

IQRA'
Grade – One
Curriculum
Volume 5
Islamic Social Studies

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We at IQRA' International Education Foundation are grateful to Allah (SWA) for enabling us to present this Elementary Curriculum of Islamic Studies.

This volume represents years of painstaking research, study, writing, field-testing and evaluation by IQRA's team of educators, scholars and teachers.

This volume marks the completion of the second stage of IQRA's program development. We are now well on our way to completing the junior high school and high school curricula, Insha Allah.

The development and production of this syllabus is a part of IQRA's vision for a comprehensive system of Islamic education that includes:

1. An integrated curriculum from pre-school to high school.
2. A comprehensive program of Islamic and Arabic studies at all grade levels. This includes writing and development of graded *textbooks*, *workbooks*, *enrichment literature*, *parent/teacher manuals*, *educational software* and *educational aids* for five basic Islamic subjects.
3. An Open University and Home-Based Education Program.

In each area, IQRA's work is progressing in an organized and well-planned manner and we hope that by the year 2000, IQRA's vision will become a reality, Insha Allah.

This effort needs a solid commitment to make Islamic education our foremost priority, mobilization of the community's human and financial resources, institutionalization of efforts and coordination with other organizations.

We appeal to all concerned Muslims and Islamic organizations to cooperate with IQRA' and become Ansar of its educational program.

Together, let us establish IQRA' International Foundation as the finest institution of Islamic educational research and development. It would be the best gift that we, the North American Muslims, can give to our children and to the 'Ummah as a whole. Amin.

Chief Editors

Friday, 10 June 1996

Development During the School Years

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

The middle years, between the ages of six and twelve, are often referred to as the school years. During this period of development, children undergo a steady growth rate, increase in muscle strength and fine-tune their motor abilities. During this time also, the average child grows about 2 inches and gain 3-6 pounds each year. A rapid development of social skills also takes place during this time.

Between the ages of nine and eleven, the children have 20/20 vision while binocular vision is usually attained by the ages of six.

Through play and interaction with peers, the child expands and refines his or her motor skills. Activities such as jumping, running or throwing help him or her to coordinate and finely-tune basic motor behaviors.

The amount of sleep gradually decreases as the child ages. A normally active and healthy six year old sleeps an average of twelve hours. By the age of twelve, this time is reduced to nine or ten hours of sleep per night. Parents are reminded to regulate their child's daily schedule so that he/she can retire to bed on time and get sufficient sleep.

COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT

By this stage in a child's cognitive development, confusions, distractions and inconsistencies of pre-operational thought are gradually being replaced by basic logic. Children become adept at making logical decisions about problems involving "real" or concrete objects. In addition, the development of a new and reversible system of mental operations and the ability to form stable hierarchies of classes and relations begins. The ability to conserve quantity, number and some aspects of space and time forms. They can usually conserve numbers by about six or seven, mass and length between seven and eight, and weight by around nine or ten.

The pre-operational egocentrism found in pre-schoolers is replaced in the school years by increased flexibility, logic and objectivity: children are now able to appreciate situations and circumstances from others' view points. It is important that adults respect their opinions and discuss their ideas and convictions with them in a mature fashion.

During this time, rules and regulations serve as important guidelines for the behavior of six and seven year old. To children of this age, adults are always right. Parents and teachers become serious role models for these children and the Islamically-oriented behavior that is displayed to the children may become a source of their inspiration and training.

Decentration:

Children can now take into account several aspects of an object or event at the same time. They are able to recognize that there may be more than one way to arrive at a conclusion and they are able to delay action until they consider every option.

They begin to understand the process of transformation (for example, the metamorphosis of a mealworm into a beetle). They are able to understand that certain aspects of the environment are permanent and unchanged, despite changes in their appearance.

Time and Distance:

After the age of eight, children gain better understanding of the passage of time and they are able to classify past and future events according to how recently they occurred. The ability to understand the concept of distance improves as the child grows through the school years.

