

Seerah Competition Study Materials

Topic 1: Prophet Muhammad's Early Childhood

All students from **KG to Level 7** are responsible from this topic

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is the last messenger on the earth. He was sent by Allah to guide humanity the right way. He was born in Saudi Arabia (Makkah). His childhood name was Ahmed which was proposed by his mother Aaminah. His father Abdullah who passed away before the Prophet (PBUH) birth proposed His name as Muhammad (PBUH).

From the time he was an infant, Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was sent to be raised by his foster mother, Haleema. He did not return to his mother, Aaminah who did pass away when he was just 6 years of age. He was then raised by his grandfather Abdul Mutlib. When his grandfather passed away, his uncle took care of him.

Muhammad (PBUH) grew up in a town called Makkah. One day he went to a cave (Hira) to meditate (think). An angel (Jibril) came and brought some words from the Quran.

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) became The Prophet of Allah. He told everyone to be a good person. Only worship Allah and recite Quranic verses. He taught us about peace and the meaning of Islam is peace. He taught us that Islam is a complete religion.

Some people of Makkah did not like Him. They were mean to him and wanted to kill him. He could not live in Makkah anymore and decided to move to Madinah.

He always traveled on His camel (Al-Kaswa) and He would always wear a black shawl on his shoulder. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and other Muslims went to live in Madinah. The people of Madinah welcomed them with open hearts. They converted to Islam and started to recite the Quranic verses. Most people of Madinah took a formal pledge of allegiance at Prophet Muhammad's (PBUH) hand (SubhanAllah). They accepted Islam and accepted him as "The Prophet".

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) established the 1st mosque (QUBA). It is the oldest mosque in the world. He used to give teachings of Islam at this mosque. He stayed in Madinah for several years and moved back to Makkah. Many people of Makkah became Muslims. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) loved people of all color. He was very nice and kind to non-Muslims as well. He said all humans are equal. He taught us to be respectful of our elders and be kind to children. He stressed that all children should be educated and live in simplicity. Actions of Prophet (PBUH) are called Sunnah and sayings of Prophet (PBUH) are called Hadees. To follow Islam, we should follow the Sunnah, Hadees and the Prophet (PBUH)'s footsteps. He was the

greatest person in the world. May the mercy and blessing of Allah be upon Him. Ameen

Topic 2: Life in Makka before Hijra

Students from Levels 2 to 7 are responsible from this topic

Highlights from Life of Prophet Muhammad (S) until Hijra

- Muhammad's (S) father, 'Abd Allah ibn'Abd al-Muttalib, died before he was born in Makkah.
- His mother, Aminah, died when he was six year old.
- As an orphan, Muhammad (S) was put in the care of his grandfather, the head of the clan of Hashim, Abdul Muttalib.
- After the death of his grandfather, Muhammad (S) was raised by his uncle, Abu Talib. • As was customary in those days, Muhammad (S) as a child was sent to live for a year or two with a Bedouin family. In addition to enduring the hardships of desert life, he acquired a taste for the rich language so loved by the Arabs, whose speech was their proudest art.
- When Muhammad (S) was about 25 years old, he entered the service of a widow named Khadijah as a merchant actively engaged with trading caravans to the north. • Sometime later Muhammad (S) married Khadijah, by whom he had two sons - who did not survive - and four daughters.
- During this period of his life Muhammad (S) traveled widely.
- Then, in his forties he began to retire to meditate in a cave on Mount Hira outside of Mecca, where the first of the great events of Islam took place.
- One day, as he sat in the cave, he heard a voice, later identified as that of the Angel Gabriel, which ordered him to:
 - Recite: In the name of thy Lord who created, Created man from a clot of blood. •
- Three times Muhammad (S) pleaded his inability to do so, but each time the command was repeated. Finally, Muhammad recited the words of what are now the first five verses of the 96th surah or chapter of the Quran - words which proclaim God the Creator of man and the Source of all knowledge.
 - At first Muhammad (S) divulged his experience only to his wife and his immediate circle. But as more revelations enjoined him to proclaim the oneness of God universally, his following grew, at first among the poor and the slaves, but later also among the most prominent men of Mecca. The revelations he received at this time and those he did so later are all incorporated in the Quran, the Scripture of Islam.
- Not everyone accepted God's message transmitted through Muhammad (S). Even in his own clan there were those who rejected his teachings, and many merchants actively opposed the message.
- The opposition, however, merely served to sharpen Muhammad's (S) sense of mission and his understanding of exactly how Islam differed from paganism.
- Because the Quran rejected polytheism and emphasized man's moral responsibility, in powerful images, it presented a grave challenge to the worldly Meccans.

