

# **The ISLAMIC CIVILISATION Course Guidebook**

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# DEDICATION

To my parents, who have raised me to be the person  
I am today. May Allah forgive them, increase their ranks  
And grant them Jannah.

**The ISLAMIC CIVILIZATION**  
Course Guidebook

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# Foreword

First and foremost, it is very important to note that the concept of worship in Islam is different from other religions. Worship in Islam is holistic in that it is comprised of everything a worshipper says, does and thinks of, as long as it pleases Allah ﷻ and is good for humanity and other creatures of the Majestic God.

One of the reasons for our existence on this planet earth is to develop our living conditions, which is part of worship. Therefore, all efforts that a person renders to develop the earth - obliging to Allah's commands and seeking His reward, is worship. Secondly, the first word revealed in the Noble Qur'an was "Iqra'a" translated as 'read'. The best knowledge in Islam is to learn how to worship Almighty Allah to seek His pleasure, as well as learning about His commands and prohibitions.

Secular knowledge is also encouraged if it is within the parameters of Islamic teachings.

Furthermore, it is very important to note the youth have played a pivotal role in spreading and defending Islam and Muslims, and they are our hope for the future. Since this is the case, to empower them with knowledge, is to secure a bright future for them and the entire humanity, by Allah's ﷻ Will.

There are many benefits of teaching the subject of Islamic Civilization to high school students, including the following:

- 1- As Muslims, their history is part and parcel of their identity, and acquiring such beneficial knowledge, will inculcate in them self-confidence and healthy pride (without feeling superior to others), and thus they will be active citizens wherever they reside or visit.
- 2- If they specialize in human relations, human intelligence and similar fields, this subject will be of great help to them.
- 3- It is an extraordinary example of how religion can fuel amazing changes, both individually and communally, in ways that improve life for all. It also shows how people of different cultures, races, economic levels and religions can live together in harmony. Furthermore, by preparing the youth with mentality, we are doing the whole world a great service.

- 4- Constructive leadership and readership in the Islamic Civilization was a beacon of light that propelled the Muslims to the peak of advancement and civilization. This fact will help inculcate in the minds of the students the attitude of learning history to avoid the mistakes committed in the past and to learn positive lessons upon which they will create a bright future with Almighty Allah's ﷻ help.
- 5- Learning the Islamic Civilization that is shaped with morality, through divine guidance, will inspire them to conscientious living, and empower them to develop their living conditions in tandem with the Islamic teachings.
- 6- Such an auspicious knowledge will help remove the stereotype that Islam has hitherto fostered ignorance, and thus, students will have equipped themselves with an effective tool to improve the image of Islam among its enemies.
- 7- This subject, if grasped well, will help the youth form friendships with non-Muslims, which will foster tolerance and understanding.
- 8- It will play a big role in recognizing normative Islam as a religion that promotes kindness and compassion, opposes violence and promotes a

middle way between extremes. This means speaking up when orientalist bigots demonize Muslims and degrades Islam. It also means, above all, educating non- Muslims in a serious way about the teachings of Islam.

Finally, when High School students learn, for example, the value of woman in the Islamic Civilization, its great cities, the spread of the Islamic Civilization to Europe and the eventual setback of the Islamic Civilization, they learn to appreciate their religion, become more confident and unapologetic to the detractors of Islam and Muslims, and use this as a tool to adopt moderation. Moreover, they will have the opportunity to learn from the past mistakes and avoid repeating them in the future.

May Almighty Allah ﷻ generously bless and guide whoever is involved with this commendable initiative.

**Hassan Twaha Bwambale**

TIES (Kuwaiti Society for cultural Dialogue) Manager

# Preface

Verily, all praise is due to Allah Almighty, and peace and blessings be upon the Prophet Mohammed ﷺ.

Civilization began from the time of the settlement of the first man on this earth. Almost every nation has contributed to the history of civilization. However, this contribution may vary from one nation to another, depending on the strength of the foundation on which these civilizations have been built and the impact they have had on humanity.

Based on this fact, Islamic civilization was founded on a great pillar: Islam religion. Islam has dominated the world for five centuries with its power, knowledge, law, science, politics, economy, and social structures. In addition, Islam was primarily responsible for creating a world civilization in which people of many different ethnic backgrounds participated and played a central role on a scale not witnessed before. Islam absorbed and added its culture to the heritage of Greece, Rome, Persia, Judaism, Christianity, and the Near East.

Due to the importance of introducing students of high schools as well as adults to Islamic civilization, and as a head of the Education Department in Islam Presentation Committee in Kuwait since 1998, and in response to the desire of the new Muslims to learn about Islamic civilization away from the views of the orientalist; I prepared this Course Guide Book on Islamic Civilization.

Learning about Islamic civilization is essential in building the identity of Muslim society. It helps them learn about Islamic history and culture and gives them an awareness of Islamic moral values. In this book, I will trace the emergence and development of Islamic civilization from the birth of the Prophet Mohammed ﷺ till the end of the Othman Caliphate.

The materials of this book are taken from authentic sources and written in simple, understandable language.

This course is comprised of nine chapters on aspects of Islamic civilization.

Finally, I pray to Almighty Allah ﷻ to accept this work as a humble effort from me and make it beneficial for those who will come across it.

Latifa N. AlSaeed

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## The ISLAMIC CIVILIZATION

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# Chapter 1

## Definition of Civilization

### Introduction

The first human life began on earth after Allah ﷻ created Adam ﷺ and made him settle down on earth.

Allah ﷻ said: *"And [mention, O Muhammad], when your Lord said to the angels, 'Indeed, I will make upon the earth a successive authority.'"* [2:30]

Adam set out to achieve the mission of the caliphate on earth. He and his progeny began with farming and husbandry. They developed their way of life because Allah ﷻ created man with an intelligent and conscious mind with which he can discover the secrets of the universe and sources of livelihood. People started building houses and mastering the engineering of their constructions.

People continued to multiply and evolve socially, culturally, and economically until they reached the point of making a civil society. This marked the rise of the old civilizations.

What is the meaning of civilization?

The term civilization means the process by which a society or a particular area reaches an advanced social and cultural development stage.

### **Characteristics of a civilization**

Sociologists have named several traits or elements that distinguish a civilization from other societies.

Progressive cities: These cities are usually centers for trade.

Organized central government: Leaders emerged to maintain order and establish laws.

Social structure: Organization of the society into groups known as social classes.

Advanced technology: New advances in science and technological innovations to meet people's needs.

Writing: Records needed to keep account of trade goods.

Art and architecture: Creative forms of expression such as literature, painting, architecture, and music.

Religion: A set of spiritual beliefs, values, and practices.

Economic system: How people use resources to meet their needs and make, distribute, and use goods and services.

Agricultural practice: How people grow and harvest their goods or herd their livestock.

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## Chapter 2

### Ancient Civilizations

**"Ancient civilizations"** is a term referring to the civilizations that existed in the ancient world (Africa, Asia, and Europe). Along with the foundation of people came many civilizations, such as Mesopotamia, Ancient Egypt, the Indus Valley civilization, The Chinese civilization, The Maya civilization, The Roman civilization, The Greek civilization, and some others.

Sociologists differed in determining the oldest civilizations; however, most of them agreed that the four major ones are:

#### 1- Mesopotamia: Era around 3500 BC

It is generally credited with being the first where civilized society began to take shape. Mesopotamia means the land between two rivers. Mesopotamia is a historical region of Western Asia situated within the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers in the northern part of the Fertile Crescent. Today it occupies the area of Iraq, parts of Iran, Turkey, and Syria. Mesopotamia tilled for

more than 10,000 years; it has been called the cradle of civilization. From that fertile land, Man started to develop the first cities. Its civilization bequeathed the earliest forms of organized government, religion, warfare, and literature. Significant Mesopotamian civilizations include the Sumerians, Assyrians, Acadians, Persians, and Babylonians.

