

Topic 3: Compilation and Preservation

Learning Objectives

- Describe the Qur'an's compilation
- Explain preservation mechanisms

- Discuss textual integrity

Key Concepts

During the Prophet's life, revelation was memorized by companions and written on available materials under his supervision. After his passing, Abu Bakr ordered the first compiled mushaf (prompted by memorizers' martyrdom at Yamama); Uthman later standardized copies sent to major centers, unifying recitation.

Preservation mechanisms: mass memorization (hifz - millions memorize the entire text today), written manuscripts, and the science of qira'at (canonical recitation modes). This dual oral-written transmission is unique among ancient texts.

Result: the Qur'an Muslims read today matches the earliest manuscripts - textual integrity maintained across 14 centuries, a central Muslim claim and scholarly observation.

Key Points

- Abu Bakr's compilation; Uthman's standardization.
- Hifz + manuscripts + qira'at science preserve the text.
- Textual integrity across 14 centuries.

Key Terms

Mushaf: The compiled written Qur'an.

Hifz: Memorization of the entire Qur'an.

Qira'at: Canonical recitation modes.

Example

- *Millions of huffaz preserve the text in living memory.*

Summary: Unique preservation: memorized by millions, matching ancient manuscripts.

Exam Tips

- ★ Very important: Abu Bakr and Uthman roles.
- ★ Remember hifz mechanism.

Topic 4: Structure of the Holy Qur'an

Learning Objectives

- Describe the Qur'an's organization
- Explain surah and ayah
- Navigate the text

Key Concepts

The Qur'an has 114 surahs (chapters) of varying length - from Al-Baqarah (286 verses) to Al-Kawthar (3 verses) - totaling about 6,236 verses. Surahs are ordered roughly longest to shortest (after Al-Fatihah), not chronologically.

Other divisions: 30 ajza' (parts) for monthly reading, manzil and ruku' divisions aiding recitation and study. Each ayah (verse) is a 'sign' - the word itself meaning a sign pointing to Allah.

Navigation skills: finding surahs by name/number, understanding names' meanings (often from a distinctive word), and using translations with commentary (tafsir) for study.

Key Points

- 114 surahs, ~6,236 verses; ordered longest-to-shortest.
- 30 ajza' facilitate scheduled reading.
- Ayah means 'sign' - each verse points to Allah.

Key Terms

Surah: A chapter of the Qur'an.

Ayah: A verse; literally 'sign'.

Juz': One of 30 parts of the Qur'an.

Example

- *Al-Fatihah opens: Al-Baqarah follows as the longest.*

Summary: Know the Qur'an's structure to navigate and study it.

Exam Tips

- ★ Key point: 114 surahs, ~6,236 verses.
- ★ Remember non-chronological order.

Topic 5: Approaching the Qur'an: Study Principles

Learning Objectives

- Explain principles of Qur'anic study
- Introduce tafsir
- Discuss translation limitations

Key Concepts

Study principles: approach with reverence and sincerity; read in Arabic where possible (translations are interpretations); study with reliable tafsir (commentary); consider context (asbab al-nuzul); and let the Qur'an explain itself (verses illuminating verses).

Tafsir tradition: classical commentaries (Ibn Kathir, Al-Tabari) and modern ones, covering linguistics, context, jurisprudence, and spirituality. No single tafsir exhausts the text.

Translations convey meanings, not the Qur'an itself - the inimitable Arabic (i'jaz) cannot transfer fully. Use respected translations (e.g. by recognized scholars) while recognizing their interpretive nature.

Key Points

- Study with reverence, Arabic, tafsir, and context.
- Translations convey meanings, not the miraculous Arabic itself.
- Let the Qur'an interpret itself.

Key Terms

Tafsir: Scholarly commentary on the Qur'an.

I'jaz: The Qur'an's inimitability.

Asbab al-nuzul: Occasions of revelation.

Example

- *Reading a verse's tafsir reveals context a translation hides.*

Summary: Study the Qur'an with method, humility, and good sources.

Exam Tips

- ★ Key point: translation limitations.
- ★ Remember tafsir role.