- After Muhammad (S) had preached publicly for more than a decade, the opposition to him reached such a high pitch that, fearful for their safety, he sent some of his adherents to Ethiopia, where the Christian ruler extended protection to them, the memory of which has been cherished by Muslims ever since.
- But in Mecca the persecution worsened. Muhammad's (S) followers were harassed, abused, and even tortured.
- At last Muhammad (S) sent seventy of his followers off to the northern town of Yathrib, which was later to be renamed Medina ("The City").
- Later, in the early fall of 622, he learned of a plot to murder him and, with his closest friend, Abu Bakr al-Siddiq, set off to join the emigrants.
- In Mecca the plotters arrived at Muhammad's (S) home to find that his cousin, 'Ali, had taken his place in bed. Enraged, the Meccans set a price on Muhammad's head and set off in pursuit.
- Muhammad (S) and Abu Bakr, however, had taken refuge in a cave and, after the pursuers left their track, went on to Medina; they were joyously welcomed by a people of Medina as well as the Meccans who had gone ahead to prepare the way.

Topic 3: Hijra and Early Medina

Students from Levels 4 to 7 are responsible from this topic

- Hijra is Prophet Muhammad's migration from Mecca to Medina in 622 to escape persecution.
- The date represents the starting point of the Muslim era. It was Umar, the second caliph, who introduced the Hijri era (distinguished by the initials AH). Umar started the first year AH with the first day of the lunar month of Muḥarram which we celebrate as the Hijri New Year.
- Upon finalizing the agreement with people of Yathrib (Medina), Prophet Muhammad (SAW) ordered his followers to leave Mecca in small groups, so as not to attract attention, and to await him in Yathrib.
- Soon after, he also departed one evening with Abū Bakr for Yathrib, using an indirect route after commanding Alī to sleep in the Prophet's bed. The Quraysh, who had decided to get rid of the Prophet once and for all, attacked the house but found 'Alī in his place.
- Prophet Muhammad (SAW) and Abū Bakr hid in a cave that was then camouflaged by spiders, which spun webs over its mouth, and birds, which placed their nests in front of the cave. Once the search party arrived at the mouth of the cave, they decided not to go in because the unbroken cobwebs and undisturbed nests seemed to indicate that no one could be inside.
- When they arrived in Quba, on the outskirts of Medina, Prophet Muhammad (SAW) ordered the first mosque of Islam to be built.
- Prophet Muhammad (SAW) completed the Hijrah in September of 622 when he reached Yathrib which became known as Madinat al-Nabi (City of the Prophet). This momentous event led to the establishment of Islam as a religious and social order and became the starting point of Islamic Calendar.
- When Prophet first settled in Madina, his most trusted followers were those who had migrated from Mecca. Soon, however, many Medinans embraced Islam, so the early Islamic Community came to consist of the emigrants (al Muhajirun) and the Medinan helpers (al Ansar).
- During the second year of the Hijrah, Prophet Muhammad (SAW) drew up the "Constitution of Medina", defining relations between the various groups in the first Islamic Community. In the same year the direction of qiblah was changed from Jerusalem to Mecca.
 - In 624 in the month of Ramadan, an army of 1,000 assembled by the Quraysh marched against Madina and met a much smaller force of around 300 Muslims at a place called Badr. Although heavily outnumbered, the Muslims achieved a remarkable victory.
 - In 625, Quraysh dispatched an army of 3,000 men under the leader of Mecca, Abū Sufyān. Prophet Muhammad led his forces to the side of a mountain near Medina called Uḥud,