Evidence shows extensive use of technology and law codes which are vital to the existence of cities, philosophy, and architecture. Mesopotamians were the first to develop a written language called cuneiform and plant and harvest crops for food. The Babylonian ruler Hammurabi wrote a famous government law or code.

### **2- Ancient Egypt: Era 3150 BC- 332 BC.**

It lasted for 2818 years. It was located in the Nile River valley of Egypt. It began when King Menes unified Upper and Lower Egypt and established a capital city in Memphis. The Egyptians made several social, cultural, and political advancements. Their notable achievement was The Great Pyramids, one of the world's wonders.

The ancient Egyptians developed construction techniques that enabled them to build massive monuments. Significant features of Ancient Egypt

civilization include arts, organized government, public works, irrigation, medicine, and the mummification of the dead. The Egyptian economic system was based on agriculture. They developed a form of writing known as hieroglyphics.



*The Great Pyramids of the Ancient Egypt*

### 3- Indus Valley civilization: Era 3300 BC -1300 BC

Its location is in South Asia (modern-day: Pakistan and North West India). This civilization has been dated from the Bronze Age. The people of the Indus Valley developed some technologies, including handicraft metallurgy with copper, bronze, lead, and tin, as well as a measurement system.

The significant features of the Indus Valley civilization are town planning, the construction of burnt- bricks houses, pottery, and gold jewelry, as well as the manufacturing of cotton and woolen textiles. The Archeologists know very little about the Indus Valley Civilization since they have yet to be able to read any of their languages. This civilization likely ended due to climate change and migration.

### 4-The Chinese civilization: Era 1600 BC -1046 BC

It lasted about 550 years; it started along the Yellow River during the Shang era. The Chinese civilization is famous for its rich culture, printing system, gunpowder, silk, tea production, deep drilling, compass and paper. One of ancient China's most significant inventions was the development of bronze. They mixed copper and tin to make a stronger alloy.

A single look at the legacy of ancient civilizations in writing, building, medicine, astronomy, and religious heritage confirms the principle of civilizational cross-fertilization of the neighbors. It shows how human knowledge accumulates to give each time a new pulse of life.

Other well-known civilizations were the Greek civilization in Italy, Sicily, and North Africa, current location Greece (2700-479 BC), famous for its political, philosophical, and artistic achievements. There was also the prosperous Persian civilization in Iran, Turkey, and Afghanistan approximately (550-331 BC) and the great Roman civilization in Western Europe and the Mediterranean basin approximately (550 BC-465 AC).

## Review Questions: Chapter 1 & Chapter 2

### Fill in the spaces:

- 1- A \_\_\_\_\_ is an organization that sets and enforces the rules and laws of a society.
- 2- An \_\_\_\_\_ is how people make, distribute and use goods and services.
- 3- The \_\_\_\_\_ civilization was famous for its political, artistic and Philosophical achievements.

### Choose the correct answer:

1-Mesopotamia means:

- a. Dry land
- b. The land between two rivers
- c. Plentiful and rich farmland

2-What famous Babylonian ruler left behind a law or a cod?

- a. Hammurabi
- b. King Menes
- c. King Chang

3-What civilization was the first to build pyramids?

- a. Ancient China
- b. Indus River Valley
- c. Egyptian

**True or False:**

- 1. ( ) Allah ﷻ created Adam ﷺ to achieve the mission of the caliphate on earth.
- 2. ( ) The Egyptian economic system was based on trade.

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3. (    ) The Chinese civilization lasted about 550 years.
4. (    ) Town planning was a significant feature of the Indus Valley civilization.
5. (    ) The Egyptians developed a form of writing known as Hieroglyphics.

**Name five elements that distinguish a civilization from other kinds of societies.**

1 \_\_\_\_\_

2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_

4 \_\_\_\_\_

5 \_\_\_\_\_

## Chapter 3

# The Islamic civilization

### Introduction

Of all human religions, Islam is the only one that works to be a suitable religion for the entire world because it offers easy and simple laws. Islam also orders people to deal with others with justice, mercy, love, and cooperation. Islamic civilization was a civilization that integrated the mind and soul, a feature that distinguished it from many previous civilizations. The spiritual and moral pillars are of great importance in Islamic civilization. One of its pillars is respecting other beliefs. In addition, Islam makes seeking knowledge an obligation for every Muslim. It is indeed a global religion that stimulates the demand for science and the building of the earth to raise its nations and peoples. These principles helped Islam and the Islamic world to play a central role in history.

Islamic history extends from the beginning of the Islamic call after the revelation came down on the Messenger Mohammed, then the establishment of the Islamic State in Madinah and the rule of the Rashidun (guided)

Caliphs, through the Umayyad State, the Abbasid State, Umayyad State in Andalus (Spain) to the Othman Caliphate which is the last Islamic State.

Within a century of establishing the first Muslim community in Madinah, Muslims succeeded in establishing a civilization extending from Southern France to the borders of India and China. This civilization upheld the torch of knowledge and education while Europe languished in a dark age. Dr. Abdulrahman Al- Hajji, a Professor of Islamic and Andalusian History, says:" If it weren't for Islam, Al Andalus would not have existed, and if it weren't for Andalus, the modern Western civilization would not have existed."

### Timeline of the Islamic History

**Rashidun Caliphate era:**

11-40 H

632 -661 AD

**Umayyad Caliphate era:**

41- 132 H

661-750 AD

**Abbasid Caliphate era:**

132-656 H

750- 1258 AD

**Umayyad Caliphate in Andalusia:**

138- 413 H

756-1031 AD

**Othman Caliphate era:**

699 -1299 H

1517-1924 A.D.

**The following is a brief summary of each era in the Islamic Civilization:**

**The Rashidun Caliphate:**

It started after the death of the Prophet Mohammed ﷺ in the year 11 H and ended with the death of Ali bin Abi Talib رضي الله عنه.

**The Umayyad Caliphate:**

It was established in 661 AD and lasted for about a century. Damascus was the capital of the Islamic world. This state stretched from the Western borders of China to Southern France.

### **The Abbasid Caliphate:**

The capital of Islam shifted to Baghdad, which became the core of arts and sciences. While the Abbasids ruled in Baghdad, many powerful dynasties, such as the Fatimids, Ayyubids and Mamluks, held power in Egypt, Syria and Palestine. On the other hand, The Safavid Empire was established in Persia.

The Abbasids ruled for over five centuries, and it ended when the Mongols captured Baghdad in 1258 AD.

In the 12th and 13th A.D. centuries, Islam entered India, Malaysia and Indonesia.

### **The Umayyad Caliphate in Andalus:**

It was established in 765 AD when the Umayyad house was defeated. One of them (Abd al-Rahman Al- Nasser) escaped to Spain, founding the Umayyad Caliphate there.

## **The Othman Caliphate:**

The Othman Empire was established in 1453 AD when Mohammed Al Fatih captured Constantinople and ended the Byzantine Empire. The empire reached as far as Hungary and Austria. This empire ended in 1924 after the First World War and lasted six centuries.

## **What does Islamic Civilization mean?**

Islamic Civilization is a set of achievements and creations founded and presented to humanity by Muslims in various fields of life, specifically in history, literature, art, science, architecture and politics: This civilization represents Muslims' advanced stages and distinguishes them from others.