Unit 2: Faith and Worship

Topic 6: Tawhid: Oneness of Allah

Learning Objectives

- Explain tawhid
- Describe Allah's attributes
- Discuss shirk

Key Concepts

Tawhid - Allah's absolute oneness - is the Qur'an's central theme: 'Say: He is Allah, the One' (112:1). It encompasses oneness of lordship (sole creator/sustainer), worship (sole object of devotion), and names/attributes.

Allah's attributes (asma' al-husna - the beautiful names): the Merciful, the Just, the All-Knowing, the All-Powerful - each shaping believers' relationship with Him: mercy inspires hope, justice inspires accountability.

Shirk (associating partners with Allah) is the Qur'an's gravest sin - the one unforgiven if unrepented. Tawhid liberates: no human, idol, or power shares divinity; all are equally servants before One God - a radical egalitarianism.

Key Points

- Tawhid: oneness in lordship, worship, and attributes.
- Beautiful names shape the believer's relationship.
- Shirk is the gravest sin; tawhid is liberating egalitarianism.

Key Terms

Tawhid: The oneness of Allah.

Shirk: Associating partners with Allah.

Asma' al-husna: The beautiful names of Allah.

Example

- *Surah Al-Ikhlās (112) - the thesis of tawhid in four verses.*

Summary: Tawhid is the Qur'an's heart: one God, sole object of worship.

Exam Tips

- ★ Very important: three aspects of tawhid.
- ★ Remember Surah Al-Ikhlās.

Topic 7: Prophethood and Finality

Learning Objectives

- Explain the Qur'anic view of prophets
- Discuss Muhammad (PBUH) as final prophet
- Describe the Prophet's roles

Key Concepts

The Qur'an presents a chain of prophets - Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus, and others - all teaching tawhid; Muslims honor all, distinguishing none in belief. Their stories (qasas) teach through example: patience (Job), trust (Abraham), perseverance (Noah).

Muhammad (PBUH) is the 'seal of the prophets' (33:40) - finality means no new prophet or revelation after him; guidance is complete and preserved. His roles: recipient of revelation, explainer (through sunnah), moral exemplar (uswah hasanah - 33:21), and mercy to the worlds (21:107).

Belief in all prophets unites Muslims with earlier revelations' followers while finality guards the message's integrity.

Key Points

- One prophetic chain, all teaching tawhid.
- Finality (33:40): guidance complete and preserved.
- The Prophet: exemplar and mercy to the worlds.

Key Terms

Khatm al-nubuwwah: Finality of prophethood.

Uswah hasanah: The excellent example (of the Prophet).

Qasas al-anbiya: Stories of the prophets.

Example

- *Prophet stories teach patience. trust. perseverance.*

Summary: Prophethood culminates in Muhammad (PBUH) - the final, preserved guidance.

Exam Tips

- ★ Very important: finality verse 33:40.
- ★ Remember uswah hasanah.

Topic 8: The Afterlife: Accountability

Learning Objectives

- Explain Qur'anic eschatology
- Describe Paradise and Hell
- Discuss accountability's effects

Key Concepts

The afterlife (akhirah) is the Qur'an's great motivator: this life is a test; every soul will be resurrected, judged with perfect justice - 'an atom's weight of good/evil will be seen' (99:7-8) - and assigned to Paradise or Hell eternally.

Descriptions are vivid: Paradise - gardens, peace, divine pleasure; Hell - fire, regret, separation. The Qur'an uses them to awaken moral seriousness, not to terrify gratuitously.

Effects on life: accountability deters hidden wrongdoing (Allah sees all), comforts the oppressed (justice will come), and gives suffering meaning (patience rewarded). Denial of resurrection was the Makkans' central objection - the Qur'an answers with creation's renewal as proof.

Key Points

- Resurrection, perfect judgment, eternal Paradise or Hell.
- Atom's-weight justice (99:7-8).
- Accountability shapes ethics, comforts oppressed, dignifies patience.

Key Terms

Akhirah: The afterlife.

Yawm al-qiyamah: The Day of Resurrection.

Mizan: The scale of judgment.

Example

- 99:7-8 - *even an atom's weight counts.*

Summary: Belief in the afterlife anchors Qur'anic morality.

Exam Tips

- ★ Very important: 99:7-8.
- ★ Remember accountability effects.