and battle ensued. The Muslims had some success early in the engagement, but Khālid ibn al-Walīd, a leading Meccan general and later one of the outstanding military figures of early Islamic history, changed the outcome of the battle by attacking Muslims from behind after some Muslims deserted their posts against the commands of the prophet. Muslims lost the battle and a number of significant figures including Prophet's uncle Hamzah were killed.

- In 627, the Jews of Medina urged Quraysh to take over Medina. Quraysh helped raise an army of 10,000 men which marched on Medina. Salman al-Farsi, the first Persian convert to Islam, suggested that the Muslims dig a ditch around the city to protect it. The Meccan army arrived and, unable to cross the ditch, laid siege to the city but without success. The invading army gradually began to disperse leaving the Muslims victorious in the "Battle of Trench" (al-Khandaq).

Topic 4: Treaty of Hudaibiyah and Conquest of Mecca

Students from Levels 6 to 7 are responsible from this topic

THE TREATY OF HUDAYBIAH

The sixth year after the Prophet (pbuh) migrated to Medina witnessed one of the most significant events for early Muslims. After ten years of persecution and torture in Mecca, followed by six years of skirmishes and full blown battles with Quraysh, Muslims had finally asserted themselves as an indomitable presence in the region.

This is when the Prophet(pbuh) was shown in a dream that he and his companions entered Mecca to perform Umrah. Upon waking he told his companions and they all rejoiced, believing it was a sign from Allah(swt) that they would finally enter Mecca that year.

Soon a group of 1,000 pilgrims and 70 sacrificial camels were assembled for the journey. Among the Prophet's wives, Umm Salamah was chosen to join the expedition. In spite of being in a state of war with Quraysh the Prophet (pbuh) insisted they do not take any weapons except other than what a regular traveler carried, to make a point that they were not going to fight.

The Quraysh learned about the pilgrims and send Khalid bin Walid with 200 men to block their entry. Hoping to avoid a confrontation, the pilgrims veered off the expected route to Mecca. The Prophet(pbuh) halted the caravan in the valley of Hudaibiah. While the pilgrims were encamped at Hudaibiah, the local tribe of Khuzaah provided their daily needs. Khuzaah had allied themselves with the Prophet to counterbalance a strong alliance their rival, Bani Bakr, shared with the Quraysh.

Budayl ibn Warqa, one of the leaders of Khuzaah warned the Prophet (pbuh) that the Quraysh will not allow pilgrims to enter the sanctuary. The Prophet(pbuh) sent Budayl to Mecca with a message of peace. The Quraysh ignored this message and sent a scout to Hudaibiah. When the scout confirmed that the Muslims had come in peace they scoffed at him. Eager to disrupt any chance of truce a group of 70 young Meccans tried to ambush the pilgrims' camp. Their plan was foiled and they were taken captive, but as described in Surah Feth the Prophet made a conciliatory gesture and released them.

Uthman ibn Affan was sent by the Prophet to Mecca to negotiate on his behalf. Quraysh offered him pilgrimage rights but he refused to do so without the Prophet(pbuh). Another representative was sent by the Prophet(pbuh) but he was unable to negotiate a deal as well.

Having come to an impasse, the Quraysh sent three men under Suhayl ibn Amr to negotiate a treaty with the Prophet(pbuh). Before negotiations began the Prophet (pbuh) received

inspiration to renew a pact of allegiance with the companions. He vowed not to return without

Uthman(RA) This is called Bait ul Ridwan.