The bases of the Islamic civilization are the Quran and the Sunnah of Prophet Mohammed ﷺ.

Allah ﷻ said: "There has come to you from Allah a light [Prophet Mohammed] and a clear Book [i.e., the Quran] by which Allah guides those who pursue His pleasure to the ways of peace and brings them out from darkness into the light, by His permission, and guides them to a straight path." [5:15-16]

### **The general framework of the Islamic civilization**

The Islamic civilization was one of humanity's greatest civilizations.

The first half of the middle ages, between the end of the fifth century and the end of the tenth century B.C., was called the dark ages; however, in the Islamic world, this period represents the ages of light and prosperity.

With the fall of the Roman Empire (in Western Europe) and the extinction of the ancient civilization, Islam emerged in the early seventh century. Thus the greatest civilization in the world began.

### **The Sources of the Islamic civilization:**

The Islamic civilization is one of the greatest civilizations the world has known because of its role in the history of humanity.

The Sources of the Islamic civilization are:

1. The Islamic religion
2. Arabism
3. The civilization of the conquered lands

## 1-The Islamic religion

Islam is the source of the existence of Islamic Culture and civilization. Tawheed, the act of affirming Allah to be the One absolute God, is the essence of the Islamic civilization. It is that which gives the Islamic civilization its identity. Because Islam considers humans the centerpiece of this world, it has indeed covered all aspects of human life, from the acts of worship and legislation to ethics and etiquette.

Muslims established their state within the framework of Islam, as a religion and as a form, and moved according to its rules and principles. The history of Islam concerns the political, social, economic, and cultural developments of Islamic civilization.

## 2- Arabism

The Islamic civilization was born in an Arab region. Arabs were the ones who came out of the Arabian Peninsula to proclaim Islam in their tongues. And they were the ones who bore the burden of building the Islamic state; they also adopted the Arabic language as a flexible tool through which they express themselves, their spirits, and their ideas.

### 3-Civilization of the conquered lands, which are:

- a) Persian civilization
- b) Roman and Greek civilization

The Islamic civilization benefited from various elements of past civilizations and thus picked up from those elements that did not contradict its spirit, values, and ideals. Muslims started to devote themselves to studying these civilizations and borrowing from them what is in harmony with the nature of Islam. With their experience and scientific research, Muslims have developed what they have taken from the Greeks.

In fact, it was the Muslims who created experimental scientific research in the field of chemistry, physics, mathematics, and Algebra.

So through the Islamic civilization, different civilizations met and mixed. Thus, Islam completed their shortcomings based on the teachings of the Noble Quran and the Sunnah of the Prophet Mohammed.

## Characteristics of the Islamic Civilization

### 1-Based on faith

Islamic civilization is the first universal civilization based on a correct primary faith: the faith in Almighty Allah as the One and the Only being, who is the Creator, Sustainer, and Master of the whole universe. It also believes in all Allah's Books and Prophets. This belief has a direct impact on the lives of people and society.

### 2-Universality

The Islamic civilization was a universal civilization; Islam came to the entire humanity. It declared the equality of all human beings regardless of color, race, or creed. Islam does not allow racial, linguistic, or ethnic discrimination; it stands for universal humanism.

### 3-Tolerance

Tolerance towards people of different religions (especially Christians and Jews) is the most important characteristic of the Islamic civilization. All minorities enjoyed a high level of tolerance and freedom of religion. This is proven through the constitution of Madinah. After the arrival of

the Prophet Mohammed ﷺ. in Madinah, he established a city-state where Muslims and non-Muslims dwell harmoniously. All religious communities are free to follow their laws and traditions.

#### 4-Moderation

Moderation (wasatiya) refers to a justly balanced way of life, avoiding extremes. Islam is a moderate religion that follows a middle course between exaggeration and negligence. This moderation permeates all aspects of life, from worship to lifestyle.

Allah ﷻ said: **“And thus we have made you a community (of the) middle way”**

[2:143]

#### 5-Human civilization

The Islamic civilization came to embrace all peoples and nations, not limited to a human race or a particular geographical region. It focuses most of its attention on man and achieving well-being and happiness in this life and the hereafter. In addition, it preserves one's dignity and promotes their spiritual, social, intellectual, and economic life level.

## **6-Civilization of love and peace**

Islam, without a doubt, is a religion of peace which is its primary principle. It is also a religion of love, mercy, and tranquility. Islam emphasizes harmony in communication with all Muslims and non-Muslims in society. It stresses compassion, tolerance, and patience. Therefore, peace prevailed throughout the Islamic world to traders who safely crossed the deserts and seas.

## **7-Based on knowledge**

Islam commanded knowledge upon all Muslims and urged them to seek it as far as they could reach. The Quran encourages one to think, ponder, reflect, and acquire knowledge that would bring them closer to Allah ﷻ and His creations.

## **8- Civilization of morals and values**

Ethics and values in Islamic civilization represent the spiritual aspect of it. These morals and values aim to determine human activities in a Muslim society and promote and control their behavior to benefit the whole community and its individuals.

## The factors of the rise of the Islamic civilization

As Islam spread across the Arabian Peninsula and later across North Africa and the Middle East, Muslim scholars used to teach the people of these countries the Quran, the Prophetic sunnah (hadith), fiqh (Islamic legal rulings) in addition to the Arabic language. All those mentioned are considered to be the factors of the rise of the Islamic civilization.

### 1-The Noble Quran

The Noble Quran is considered a comprehensive constitution of the Islamic nation because it is essential in the life of the individual, family, community, and nation. The verses of the Quran deal with the construction of the personality, conscience, intellect, and thinking of people; therefore, it is considered the foundation of the Islamic civilization together with the sunnah of the Prophet Mohammed ﷺ and the Arabic language. These foundations, from the intellectual method of a nation, determine its identity and features.

The Noble Quran included the foundations of civilization, from cultivating the mind and purifying the soul. Moreover, it has joined Muslims as brothers

regardless of color, race, language, or ethnicity. That is why the Islamic nation was central to the world and history. Moreover, Verses of the Quran consider humans responsible for serving the earth and humankind.

## 2-The Prophetic Sunnah (Hadith)

Hadith is the sayings and practices attributed to the Prophet Mohammed ﷺ that collectively form the sunnah. Muslims can find all requirements of their life from the Quran and the Sunnah of the Prophet Mohammed ﷺ. Indeed the Prophetic Sunnah is considered a source of religious law and moral guidance. Hadith (traditions) of the Prophet Mohammed ﷺ have been called the backbone of the Islamic civilization. Prophetic hadith stress the value of knowledge; Which helps Muslims, especially scholars, to seek different kinds of knowledge. Undoubtedly, the implications of the hadith of the Prophet ﷺ contribute to the achievement of various aspects of the Islamic civilization and the betterment of humanity.

## 3-Fiqh (Islamic law)

Fiqh deals with the observance of rituals, morals, social and economic legislation in Islam, as well as a political system. Muslims follow the ideal

form of divine guidance to live righteous lives. In general, Islamic Shariah has come to the benefit of the individual and the community; its laws are designed to protect these benefits and facilitate the improvement and perfection of the life of all Muslims.

#### **4-Arabic language**

As the Quran's language, studying Arabic is of great importance to the new converts in the countries opened by Muslims. Millions of converts of all ages joined Arabic training programmers to master the Arabic language to understand the Quran and grasp its meanings, which everyone desired. The Arabic language was the tool for transmitting Greek, Roman, and Persian traditions to the Islamic world, as Muslim scholars could translate the works of these ancient civilizations into Arabic.