Topic 9: Salah: The Prayer

Learning Objectives

- Explain salah's status
- Describe its form and times
- Discuss its spiritual functions

Key Concepts

Salah - five daily prayers - is Islam's central worship, the first deed judged on the Last Day, the direct connection ('mi'raj of the believer') requiring no intermediary. The Qur'an commands it over 70 times, often paired with zakah.

Form: standing, bowing, prostration, recitation - combining body, tongue, and heart; performed facing the qiblah at dawn, noon, afternoon, sunset, night - structuring the Muslim day around remembrance.

Functions: prevents indecency and wrongdoing (29:45), builds discipline and community (congregation), offers direct solace ('seek help in patience and prayer' - 2:153). Neglect is gravely warned against.

Key Points

- Five daily prayers: Islam's central worship.
- Body, tongue, and heart united facing the qiblah.
- Prevents wrongdoing; builds discipline, community, solace.

Key Terms

Salah: The five daily prayers.

Qiblah: The direction of prayer (Makkah).

Khushu': Humility and focus in prayer.

Example

- 29:45 - *prayer prevents indecency and wrongdoing.*

Summary: Salah structures life around remembrance of Allah.

Exam Tips

- ★ Very important: 29:45's function.
- ★ Remember five times.

Topic 10: Zakah, Sawm, and Hajj

Learning Objectives

- Explain zakah
- Explain sawm
- Explain hajj

Key Concepts

Zakah (obligatory charity, 2.5% of savings annually): purifies wealth, funds the poor and community needs - worship through wealth, making economics an act of devotion. The Qur'an pairs it with salah constantly.

Sawm (fasting Ramadan): dawn-to-sunset abstinence developing taqwa (God-consciousness, 2:183), empathy with the hungry, self-discipline, and gratitude. The month also honors the Qur'an's revelation (Laylat al-Qadr).

Hajj (pilgrimage to Makkah): the annual gathering - ihram equality (all in simple white), tawaf, standing at Arafat - commemorating Abraham, embodying Muslim unity across race and nation. Required once if able.

Key Points

- Zakah: 2.5% purifying wealth, funding community.
- Sawm: fasting for taqwa (2:183), empathy, discipline.
- Hajj: Abrahamic pilgrimage embodying unity.

Key Terms

Zakah: Obligatory almsgiving.

Taqwa: God-consciousness.

Ihram: The pilgrim's sacred state and dress.

Example

- 2:183 - *fasting prescribed 'so that you may attain taqwa'.*

Summary: Worship engages wealth, body, and journey - the whole person.

Exam Tips

- ★ Very important: 2:183.
- ★ Remember zakah rate and purpose.

Unit 3: Morality and Social Teachings

Topic 11: Akhlaq: Qur'anic Morality

Learning Objectives

- Define akhlaq
- List key virtues
- Explain character's status

Key Concepts

Akhlaq (character/morality) is central: the Prophet said he was sent to perfect noble character; the Qur'an praises 'those who restrain anger and pardon people' (3:134) and describes believers' traits comprehensively (23:1-11).

Key virtues: honesty (sidq), trustworthiness (amanah), patience (sabr), gratitude (shukr), humility, generosity, forgiveness, and justice. Vices condemned: lying, arrogance, envy, backbiting (compared to eating a brother's flesh - 49:12), extravagance, and miserliness.

Morality in the Qur'an is God-centered: good character flows from God-consciousness, not mere social utility - though its social fruits (trust, harmony) are celebrated.

Key Points

- Character perfection is the Prophet's mission.
- Virtues: honesty, patience, gratitude, justice, forgiveness.
- Vices: lying, arrogance, backbiting (49:12), envy.

Key Terms

Akhlaq: Character/morality.

Sabr: Patience/perseverance.

Taqwa: God-consciousness driving morality.

Example

- 49:12 - backbiting likened to eating a brother's flesh.

Summary: Qur'anic morality: God-conscious character beautifying society.

Exam Tips

- ★ Very important: 49:12.
- ★ Remember virtue/vice lists.