Classification and Seriation:

Children begin to understand the relationship between a whole and its parts, and can use this to classify objects in sequential order (for example girls may organize their dolls from their least favorite to their most favorite).

Memory and Language Development:

In general, children during this stage have a better long and short term memory capacity than do pre-schoolers. Their ability to communicate improves primarily because they become less concrete, less literal and less egocentric. School-aged children greatly expand their reading vocabulary and improve their understanding of words and word meanings. Emphasis should be placed on providing good literature for the children. Quality Islamic literature especially should be made available for the children to read and enable them to expand their language and religious concepts.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

During these middle years of development, children begin to spend more time with their peers and learn to share and cooperate with them. They can be separated from their parents for longer periods of time with little or no problem. At this point, parents can allow their child to make independent choices, thus helping him or her to prepare for the "real world." However, the selection of friends should be carefully screened by parents, as peers begin to assert greater influence on their children during this crucial time in their moral and social development.

Peer Relationships:

At this stage, children begin to form groups. Friendships are most likely to form between children of the same age, sex, race and among those who share common interests. (1) The most popular children within this age group tend to have good communication skills and they are able to interact well with old friends and new acquaintances.

Games undergo transition from being those that require a high expenditure of energy (such as jump rope and tag) to ones that are more competitive and organized (baseball, kickball). It is at this stage in a child's social development more than any other, that he or she is likely to conform to his/her peers.

(Footnote 1)

In an Islamic school setting, every effort should be made to discourage racial cliques and race should not be a factor in choosing friends among Muslims.

The Function of Peers:

The interaction between children of the same age group is vital at this stage. Through these interactions, children are able to transmit values and ideas and function as playmates and friends. A child's peers influence his or her behavior through modeling and reinforcement and they serve as a standard for comparison. It is important for parents to provide their school-aged children with a Muslim peer group, either through an Islamic school, Masjid, or through social activities.

EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Fear:

By the time children reach school age, most of their fears have subsided, since they are better able to separate reality from fantasy. On the other hand fears, such as of failure in school or rejection by teachers, peers and parents, begin to form within the child.

Aggression:

Children begin to engage in hostile aggression directed towards other people while verbal insults and playground fights that involve pushing, kicking, and hitting become more common. Emphasis on Islamic Akhlaq and manners should be constantly provided by the parents and teachers.

Understanding Others' Feelings:

Between the ages of six and twelve, children become more skilled at recognizing the causes of emotions in others (e.g. sadness is caused by a specific circumstance or incident). However, they have not yet reached the stage at which they can recognize emotions in others who are of a different age or when a situation that they are faced with is an unfamiliar one.

How to use elementary curriculum

IQRA' International Educational Foundation has developed a comprehensive course of study spanning the six years of Elementary schooling. This curriculum covers four areas of Islamic knowledge:

Qur'anic Studies

Sirah and Hadith of Rasulullah (S)

Fiqh and Ibadah (Islamic Akhlaq and Adab)

Islamic Social Studies: Geography and History of the Muslim people,

Islamic system of government and laws of economics for Muslims

We have also developed a separate curriculum for Qur'anic reading, recitation and study of the Arabic language.

The curriculum is comprehensive, in the sense that it covers all basic fields of study of Islamic education at each grade level. It is also very carefully graded, keeping in mind the cognitive, social, emotional and physical characteristics of elementary aged children at each grade level. Following are some special features of this course of study:

Statement of Philosophy:

The syllabus opens with an introduction and a statement of philosophy. We request you to read the statement and formulate a clearly defined philosophical basis for your school and classroom.

Characteristics of Elementary-Aged Children:

Under this heading is a brief description of the physical, cognitive, social and emotional development of elementary aged children. We urge you to read it and understand the behavior and learning process of children under your supervision in the school. Many teachers and parents will need more information about the developmental process of young children than that which is provided here, and this can be easily obtained by studying any of the recommended books on Child Development.