## Review Questions: Chapter 3

### Fill in the spaces:

- 1- The first Muslim community was established in \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2- The bases of the Islamic civilization are the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3- The mosque Prophet ﷺ built in Madinah was considered the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Islamic government.
- 4- In Islam, all human beings are \_\_\_\_\_ regardless the color, gender, or creed.
- 5- Seeking knowledge is \_\_\_\_\_ in Islam.

### Choose the correct answer:

1. The Umayyad Caliphate succeeded the:

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- a. Abbasid Caliphate
- b. Rashidun
- c. The Othman Empire

2. The Abbasid Caliphate was destroyed by the following:

- a. Mongol
- b. Byzantine
- c. The Persian

3. Mohammed Al-Fatih conquered:

- a. Constantinople
- b. Damascus
- c. Baghdad

### True or False:

1. ( ) During the flourishing of the Islamic civilization, Europe was in a dark age.
2. ( ) Tawheed is the essence of Islamic civilization.
3. ( ) Islamic civilization started in the year 521 AC.
4. ( ) Islam concerns only the religious and social development of the Islamic civilization.
5. ( ) The Safavid Empire was established in Persia.

### Write three sentences about the importance of the Noble Quran to the Islamic Civilization:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

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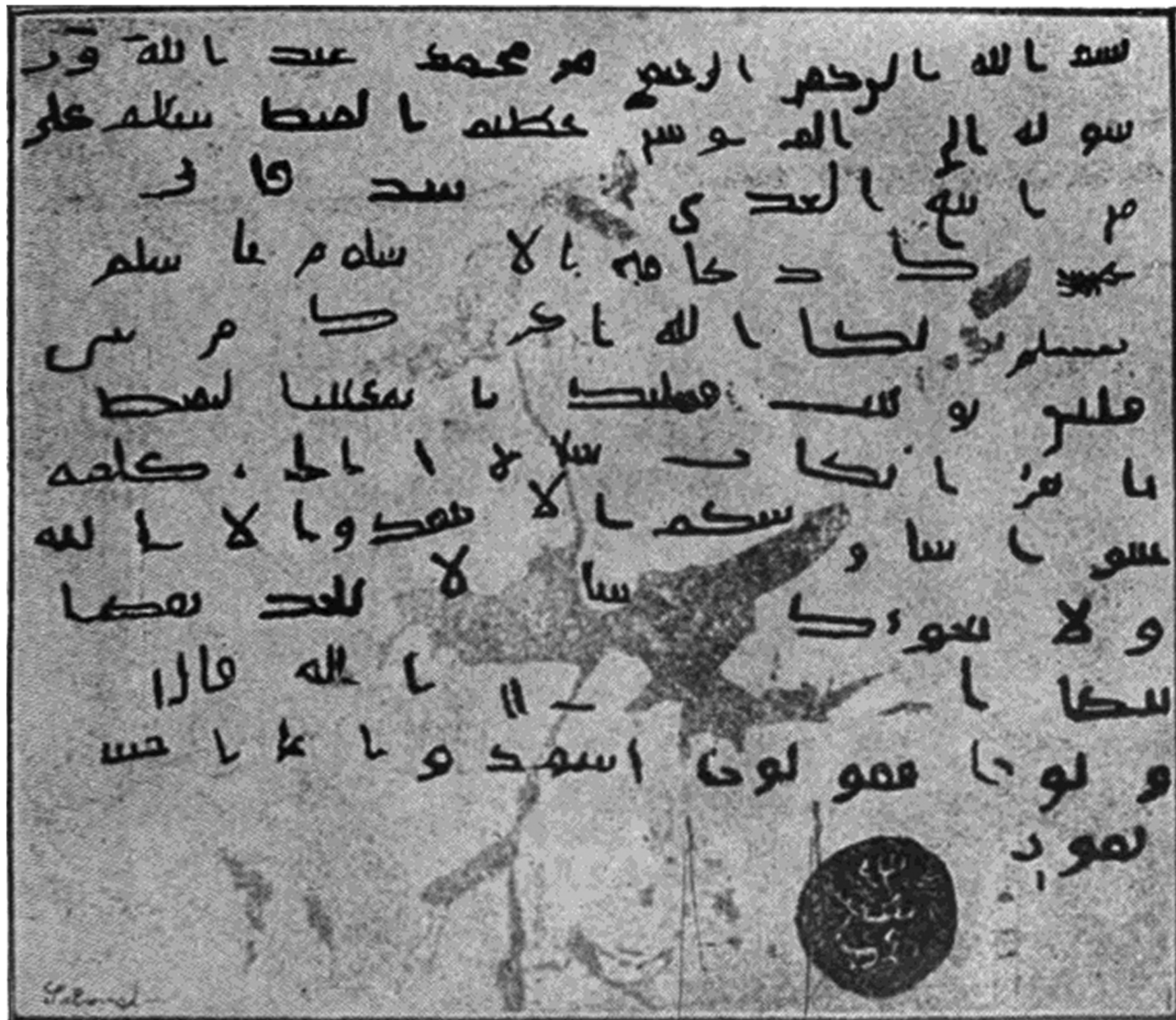
## Chapter 4

### Features of the Civilization in the Islamic State

(The Rashidun's Caliphate era 11-40 H - 632-661 AD)

#### Prophet Mohammed ﷺ and the rise of the Islamic civilization

The Islamic civilization started in 622 AD (the seventh century) when Prophet Muhammad ﷺ migrated to Madinah. There, he built a modest mosque which became the center of the Islamic government as the Prophet ﷺ assumed greater educator, political and religious authority. Prophet Mohammed's journey as a statesman proves that he put all his efforts into establishing a modern Islamic society.



The Prophet's ﷺ letter to the kings and leaders

## The Rashidun's Caliphate civilization

The Rashidun (Rightly-Guided) Caliphate (11-40 H 632-661 AD) is the period in Islamic history that immediately followed the death of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, during which the Rashidun Caliphs: (Abu Bakr al-Sideeq, Umar bin-Khattab, Othman bin Affan and Ali bin Abi Talib) ruled. Rashidun's Caliphate was a period of state formation and construction, during which the Islamic political system expanded rapidly throughout the Near East, developing important military, legal, and economic structures that helped ensure the success of the state.

## The aspects of the Islamic civilization in the era of the Rashidun Caliphate

**1. Al-Futuhāt:** (the spreading of Islam) refers to the victorious campaigns outside the Arab Peninsula carried out by the Prophet ﷺ and his followers under the flag of Islam. The term does not mean conquest in the literal sense; instead, it refers to the opening of the hearts and minds of the people of these lands to the truth of Islam. The Islamic conquests included Iraq, Syria, Persia, Egypt, Khurasan, North Africa, Libya, Cyprus, Afghanistan, and Armenia. The protection of non-Muslim citizens living within Muslim borders is granted by paying taxes (jizyah).

Most of the Islamic conquests took place during the reign of the second Caliph Umar ibn Al-Khattab رضي الله عنه, and the Arab tribes began to settle in the new countries and work to spread Islam among their people. The vast majority of the people of those countries converted to Islam.

The Rashidun Caliphate reached the height of its expansion during the reign of the third Caliph, Uthman bin Affan رضي الله عنه. Its lands extended from the Arabian Peninsula to Sham and the Caucasus in the north, from Egypt to Tunisia in the West, and from the Iranian plateau to Central Asia in the east. Thus, the state absorbed all the lands of the Persian Sassanid Empire and about two-thirds of the grounds of the Byzantine Empire.