Topic 12: Justice ('Adl) in the Qur'an

Learning Objectives

- Explain the Qur'anic concept of justice
- Discuss its scope
- Apply to contemporary issues

Key Concepts

Justice ('adl) is a divine attribute and human command: 'stand firm for justice, even against yourselves' (4:135) - witnesses for Allah though it harm kin or self; 'let not hatred of a people prevent justice' (5:8) - justice even toward enemies.

Scope: judicial (fair testimony, due process), economic (fair measure - 'woe to those who give short measure', 83:1-3), social (rights of orphans, women, the poor), and personal (self-accountability).

Contemporary: the Qur'an's justice ethic challenges corruption, discrimination, and oppression - Muslims are commanded to be justice's witnesses universally, making social justice a religious obligation.

Key Points

- 4:135 - justice even against self/kin.
- 5:8 - justice even toward enemies.
- Scope: judicial, economic, social, personal.

Key Terms

'Adl: Justice.

Shahadah: Witness/testimony.

Zulm: Injustice/oppression.

Example

- 83:1-3 - *condemnation of commercial fraud.*

Summary: Justice is non-negotiable: for all, against all wrongdoing.

Exam Tips

- ★ Very important: 4:135 and 5:8.
- ★ Remember scope areas.

Topic 13: Family in the Qur'an

Learning Objectives

- Describe Qur'anic family teachings
- Explain spousal relations
- Discuss parents and children

Key Concepts

Marriage: 'a solemn covenant' (4:21) built on love and mercy (mawaddah wa rahmah - 30:21); spouses are 'garments' for each other (2:187) - mutual protection, comfort, dignity. Rights and responsibilities are reciprocal.

Parents: kindness to parents is commanded next to worship itself (17:23) - 'do not say uff to them'; their care in old age is children's sacred duty. Children: a trust (amanah) - provide, educate, treat justly ('do not kill your children for fear of poverty' - 17:31, condemning infanticide and, by extension, neglect).

Family is society's foundation: its harmony determines social health; its breakdown is a communal concern.

Key Points

- Marriage: solemn covenant of love and mercy (30:21).

- Parents' rights follow worship (17:23).
- Children are trusts: provide, educate, be just.

Key Terms

Mawaddah wa rahmah: Love and mercy (spousal).

Amanah: Trust.

Nikah: Marriage contract.

Example

- 30:21 - love and mercy as marriage's signs.

Summary: The Qur'an builds society from the family outward.

Exam Tips

- ★ Very important: 30:21 and 17:23.
- ★ Remember 'garments' metaphor (2:187).

Topic 14: Rights of Women

Learning Objectives

- Outline Qur'anic women's rights
- Address misconceptions
- Discuss the Qur'an's reform context

Key Concepts

The Qur'an revolutionized women's status in 7th-century Arabia: spiritual equality ('whoever does righteousness, male or female...' - 16:97), right to own property, inheritance shares, marriage consent and dower (mahr), and legal personhood - when female infanticide was practiced.

Misconceptions often stem from cultural practices misattributed to the Qur'an, or verses read without context/scholarship. The Qur'an's trajectory is toward dignity and equity within complementary roles.

Contemporary: Muslim scholars and activists invoke Qur'anic principles for women's education, work, and protection from violence - the text as resource for, not obstacle to, women's flourishing.

Key Points

- Spiritual equality (16:97); property, inheritance, consent rights.
- Revolutionary in 7th-century context.
- Distinguish Qur'anic rights from cultural practices.

Key Terms

Mahr: The bridal dower.

Misconception: Cultural practices misattributed to Islam.

Spiritual equality: Equal moral agency and reward.

Example

- 16:97 - equal reward for righteous deeds.

Summary: The Qur'an dignified women; cultures sometimes lagged behind.

Exam Tips

★ Very important: 16:97. 

★ Remember the reform context.

Topic 15: Community and Brotherhood

Learning Objectives

- Explain the ummah concept
- Discuss mutual rights
- Address diversity within unity

Key Concepts

The ummah: a single community bound by faith transcending tribe, race, and nation - 'the believers are but brothers' (49:10). The Prophet's farewell sermon declared Arab/non-Arab, white/black equal except by piety.

Mutual rights: the Qur'an commands reconciliation between disputing believers (49:9), forbids mockery and suspicion (49:11-12), and prescribes mutual consultation (shura, 42:38) in affairs.