Ali ibn Talib(RA) was asked by the Prophet(pbuh) to draft the treaty. Suhayl raised objections when Ali (RA) wrote Bismillah and Mohammad the messenger of Allah. The Prophet yielded and asked Ali(RA) to strike out the title.

The treaty was valid for 10 years. Umrah was suspended for that year according to the treaty. The companions were frustrated over the terms of the treaty but the Prophet (pbuh) indicated the mission was complete. Hudaibiyah was a compromise and is an indication for Muslims that sometimes circumstances necessitate compromises that are hard for the believers to understand. There's a wisdom in recognizing that you have to do things that might be difficult for a greater long term benefit.

Surah Feth explains the victory in Hudaibiyah and Allah's(swt) promise to the Muslim community. While the faithless had their hearts filled with rage Allah(swt) was sending His tranquility down upon His Messenger and also upon believers, helping them to obey the order to restrain themselves.

CONQUEST OF MECCA

About the end of the seventh year of Hijrah, the Quraysh and their allies, the Bani Bakr violated the terms of the peace concluded at Hudaibiyah by attacking the Bani Khuza'ah, who were in alliance with the Muslims. The Bani Khuza'ah appealed to the Prophet (pbuh) for help and protection. The Prophet(pbuh) set out with an expedition of nearly 10,000 men but does not announce where they are heading.

After 8 days the muslim army halted at Marr az Zahran, a days journey from Mecca. The Quraysh sent Abu Sufyaan to ask the Prophet(pbuh) to abandon his project but the Prophet(pbuh) asked him to accept Islam. He was hesitant at first but after witnessing fervent loyalty of the Prophet's companions he testified his faith. He was then sent back to prepare the city for the Prophet's approach.

With the exception of slight resistance by certain clans, the Prophet (pbuh)_ entered Mecca almost unopposed. Prophet entered Mecca on his favorite camel Qaswa. His head was bowed until his beard touched the saddle. He was reciting the first few verses of Surah Feth.

The Muslim army was divided in four groups, Khalid bin Walid was on the right, Zubayr on the left. The Prophet's troop was divided into two. Half led by Saad and his son and the other half in which he rode was led by Abu Ubaydah. The muslim army entered unpretentiously and peacefully. After Abu Sufyaan's conversion, the Prophet responded with an act of unprecedented clemency and promised amnesty to any meccan seeking protection in Abu Sufyaan's house.

The Prophet performed the rite of ablution and prayed eight cycles of prayer. He rested for a

bit and then rode to the southeast corner of the Kaaba and reverently touched the black stone uttering Allah u Akbar which was taken up by all the muslims in the mosque and the whole of Mecca resounded with it. Then he made seven rounds of the holy house. The Prophet then turned away from the Kaaba towards the idols that surrounded it in a wide circle three hundred and sixty in all. He rode between these and the Kaba reciting from the Quran, as he pointed to each idol it fell forward. Then he prayed at the station of Ibrahim(AS), and drank from the well of Zamzam.

Ali(RA) brought him the key of Kaaba and he entered it with Uthman ibn Tahah and Bilal close behind him. The walls were covered with paintings of pagan deities and an icon of Mary and child Isa(AS) and also an image of who was thought to be Ibrahim(AS). He ordered all paintings to be effaced.

He then called upon Bilal to give the Azaan. This was an affront to the Qurayh because everything related to the Kaba was from a family position. So having a black slave go up the Kaaba to give azaan was a declaration to the Quraysh that Jahili days are over and there was a new order in the city.

When he came out of the Kaaba he quoted Yusuf(AS) who forgave his brothers and declared general amnesty.

Great multitudes came to adopt Islam. For this purpose an assembly was held at as Safa mountain. Umar (RA) acted as the deputy to administer the oath.

He remained in Mecca for 19 days and instructed the Quraysh to destroy every household idol and dispatched Khalid bin Walid to destroy temple of Uzzah which was close by.