In the era of the Rashidun Caliphate, several military leaders who occupied a prominent place in the world of historical conquerors have emerged since then. Among them: Khalid bin Al-Waleed, Amr bin Al-Aas, Saad bin Abi Waqqas, Abu Ubaidah ibn al Jarrah, Yazeed bin Abi Sufyaan, Dhirar bin AlAzwar, Al Qa'qaa' bin al Azwar, Shurhabeel bin Hasnah, and Al Mugheerah bin Shu'bah رضي الله عنه.



Al-Futuhat in the era of the Rashidun Caliphate

## 2. The political and the judicial system

The political system in Islam is the finest system known to mankind. The Noble Quran did not define a method of rulership in the Islamic world but rather set the principle of shura as its basis. The Caliph is elected by the shura council (consultation). Allah ﷻ revealed the verses of shura in the Quran.

Allah ﷻ said: **“And those who have responded to their Lord and established prayer and whose affair is [determined by] consultation among themselves, and from what We have provided them, they spend.”** [42:38]

Muslims applied criteria not preceded in previous empires in choosing a ruler (Khalifah), mainly faith, rationality, and integrity. The essential foundations of this system are:

- a. In appointing princes of the states, governors, and judges; Rulers take into account the requirements of the public interest away from emotions; they employ the strong and the trustworthy ones.
- b. Monitoring the governors of the states and the judges in their work and holding them accountable if they fall short.

### **3- Independence of the judiciary:**

The judiciary in Islamic states is separated from the authority of the governors. Judges are given high salaries to abstain from corrupt practices and illicit commissions.

## Other features of the Rashidun era:

- ❁ Establishing the Diwan which is similar to the ministry in our time.
- ❁ Establishing baitulmal, which served as state treasury for the caliphs. It functions by managing the state expenditures due to the large amount of money that reached the Muslims' treasury due from tax (jizyah) and zakat.
- ❁ The first written text of the Quran was compiled. Creating one specific text of the Quran in one dialect helped unify Muslims everywhere. Therefore, the teaching of the Quran spread more in almost all the Islamic states.
- ❁ Creating the Islamic calendar starting at the date of the Hijrah of Prophet Mohammed ﷺ.
- ❁ Building public facilities, establishing prisons, army, and public treasury departments.
- ❁ Using a policy of religious tolerance: Islam does not force anyone to convert to Islam. Non-Muslims are allowed to worship their

religion in return for accepting Islamic rules, and a special tax called jizyah is paid for their safety in the state.

- ✿ The formation of the army began during the era of the Messenger Mohammed ﷺ when Allah ﷻ prescribed Jihad.
- ✿ The Islamic State was keen to be strong by being economically self-sufficient. The Caliph Umar ibn Al-Khattab was eager to leave the conquered lands in the hands of their original owners to be a continuous source of income for the state to prepare the armies and cover the expenses of the state. The state took care of its financial resources through zakat, tax, levies, and spoils.
- ✿ Introducing economic reforms, most notably the new coins.
- ✿ The expansion of the state caused the Arabs to quote foreign administrative systems for the first time. They followed the Byzantine and Persian administrative organizations and divisions. They kept some of them as they were and modified others to suit current conditions.
- ✿ Establishing and planning two cities in Iraq: Kufah and Basrah, and two cities in Egypt: Fustat and Giza.

- ❁ Culture and education were in continuous progress during the era of the Rashidun Caliphate due to the doctrinal, intellectual, and social harmony and the clarity of the general objectives of the state. The foundation of the educational system was the state's responsibility; Prophet Mohammed ﷺ sent teachers to the people living in the deserts to inform them about the teachings of Islam. Following his footsteps, Umar ibn Al-Khattab رضى الله عنه sent the regional governors to teach people all over the state the Quran and the Sunnah of the Prophet Mohammed ﷺ. Education was free for all; the state bore the education responsibility, so the poor and rich had the same chance at education. Umar ibn Al-Khattab رضى الله عنه allocated five Dirhams for the teachers of the children.

Given these characteristics of the educational and cultural movement, Muslims were able in a short time to become the masters and teachers of the world because they were open-minded and long-sighted. In addition, Muslims learned about the different cultures of the countries they conquered, such as Persia, Sham, Egypt, and others.

## Review Questions: Chapter 4

### Fill in the spaces:

- 1-The Islamic State expanded rapidly throughout the Near East during the \_\_\_\_\_ caliphate.
- 2- Baitulmal served as state \_\_\_\_\_ in the Islamic state.
- 3-Muslims learned about the different cultures of the countries they conquered, such as \_\_\_\_\_, Sham, and Egypt.
- 4- The Islamic state bore the responsibility of \_\_\_\_\_, so it is free.

### Choose the correct answer:

1. The Rashidun Caliphate reached the height of its expansion during the reign of:
  - a. Uthman bin Affan
  - b. Umar ibn Khattab
  - c. Ali bin Abi Talib

2. Two cities were established in Iraq during Rashidun Caliphate which are:

- a. Damascus and Baghdad
- b. Fostat and Jeezah
- c. Basrah and Kufah

3. Umar ibn Khattab was keen to leave the conquered lands in the hands of their original owners to be:

- a. A continuous source of income for the state.
- b. To cover the expenses of the armies.
- c. Both.

#### True or False:

1. ( ) Madinah mosque was the center of the Islamic government at the time of Prophet Mohammed.
2. ( ) The starting point of the Islamic calendar is the date of the birth of Prophet Mohammed.
3. ( ) Most of the Islamic conquests took place during the reign Abu Bakr al-Sideeq.
4. ( ) Protection of the non-Muslim citizens living within Muslim borders are granted by paying taxes (jizyah).
5. ( ) In Islam, the principle of shura is the basis for the political system.

#### Name three Muslim military leaders at the time of the Rashidun

##### Caliphate:

1- \_\_\_\_\_

2- \_\_\_\_\_

3- \_\_\_\_\_

## Chapter 5

### Features of the Civilization in the Islamic State

(From the Umayyad Caliphate era to the Othman Caliphate era)

#### The Intellectual and scientific life in Islam

Nearly one thousand years, from the first to the tenth Islamic century, say from about 700 to 1700 AD, Islam was primarily responsible for the creation of a world civilization in which people of many different ethnic backgrounds played a central role in developing the intellectual and cultural parts in the lives of the people who entered its fold. During this period, scholars, engineers, and traders of the Islamic world contributed enormously to the arts, economy, industry, literature, and science by preserving and building upon earlier traditions or by adding many inventions and innovations of their own. By 900 AD, Muslims had established a whole Islamic empire, the largest the world had ever seen.

As mentioned earlier, Quran is considered a reference for all who seek an open and public source of truth. Therefore, all Islamic civilization and cultural aspects are found in the Quran. Without the Quran, there could have been no Islamic state, law, society, politics, or economy.

Islam contributed significantly to humanity by making seeking knowledge a widespread issue. Before Islam, scholars such as Aristotle, Plato, and Socrates used to isolate themselves from people. Most people were far from learning and scholars, until Islam came and made seeking knowledge obligatory for every Muslim.

Prophet Mohammed ﷺ said: ***“Seeking knowledge is an obligation upon every Muslim”*** [Sunan Ibn Maajah]

In the Islamic civilization, an atmosphere of freedom and tolerance was spread, allowing for the benefit of constructive elements in the heritage of former Jews, Christians, or Pagans. Islam did not prevent Muslims from learning practical knowledge from a non-Muslim teacher.