Diversity: 'We made you peoples and tribes that you may know one another' (49:13) - diversity is divine design for mutual knowledge, not division; superiority only by taqwa. This frames Muslim pluralism and inter-community relations.

Key Points

- Ummah: faith-bound universal brotherhood (49:10).
- Reconciliation, no mockery, mutual consultation.
- Diversity for mutual knowledge (49:13); piety the only distinction.

Key Terms

Ummah: The global Muslim community.

Shura: Mutual consultation.

Taqwa: Piety/God-consciousness.

Example

- 49:13 - diversity's purpose is mutual knowledge.

Summary: Faith unites; diversity enriches; piety distinguishes.

Exam Tips

- ★ Very important: 49:10 and 49:13.
- ★ Remember shura.

Unit 4: Economy, Knowledge, and Contemporary Topics

Topic 16: Qur'anic Economic Teachings

Learning Objectives

- Outline Islamic economic principles
- Explain riba prohibition
- Discuss wealth ethics

Key Concepts

Principles: wealth is Allah's trust (amanah) - humans are stewards, not absolute owners; earning must be halal; wealth must circulate ('so it does not circulate only among your rich' - 59:7); the poor have recognized rights in wealth (zakah, sadaqah).

Riba (interest/usury) is prohibited (2:275-279) - 'Allah has permitted trade and forbidden riba' - because it enables risk-free exploitation; trade with mutual consent and shared risk is the alternative. Islamic finance builds on this.

Wealth ethics: condemnation of hoarding, fraud (83:1-3), and extravagance; praise of generosity; warnings that wealth is a test. Economics is moral territory in the Qur'an.

Key Points

- Wealth as trust; must circulate (59:7).
- Riba prohibited (2:275); trade permitted.
- Condemn fraud, hoarding, extravagance; praise generosity.

Key Terms

Riba: Interest/usury.

Halal earning: Lawful livelihood.

Sadaqah: Voluntary charity.

Example

- 2:275 - 'Allah has permitted trade and forbidden riba'.

Summary: The Qur'an moralizes the marketplace: stewardship, fairness, circulation.

Exam Tips

- ★ Very important: 2:275.
- ★ Remember 59:7 circulation.

Topic 17: Knowledge and Learning

Learning Objectives

- Explain the Qur'an's view of knowledge
- Discuss 'ilm
- Address science and faith

Key Concepts

The first word was 'Read' - knowledge seeking is worship's companion: 'Are those who know equal to those who do not know?' (39:9); 'Allah raises those who believe and those given knowledge in degrees' (58:11). Seeking knowledge is obligatory on every Muslim (hadith).

The Qur'an invites observation: 'Do they not look at the camels... the sky... the mountains... the earth?' (88:17-20) - nature as divine signs (ayat) prompting reflection. This nurtured Islamic civilization's scientific golden age.

Science-faith: the Qur'an encourages studying creation; apparent conflicts usually reflect misreading of either text or science. Many Muslim scientists see research as reading Allah's 'signs' in nature.

Key Points

- 'Read' first; knowledge elevates (39:9, 58:11).
- Nature's signs invite observation and reflection (88:17-20).
- Science as reading divine signs.

Key Terms

'Ilm: Knowledge.

Ayat: Signs - verses and natural phenomena.

Tafakkur: Reflection/contemplation.

Example

- 88:17-20 - *observing camels. sky. mountains. earth.*

Summary: The Qur'an commands learning: of revelation and of creation.

Exam Tips

- ★ Very important: 39:9.
- ★ Remember nature-as-signs.

Topic 18: Relations with Other Communities

Learning Objectives

- Explain Qur'anic pluralism
- Discuss People of the Book
- Address peace and conflict verses

Key Concepts

Pluralism: 'There is no compulsion in religion' (2:256); diversity of faiths is within divine will ('had Allah willed He would have made you one community' - 5:48) - competition in good deeds, not coercion.

People of the Book (Jews, Christians): recognized as fellow recipients of revelation; food and marriage relations permitted (5:5); dialogue with 'wisdom and good instruction' (16:125); shared Abrahamic roots acknowledged.

