



Darul Arqam Educational Trust
Registered Charity No. 1092608

Aalimiyyah Course

Advanced Arabic & Islamic Studies
In the English Medium
Course Details

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بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم
الحمد لله والصلاة والسلام على رسول الله وعلى آله وصحبه ومن اهتدى بهداه

Background

The Prophet of Islam (Upon on Whom be Peace) said

“If a man dies, his good deeds are discontinued, except for three: an ongoing charity, knowledge from which people benefit, or a good offspring praying for him.”

Education has always been historically linked to Islam and the development of Islamic civilization. As far back as the Umayyad period , within the first century of Islam, traditional Islamic schools were founded. These were established by private individuals for the benefit of the Muslim community particularly and all of human kind generally.

The intellectual centres of the Muslim world such as Kufa, Basra, Khorasan and Andalus are established in history as beacons of light during a period in which Europe was engulfed in darkness, which historians have, quite rightly, termed 'The Dark Ages'. Today, one thousand four hundred years later, the world is again witnessing the renaissance in the field of education. The ever increasing challenges created by the impact of global communications and new modes of learning only highlight further the pressing need for a positive and dynamic approach to the human quest for knowledge. It is now an accepted fact that a large number of Muslims are living amid the modern pluralist societies of Europe.

Fusing that which is praiseworthy from western scholarship with Islamic scholarship, we hope that it will be from here that the greatest pioneering developments will take place benefiting both the Muslim societies and the host society.

Aims

- To develop a sound grounding in the Islamic Sciences
- To develop a foundation in Islamic Studies with a focus on *Da'wah*/ Community work

Objectives

- To demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the details concerning the technical and historical significance of the Sciences of the Quran, Sciences of *Hadith*, and the Principles of Jurisprudence (*Usul al-Fiqh*)
- To become proficient and confident in all areas of *Fiqh al-Ibadat*
- To be able to recall and articulate the fundamentals of *Aqidah al-Islamiyyah* along with their intellectual and scriptural proofs
- To memorise the 40 *Hadith* of Imam al-Nawawi in Arabic and English, as well as being able to recall key areas of commentary on each *Hadith*
- To recognise and recall the fundamentals of *Da'wah*, and demonstrate understanding by considering its application in contemporary society
- To know and apply the rules of *Tajweed*
- To have committed the last *Juz* of the Quran to Memory
- To explore the concept of Islamic Spirituality/ *Ihsan* as outlined by Imam al-Ghazali, and evaluate how it can be internalised and applied in everyday situations

The content will be a traditional syllabus teaching some of the most advanced and authoritative texts in each science. Each year and at any one time we will focus on only one subject area at a time. Sometimes focusing on only one core text at a time. This will enable the student to gain proficiency in each area. This is in contrast to the syllabi prevalent many Islamic institutions and universities whereby the student is expected to study approximately fifteen different subjects every year.

This system has advantages from three aspects. Firstly concentrating on one faculty area will enable students to devote their skills to gain proficiency in one subject area rather than being dispersed over fifteen or more subjects. And secondly, should students, due to unforeseen circumstances be unable complete the full six year curriculum they would have nonetheless gained proficiency in the faculty areas which they studied. Finally, Students who are competent in certain areas could theoretically bypass that area of study to the next if they can satisfy the course coordinators.

Daily Timetable

Learning sessions on Monday to Thursday 6.30pm to 9pm there will be a break during Ramadhan and appropriate breaks during the statutory holidays. Each session will be 2.hours in length. Regular independent study will be set also which is expected to take up about 3 hours weekly.

The system that will be employed is a 'Reader System'. What is the 'Reader System'?

A 'reader' is meant to serve as a study aide to a particular text-book, and as a general guide to the discipline as a whole; it is not meant to replace the study of the original text.