Naturally, religious thought is at the forefront of the scientific movement in Islam. In that sense, Muslims were keen to understand the teachings of the Quran as it is considered the constitution of Islam and Muslims.

## The universality of Islamic civilization

The social and cultural unity that had developed since the era of Rashidun continued through the Umayyad Caliphate and then matured under the Abbasid Caliphate and continued to be great and active. Most of the population of the Islamic world converted to Islam within the first three centuries of Hijrah. Although the Christian and the Jewish communities remained present within the house of Islam, they were not isolated groups but instead participated in making the Arab- Muslim civilization; and that is thanks to the talents of its children and thanks to the fact that Islam recognized the existence of the others in a system of mutual rights and duties.

## The Islamic golden age

The Islamic golden age was a period of cultural, economic, and scientific flourishing in the history of Islam, dated from the eighth century to the fourteenth century A.D.; this period began during the reign of the Abbasid Caliph Haroon al-Rasheed (786 to 809 AD) with the inauguration of the House of Wisdom in Baghdad, the world largest city by then. Muslim and non-Muslim scholars from various parts of the world with different cultural

backgrounds gathered and translated all of the known world's classical knowledge gained from the ancient Roman, Greek, Persian, Chinese, Indian, and North African into the Arabic language.

### **The translation movement and the role of the Arabic language as a bridge for civilizations**

The translation movement played a significant role in the Islamic golden age. It was the most cultural activity in the Abbasid era because caliphs at that period wanted to make Greek texts and works available to the Arab world.

For example, they translated Greek books in philosophy, medicine, and astronomy. They translated Indian books in the field of astronomy and mathematics, and they translated Persian books in the field of literature. So the Arabic language became the language of sciences, literature, arts, philosophy, and culture because it included the heritage of people who embraced Islam. When the Islamic civilization moved to Europe, the translation movement significantly affected the development of scientific knowledge as many works of Muslim scientists on different fields were translated from Arabic to Latin by Sicilian translators.

## Industry of Paper

A significant innovation of this period was paper, initially guided by the Chinese. The art of papermaking was obtained from Chinese prisoners taken at the battle of Talas, which took place between the Abbasid Caliphate and the Chinese in 751 AD. This resulted in paper mills being built in Samarkand and Baghdad. The Arabs improved upon the Chinese techniques of making paper. By the end of the 9th century, hundreds of shops employed scribes and binders for books in Baghdad. From there on, the paper industry spread west to Andalusia and Europe in the 13th century.

## Education in the Islamic civilization

Great nations are built with knowledge mainly. That's why the first word revealed in the Noble Quran was "Iqra" which means read! Seek knowledge! Educate yourself!

Islam identified itself with knowledge. It equated the pursuit of knowledge with ibadah (worship). As our Prophet Mohammed ﷺ said: ***"Seeking knowledge is obligatory for every Muslim."***

"narrated by Ibnu Majah"

So it was unacceptable for a Muslim not to learn and educate himself.

During the era of the Rashidun, education became one of the main issues. After the expansion of the Islamic state, during the Umayyad and Abbasid Caliphate era of 661-1258 AD, Muslims began to establish "Al katateeb," the earliest Islamic form of school for young students. These katateeb were attached to a mosque where the resident scholars and imams would hold classes for children. These classes would cover topics such as memorizing Quran, essential Arabic reading and writing, arithmetic, and Islamic law. These katateeb spreaded almost in all Islamic cities as there were nearly 300 in each town.

Teachers received material and moral support from rulers, parents as well as society as a whole. After completing the curriculum, students could go on with their adult life and find an occupation or move on to higher education in a "madrasa," an Arabic word for school. In madrasa, students would be educated further in religious sciences, Arabic language, geography, astronomy, literature, and poetry.

In 1100 AD, there were 75 madrasas in Cairo, 51 in Damascus, and 44 in Aleppo. There were hundreds more in Muslim Spain at that time as well.



*Timbuktu University: The First African University, established in the year 989 A.D*

### **The development of libraries**

The necessity of preserving the Quran and hadith awakened the spirit of collecting such writings in various forms, which paved the way for establishing the earliest libraries in the Muslim world. During the early decade of Islam, mosques formed the nerve centers of all political, social, religious, and educational activities. Most importantly, it housed valuable libraries comprising books on religion and different fields of science. Under the Abbasids, Muslims formed the vanguard of civilization; during this period, the Muslim world became the unrivaled intellectual center for science, medicine, and education; they established:

#### **1- Darul Hikmah (house of wisdom) in Baghdad:**

This library was founded by great Abbasid Caliph Haroon-ar-Rasheed, and was divided into two sections; one was concerned with the translation work, and the other related to the collection of books and housing an extensive library. In addition, many other libraries in Baghdad were attached to schools (Madaris); each contained thousands of books and manuscripts. There were also private individual libraries, which were not open to the general public but were available to scientists, philosophers, researchers, and writers.

## **2- Darul-Ilm (house of wisdom) in Cairo:**

On the same pattern, a library of Darul Al-Ilm was established in Cairo in the year 395H (1005 AD) to emulate that of Darul Hikamah in Baghdad. It contained 40 departments, and there were 18 thousand books in each department.

## **3- The library of Cordoba in Andalus:**

Cordoba had seventy public libraries, the largest of which is named the Library of Cordoba, established in 273 H. It contained half a million books, among them 4000 volumes. This library contained many departments, including the Book Hall, the Research and Authoring Center, the Translation Center, the Audit, and the Revising Center.

## **4- Baytu Al Hikamah (house of wisdom) in Qairowan (Tunis):**

This library contained essential and Authentic Arabic books and was a center for translating from Hebrew, Latin, and Greek. In addition to that, it was also a complex for research and study.

Furthermore, in the cities of the eastern provinces of the Islamic world, several libraries were established. Such cities include Mosul, Basrah, Shiraz, Rayy, etc. There were also similar libraries in Aleppo and the major cities of Iran and Central Asia. Hence, there were public and private libraries in every Muslim city.

### **The intellectual and scientific achievements of the Islamic civilization**

The Islamic civilization significantly contributed to the advancements in many fields, including literature, science, and medicine. It is essential to point out that there are sciences to which only Arabs have contributed to their emergences, like the religious sciences and the sciences of the Arabic language. In other physics or chemistry sciences, Arabs and non-Arab scientists and Muslims contributed to their emergence.

### **The Religious Sciences:**

#### **The Sciences of the Quran “Ulum al-Quran.”**

The pursuit of understanding the Quran led to the emergence of several sciences called “Ulum al-Quran,” meaning “the Sciences of the Quran,” that fall into:

- The recitation of the Quran (Tilawah and Tajweed)
- The stages of the revelation of the Quran
- The understanding and implementation of the Quran (causes of the revelation)
- The science of interpretation of the Quran (Tafseer)

Therefore, the knowledge of Ulum al-Quran is a vast field of Islamic scholarship. Ibn Abbas and Abdullah bin Masoud (may Allah be pleased with them) were the first exegetes. Other names include Al-Qurtubi, Ibn Katheer, Ibn Jarir, and Al-Tabari, who were famous interpreters of the Quran.

### **The Sciences of Hadith “Ulum al-Hadith.”**

Studying Ulum al-Hadith (The science of hadeeth) is one of the sciences unique to the Islamic nation. It is the comprehensive study of the hadith of the Prophet Mohammed ﷺ. It refers to all of the technical knowledge we learn about the narration of hadith (traditions) of the Prophet Mohammed ﷺ such as isnad (the chain of many narrators), matn (the actual text of hadith), as well as the category of hadith (authentic, acceptable, weak, fabricated).