Conflict verses (e.g. on fighting) address specific defensive contexts - classical scholarship sets strict just-war conditions; the Qur'an's default is peace ('if they incline to peace, incline to it' - 8:61). Contextual reading prevents misuse.

Key Points

- No compulsion (2:256); diversity is divine will (5:48).
- People of the Book: recognized, dialogue, relations.
- Peace is default (8:61); fighting verses are contextual/defensive.

Key Terms

Ahl al-kitab: People of the Book.

Jihad: Struggle - primarily spiritual/moral effort.

Just war: Strict conditions for legitimate fighting.

Example

- 8:61 - *incline to peace when they incline to it.*

Summary: The Qur'an's social vision: principled pluralism, peace as norm.

Exam Tips

- ★ Very important: 2:256 and 8:61.
- ★ Remember contextual reading.

Topic 19: The Qur'an on Contemporary Issues

Learning Objectives

- Apply Qur'anic principles to modern issues
- Explain ijtiḥad's role
- Discuss environment and technology

Key Concepts

The Qur'an gives principles, not rulings for every novelty; scholars extend them via ijtiḥad (reasoned interpretation): environment (humans as khalifah - stewards; 'do not corrupt the earth' - 2:60), bioethics (sanctity of life balanced with necessity), and digital ethics (privacy, truthfulness online).

Method: identify relevant principles (justice, mercy, stewardship, public benefit), consult scholarship, and consider consequences (maqasid al-shari'ah - the law's higher objectives: protecting faith, life, intellect, lineage, property).

This living engagement keeps the Qur'an relevant: eternal guidance applied to changing circumstances through disciplined reasoning.

Key Points

- Principles extended via ijtiḥad to new issues.
- Environment: stewardship (khalifah), no corruption.
- Maqasid: the law's higher objectives guide application.

Key Terms

Ijtiḥad: Reasoned scholarly interpretation.

Khalifah: Stewardship of the earth.

Maqasid al-shari'ah: Higher objectives of Islamic law.

Example

- 2:60 - '*do not commit abuse on the earth*'.

Summary: Eternal principles, disciplined reasoning, contemporary answers.

Exam Tips

- ★ Key point: ijtiḥad method.
- ★ Remember maqasid.

Topic 20: Living the Qur'anic Message

Learning Objectives

- Summarize the Qur'anic worldview
- Explain practical implementation
- Encourage lifelong engagement

Key Concepts

The Qur'anic worldview: one God, purposeful creation, human stewardship, moral accountability, and mercy embracing all - a coherent vision giving life meaning and direction.

Living it: regular recitation with understanding (tadabbur - reflection), implementing teachings progressively, embodying character (the Prophet's character 'was the Qur'an'), and sharing its message wisely.

Lifelong engagement: the Qur'an rewards every reading - 'the best of you learn the Qur'an and teach it' (hadith). This course's introduction opens a door; walking through is a lifetime's journey of guidance, comfort, and transformation.

Key Points

- Worldview: tawhid, purpose, stewardship, accountability, mercy.
- Recite, reflect (tadabbur), implement, embody.
- Lifelong learning and teaching of the Qur'an.

Key Terms

Tadabbur: Deep reflection on the Qur'an.

Hidayah: Guidance.

Akhlaq: Character embodying teachings.

Example

- *A'ishah: the Prophet's character was the Qur'an.*

Summary: The Qur'an is guidance for a lifetime - read, reflect, live.

Exam Tips

- ★ Key point: the worldview summary.
- ★ Remember tadabbur.

Glossary of Key Terms

Wahi: Divine revelation to the prophets.

Tawhid: The absolute oneness of Allah.

Shirk: Associating partners with Allah.

Surah: A chapter of the Qur'an.

Ayah: A verse of the Qur'an; literally 'sign'.

Makki/Madani: Surahs revealed in Makkah/Madinah.

Tafsir: Scholarly commentary on the Qur'an.

Taqwa: God-consciousness and piety.

Ummah: The global Muslim community.

Shura: Mutual consultation.

Riba: Interest/usury, prohibited in Islam.

Ijtihad: Reasoned scholarly interpretation.

Khalifah: Human stewardship of the earth.

Akhlaq: Character and morality.

Tadabbur: Deep reflection on the Qur'an.