The classical Islamic texts are virtual goldmines of knowledge, intellectual and spiritual, temporal and eternal, historical and scientific, that can only properly and honestly be benefited from by that student who has been trained to do such. It is the goal of this series to facilitate an increase in the student's ability to directly access and fully conceptualize both the style and the content of the classical texts.

Translations of the classical texts serve a lofty purpose in allowing the general population of Muslim and non-Muslim readership – the overwhelming majority of whom do not have sufficient knowledge of the classical Arabic medium of the texts (even if they be Arabs) – an opportunity to personally interact with the timeless wisdoms and great ideas produced over the centuries. Works in fields such as spirituality, ethics, philosophy, law, and sociology, as well as translations of some of the literature around the primary texts of the Qur'an and the Hadith literature, deserve translation for both the general readership and the students of history and literature. In sum, translations provide an invaluable service in regards to texts in the end-goals disciplines (علوم الغاية).

Once we study the core text with the 'reader system' we become accustomed to the relevance of these classical texts to our place in the West and it becomes a syllabus developed specifically for the West and one which can be transported to other countries. It can be undoubtedly claimed that it will be most innovative and dynamic syllabus developed for the Western Muslims representing a cross civilizational exchange of ideas between that which is the best in Islamic and Western civilizations. It will enable our scholars to confront the challenges which we face in the Western world but firmly footed in our Islamic scholastic tradition.

Accreditation

The Alimiyyah course maintains the pedagogy of the traditional method of the Islamic World which has served the Ummah for more than a thousand years and created some of the best minds for the benefit of humanity. The system to accredit learning has been using the *Ijaazah Accreditation*. Students who successfully complete classical texts or their equivalents will be bestowed with a licence of authority to teach that text returning back to the author of that book. Imagine being part of a sacred chain (*Sanad*) which starts with the likes of Imam Ghazali or al-Nawwawi and ends with your self. This method of accreditation is accepted in all centres of traditional Islamic learning and is also accepted by selected universities in UK and abroad.

Arabic Language

Arabic language acquisition is an important part for the training of any scholar

The Major Faculties

Each faculty will cover one academic year, which will consist of 40 weeks of teaching. We will initially study Arabic during the first year. The faculties of study include :

1. Fiqh.
2. Aqeeda, Usool al-Fiqh & Mantiq.
3. Hadith & Mustalah Hadith.
4. Quran & it's Sciences
5. Synthesis and Dissertation.

Year 1

- Arabic Language
- Arbaeen Imam al-Nawwawi
- Tajweed & Hifz

Year 2:

- Arabic Language Continued
- Nur al-Iddah
- Riyadh al-Saliheen
- Bidayah al-Hidayah
- Principles of Da'wah

Year 3

- Usul al-Shashi
- Nukbah al-Fikr
- Hanafi Principles of Hadith and
- Uloom al-Quran

Year 4:

- Al-Qudoori with selections from al-Hidayah
- Aqidah al-Nasafi
- Basic Principles of Logic and Philosophy

Year 5:

- Tafsir Ishraq al Ma'ani
- Athar al-Sunnan
- Brief overview of history

Year 6:

- Risalah al-Mustatrafah – Sh Khattani
- Major Hadith Compilations :
- Al-Bukhari
- Muslim
- Al-Tirmidhi
- Abu Dawud
- Al-Nasai
- Ibn Maja
- Al-Muwatta

Schedule

The course will run for 40 teaching weeks per year. The first academic year will be 40 weeks in duration. There will be a break during Ramadhan and appropriate breaks during the statutory holidays. Each session will be 2.5 hours in length. Regular independent study will be set also which is expected to take up about 2 hours weekly.

Suggested Reading

An extensive reading list will be provided to supplement the texts that are studied during the academic year. There will also be notes and other material to ease the study of some of the more extensive works which we will be covering.

لِلّٰهِ الْحَمْدُ أَوَّلًا وَآخِرًا ظَاهِرًا وَبَاطِنًا

و الحمد لله ربّ العالمين

الله تعالى أعلم