Studying Ulum al-Hadith is of great importance in the life of a Muslim because it represents the heritage of their Prophet, which Muslims must emulate in their private and public lives.

During the life of the Prophet ﷺ and the era of the rightly guided Caliphs, there was no regular compilation of the traditions, for they were not generally recorded in writing. However, they were orally transmitted among scholars until some scholars set the rules and the foundation of this science to protect it from lying and fraud. After that era, interest in hadith increased significantly on two accounts. Firstly, the companions who knew the hadith were gradually passing away. Secondly, the number of converts was growing, and they showed tremendous eagerness to learn about the traditions of the Prophet. Therefore some scholars devoted their lives to collecting the traditions from different learning centers.

In the first and second Hijri century, the "Al Muwatta" of Imam Malik (93- 179 H) was the first well-arranged collection of traditions. While the third Hijri century (200 to 300 H) was considered the golden age in Hadith science.

Six famous scholars produced collections of Hadeeth. The earliest compilation is the great Musnad of Ahmed bin Hanbal (164-241 H). There is also Saheeh Bukhari (194-256 H), Saheeh Muslim (206-261 H), Sunan Abu Dawoud (202-275 H), Sunan Ibnu Majah (209-273 H), Sunan Tirmithi (209-279 H), and Sunan Annasai (215-303 H).

When these famous scholars compiled these six books, later hadith scholars considered them the best reliable and trustworthy collections of Hadeeth; they adopted them and took care of their narration and scrutiny.

### **The science of Jurisprudence (al Fiqh)**

It is the science of extracting practical religious regulation either from primary sources, which are the **Quran** and the **hadith** or from secondary sources, which are **Ijma'a** (consensus) which means the agreement of the Muslim scholars or **Qiyas** (analogy).

This science aims to serve the legal basis of the Muslim community. After the death of the Prophet ﷺ, many events and cases arose that required the exercise of opinions (ijtihad) and derivation of the rules from the Quran and the Sunnah of the Prophet ﷺ. Juristic thought gradually developed in study circles, where independent scholars met to learn from a local master and discuss religious topics.

Four main fiqh schools (Madhahib) have emerged in this field: Al-Hanbali School, Al- Shafi'i School, Al- Maliki School, and Al- Hanafi School.

### **The Sciences of Arabic Language**

The Arabic language sciences were flourishing in parallel with religious sciences. These sciences and related studies have also progressed considerably to a large degree. Many branches of the Arabic language have emerged, such as grammar, syntax, linguistics, prose, and poetry. The first scholar who identified and organized the rules of Arabic grammar was Abu al-Aswad al-Du'ali, who was later followed by Alkhalil bin Ahmed.

During the Abbasid Caliphate, The Arabic poetry field flourished to be the most popular literature. Poetry was a significant way that the Abbasids used to express their cultural values. Poets used to praise the caliphs for gaining fame and gifts. Nonetheless, the value of this literature was proven worthy during that era as it was used as means of entertainment as well as establishing knowledge through poetry recitation.

### **Social Institutions**

Social institutions are an integral part of human society. They unite people and maintain harmony in society by providing unified patterns of behavior

that all members follow. They provide emotional, material, and physical support for the community.

Islam encourages the beliefs and practices that serve the needs of society. The Islamic Shari'a enjoins its followers to maintain cooperation, solidarity, and unity of feelings within the Islamic society, humankind, the environment, and all surroundings.

Allah ﷻ said: ***"And cooperate in righteousness and piety, but do not cooperate in sin and aggression."*** [5:2]

As this verse from the Quran indicates, Muslims' interaction with others was based on relationships, rights, and responsibilities in ways that brought a peaceful coexistence.

The Prophet ﷺ founded social institutions and continued after him to the present day. Since the beginning of Islam, Islamic law has taken care of those who are less privileged by enjoining giving zakat and sadaqah, and encouraged voluntary charity to those who need it.

Allah ﷻ said: ***"And give them from the wealth of Allah which He has given you."*** [24-33]

Waqf (endowment), which means the permanent dedication (sadaqah jareyah) by a person of any of his assets, is also another type of donation for general charitable causes like building social properties such as mosques, hospitals, schools, and other public spaces.

For example, there used to be a special waqf building dedicated to pilgrims' rest stops and many awqaf houses devoted to the elderly, widows, and poor women.

In Damascus, there were awqaf dedicated to the insane and blind people, and even a waqf for poor girls to get married. In some countries, there was a special waqf for lending jewelry to brides for their weddings.

In the Othman era, the British diplomat Paul Rycaut (1629-1700 AD) noted that Istanbul had many awqaf dedicated to caring for cats and dogs, where entire buildings were devoted to the welfare of stray animals. Thus Islam offers many forms of charity that Muslims can observe to promote social welfare for the disadvantaged in a community.

## **The achievement (contribution) of the Islamic civilization in sciences**

During the golden age, Islamic society was improved by innovation, education, and creativity, all backed up by rigorous scientific experimentation. Muslim scholars' experiments, discoveries, and inventions are still influencing modern science and technology.

The scientific contribution of Islamic scholars to the scientific world is immense, from trigonometry and algebra to optics, chemistry, astronomy, and other scientific fields. Massive translations made Greek, Roman, and Sanskrit knowledge available to Islamic scholars.

### **Medical science**

The contribution of Muslims to medical science was enormous.

Building on Hellenic, Persian, and Hindu sources, Muslim physicians advanced medical knowledge enormously. Perhaps, their most significant achievement was establishing medicine as a science based on observation and experimentation rather than conjecture. More considerable advances include the art of healing, especially in curative drugs. They made careful clinical observations of diseases and laid the foundation of medical advances in Europe during the Renaissance.

**But who are the greatest Islamic minds in medicine, and what are their achievements?**

**-Al-Razi (864-923AD):** A Muslim physician and polymath from Iran, best known for his twenty-volume comprehensive medicine book. Al- Razi was the first physician who describes the symptoms and signs of smallpox and measles. He was also the first to invent ointments.

**-Al-Zahrawi (936-1013AD):** A Muslim physician born in Al-Zahraa in Andalusia, he wrote a 30-volume Arabic encyclopedia on medicine and surgery. Considered one of the great pioneers of operative surgery, he invented over 200 surgical tools. He also promoted using alcohol as an antiseptic in wounds. He applied ligature for bleeding vessels and internal stitching using the cat's intestine.

**-Ibn Sina (Avicenna) (980-1037AD):** A Muslim philosopher, physician as well as a teacher who was born in Central Asia near Bukhara, he gained worldwide glory with his book "The Canon of Medicine"; it is an encyclopedia of medicine which discusses the general principles of medicine and general diseases. This book was translated into Latin in the 13th century and was the primary treatment textbook used by Europeans until 1657. Ibn Sina wrote about 44 books on medical topics.



*"The Canon of Medicine" by Ibn Sina*

- **Ibn al Nafees (1213-1288 AD):** was an Arab physician, scientist, and philosopher born in Damascus. He studied medicine and moved to Egypt to practice medicine. He is famous for describing the function of the blood circulation system and that blood passes from the heart to the lung. His work predates the work of William Harvey.

### Hospitals

In the early ninth century, Islamic rulers built the world's most sophisticated hospitals (bimaristan). These hospitals proved the glory of Islam, where treatment was given to the rich and poor alike. Muslims provided medical care to prisoners as well. These hospitals were also dynamic centers of learning, research, and invention.