Scope and Sequence Chart:

This chart represents the total sequence of units to be covered during the course of one academic year of Elementary school. The term Scope refers to the amount of information which is made available to the children at a particular grade level.

The Scope of the Islamic history curriculum is developed keeping in mind the physical, cognitive, social and emotional development of children between the ages of six to twelve. The amount of time available to the teacher of Islamic history is also a contributing factor in determining the Scope.

The Scheme:

The course of study is a detailed description of the goals to be achieved during each year of study and over the period of six years of elementary schooling. The goals for each subject at each grade level are clearly defined at the beginning of each section. A few sample activities that may be implemented to achieve these goals are also provided. These activities are merely suggestions for guidance. The teachers are advised to develop their own lesson plans using the pattern of the Kindergarten curriculum lessons as a guide. The goals of each subject are independent enough to be specific to the content of the subject under study, yet integrated enough to present a comprehensive view of the area of study.

Scope and Sequence:

This is the actual planning of the range and order of the amount of information to be shared with students of a specific age group during any given class period. Sequence represents the order in which the entire course of study will be taught during the course of the year and further over the course of six years. The sequence guards the curriculum planners against unnecessary repetition of topics and the scope helps the teachers prepare each lesson at the level of understanding and maturity of the target audience. The depth and maturity of a well-developed and pedagogically conceived curriculum grows with each lesson and attempts to offer fresh challenges to both teachers and students.

Bibliography:

This section contains the recommended books for each subject at each grade level. Most of the textbooks and workbooks listed have been prepared and published by IQRA' International Educational Foundation as an integral part of its; '*Comprehensive and Systematic Program of Islamic Education*'. Each topic of the curriculum is covered in the recommended textbook and accompanying workbook. Within the last ten years, the field of Islamic literature for children has made tremendous progress and the number of books available has grown many-fold. Some of these relevant books have also been recommended as further reading.

At the end of the syllabus, a bibliography of children's books on Islam and Muslims has been provided for the teachers and parents to obtain for their children's enrichment and enjoyment. Insha Allah, our young children will grow to be fine examples of *Muttaqi' Mu'minun*.

Field Testing:

The entire syllabus has been thoroughly tested in a formal school setting under the direct supervision of in-house educators at IQRA' International Educational Foundation. It is only after suggestions and corrections made by cooperating school teachers and editors have been incorporated into this work that the present manuscript is ready for use in the classroom.

Geography Concepts

Knowledge and comprehension of geographical concepts of locations, time, space, distance and direction. Students should be provided with the opportunity to learn and build a schema of different places, distances and direction, by making their homes and countries a point of reference.

Statement of Performance Objectives	Examples
The Students will: Describe the position of people and places on the Earth's surface.	Direction of home from school Location of school from the Masjid Direction of the principal's office from the classroom
Describe physical and human characteristics of a place.	Describe their neighborhood, school, Masjid and other surroundings, etc.
Point out the relationship between people and their physical environment (systems interaction).	Weather; seasons; types of land; the way people dress; types of houses; urban life vs rural life.

Grade 1

Islamic Social Studies

Goal Two:

Geographical Skills

Geographical skills of using maps and field work

techniques in the study of the geography of a region.

Statement of Performance Objectives The Students will:	Examples
Follow simple directions.	Follow directions around the classroom, house and school.
Observe and talk about a place that is familiar to them.	Talk about <i>Masjid</i> , school, home, shopping center, a favorite store, a visit, etc.

Human Geography

Knowledge and comprehension of the concepts and related issues of:
population, settlement, communication and economic activities.

Statement of Performance Objectives The Students will:	Examples
Realize that people live in different types of houses.	Look at and discuss different kinds of houses, e.g. single family unit, duplex, apartment building, etc.
Understand and relate the relationship between the cultural conditions of a region and the kinds of houses built; know that people build and use the houses for different reasons.	High rises of Hong Kong, igloos of Eskimos, tents of the Bedouins, etc. Open airy house vs. closed warm houses, etc. Share pictures, films, videos of the occupancy and use of various kinds of buildings, office buildings, factories, homes, <i>Masajid</i> , schools, airports, etc.
Discuss transportation in the USA and other parts of the world.	Talk about transportation to school, stores, work, to another city, or country for <i>Hajj</i> : bicycle, train, car, bus, airplane, boat, etc.
Learn about the need for money and the need to work to earn money.	Talk about their parents' and relatives' professions.

Environmental Geography

Knowledge and comprehension of the concepts and related issues of:

the environment as an *Amanah* from Allah (SWA); using natural resources wisely and avoiding

their misuse; ways to guarantee the quality of the environment; the fact that the environment

is vulnerable to: steps to protect the environment; ways to better manage the environment.

Statement of Performance Objectives The Students will:	Examples
Identify Allah (SWA) as the Creator of the world and the environment.	Look at photographs of nature scenes with the thought in mind that Allah (SWA) has created everything.
Be able to identify different natural resources and identify the materials obtained from them.	Distinguish materials obtained from natural resources and those from synthetic, man-made materials; e.g. wood from trees and plants, milk from cows, goats, wool from sheep, etc.
Develop a personal preference for a clean and healthy environment.	Discuss the pros and cons of their classroom e.g. crowded, dirty or clean, quiet or noisy, dull or bright, ugly or beautiful, etc.

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Goal Five:

Physical Geography

Knowledge and comprehension of the concepts and related issues of:

the fact that the atmosphere consists of four basic spheres: the atmosphere,
the hydrosphere,

the lithosphere and the biosphere; all of which must be remain in equilibrium
for the survival

of the Earth and its inhabitants.

Statement of Performance Objectives	Examples
The Students will: Learn the four seasons and discuss the features that distinguish each season from the others.	Discuss the seasons during circle time. Use visual aids to describe different seasons (slides).
Recognize different elements of the environment (water, soil, air, rocks, sand, animals, plants, etc.) and understand their significance to the environment.	Recognize and name actual samples by looking at pictures. (Elements of the environment)

Grade 1

Islamic Social Studies

First Grade Curriculum:

Scope and Sequence

1. Islamic History

First graders should be taught the life and teachings of the following Prophets:

Prophets Ibrahim, Isma'il, Ishaq and Lut "*Alaihim as-Salam* (At this stage, children should know the stories of the following Prophets: Prophet Adam, Nuh, Hud, Salih and Ibrahim *Alaihim-as-Salam*).

2. Geography

The history and geography of Makkah, the Muslims' holiest city, should be introduced to the children at this level.

Makkah is the city in which Prophet Muhammad (S) was born

Makkah is in Saudi Arabia

Makkah is East of the Red Sea

The Ka'bah is in Saudi Arabia

It is very hot in the summer

The land is mostly desert; there are many hills

Important places to visit in Makkah are: *Masjid al-Haram*, Safa and Marwa, Zam Zam well,

Jannatul-Ma'lah

Begin to distinguish between man-made and natural materials

Discuss some of the ways in which the people of Makkah, Saudi Arabia live today

Compare the modern lives of the Saudis with those of during the time of Rasulallah (S)

Learn about the seasons in their own state and city; compare it to the climate in Makkah. For example, it snows during the winter in Chicago but it does not snow in Makkah

Animals of the desert compared with the animals of their own countries

Food, vegetables and fruits grown in Makkah, Saudi Arabia compared with that of their own countries.

Our School

Location of different rooms in the school building, well-known mosque close to the school.

Talk about familiar places, using simple geographical terms, e.g. the location relative to their school and home (very basic beginning level)

3. Economics

Money as a vehicle of exchange and interdependence

Money is used to buy goods; honest ways to earn money

Sharing our money with those who do not have enough; avoid wasting money

4. Civics

Civic Virtues: the human being as a social and religious being

Responsibilities of a young Muslim

Following Allah's commands

Following our Prophet's *Sunnah*

Obeying and respecting our parents and adults

Following rules at school and at home

Being considerate of and understanding towards others

Sharing with others

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