In Damascus, the Nuri hospital was the leading one from its foundation in the mid-12th century till the 15th century. By that time, the city contained five additional hospitals. On the other hand, Cordoba, in Andulus, alone had 50 major hospitals. Some were exclusively for the military.



*Nur al-Din Bimaristan. Old hospital. Built 1153.*

### Pharmacies

Medical advances extended to herbal medicines too. Many hospitals kept gardens of herbs used in treatment. These discoveries, combined with experiments and medical knowledge, resulted in the development of many medications. Muslim physicians classified plants and their medical properties long before anyone else. Ibn Sina, in his "Canon" listed 142 properties of herbal remedies. Ibn Hayyan was able to extract different anesthetic compounds from local herbs. In Andalusia, Ibn Al-Bitar (1197-1248 AD) was considered one of the most outstanding botany and drug formulations scientists. He was a herbalist who introduced around 350 new plant species as medicinal herbs for treating human diseases. Al-Kindy (800- 871 AD) was a pioneer in pharmacology.

The first pharmacy was founded in Baghdad during the golden age of 753. By the beginning of the ninth century, Baghdad shows a rapid expansion of private pharmacy shops. This trend quickly spreaded to other Muslim cities.

## Mathematics

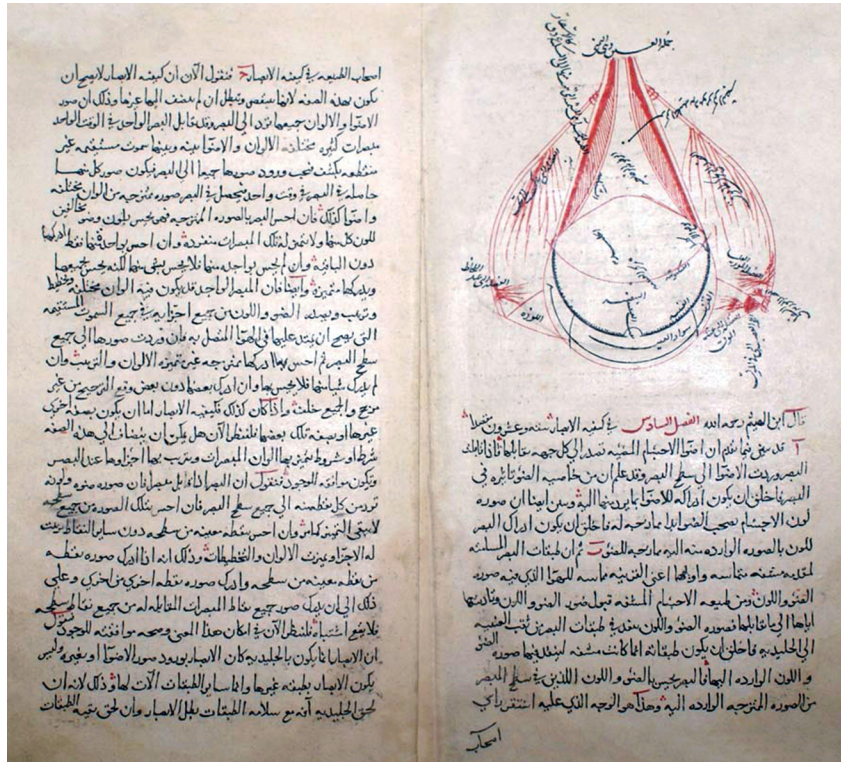
Islamic contributions to mathematics began around 825 AD when the Muslim scholar Al-Khawarizmi made several contributions. He used Indian numbers in his astronomical books. He introduced the 'zero' symbol to Western culture, simplifying the entire arithmetical system and its fundamental operations. He also invented the decimal system and the operations connected to it- additions, subtraction, multiplication, and division, as well as the square and cubic root. Hence, Al-Khawarizmi is considered the father of algebra.

## Physics

Physics is considered the foundation of all technological and technical sciences. Muslim sciences quoted principles of physics science from the Greek by translating Aristotle's books. Arab Muslim scientists adopted the scientific method in search and survey. During the Islamic golden age, they developed what they inherited from the Greeks:

- Al-Bayruni was a renewed physicist who determined the specific density of 18 types of precious stones.

- Al- kindi wrote on specific weight, tides, light reflection, and optics.
- Ibn Al-Haythm wrote a book in the tenth century on optics. He explored optical illusions, the rainbow, and the camera obscura, leading to the photographic instruments' beginning. He also studied the eclipse and laid the foundation for the later development of the microscope and the telescope.



< The Book of Optics > by Ibn al-Haytham

## Chemistry

Khalid bin Yazeed (704 AD) is considered the pioneer of chemistry among Muslims; he translated books on chemistry from Greek to Arabic and wrote some books in this field. The Islamic alchemists excelled in the practical laboratory experience. They offered the first description of some substances still used in modern chemistry. They believed that sulfur and mercury were the base of every metal. Materials such as plastics, synthetic rubber, muriatic (hydrochloric) acid, sulfuric acid, and nitric acid are all discoveries of Muslim chemists. Jabir bin Hayyan who lived in Kufa (722- 815AD), is considered the father of Arab chemistry.

Ibn Hayyan devised and perfected many chemical processes like distillation, filtration, and crystallization; most of these processes are still used the same way today. He designed the glass flasks which are still used today. Other scholars include Al Kindi, most of his writings were about the industry of perfumes, jewelry, and iron.

### Astronomy

Muslim scholars quoted some of the principles of this science from the Greeks. They developed it in a manner to meet the requirements of Islam. The basic need for this science was to help Muslims measure time by using stars at night and the sun by day.

The Islamic scholar Al Kindi followed Ptolemy's theory about the solar system that the earth is the center where planets and stars orbit around it. However, Al Kindi adopted this theory, believing that these stars and planets are rational entities that rotate in a circular movement whose role is limited to obeying and worshiping Allah.

Besides Al Kindi, Ibn-Hazm, an Andalusian astronomer, proved that the world was round 500 years before Galileo discovered it.



*Historic Islamic compass for Mecca; 17th century sundial and Qiblah pointer.*

### Machinery

In machinery, Muslims made remarkable progress in that field; they not only transformed the achievements of previous cultures, such as Egypt, Persia, China, and India but also succeeded in developing them. Examples of machinery inventions were time-measuring devices, irrigation machines, and entertainment devices. The scientist Al-Fezari improved the astrolabe, which is used to chart the precise time of sunrise and sunset to determine the fasting period during Ramadan. The astrolabe is also used for measuring locations of the planets and their orbits, as well as weather forecasts and navigation affairs. There are about 45 other ways of using the astrolabe, as Al-Khwarizimi stated.

During the golden age, Muslims were interested in making clocks to use them to know prayers and fasting times. Ibn al-Haytham developed the Binkam water clock, which provided hours and minutes, which no other clock had demonstrated before.

Ibn al-Jazari (1163-1206 AD) invented an elephant-shaped water clock with an elephant lifting its trunk once or twice whenever an hour or several hours elapsed. He also designed the first mechanical clock in which all its parts were made of metal.

The most famous clock made during the Islamic golden age was the water clock that the Abbasid Caliph Haroon al-Rasheed gifted to Charlemagne, the Roman Emperor, in 870 AD. The French historian, Voltaire, believes that that clock was the first clock known in Europe.

Another famous water clock created during the golden age is still found in Alhambra Palace in Granada, Spain. This lion court fountain consists of twelve sculpted lions, in which, each hour, the water spills out of each lion in sequence.

Other tools improved by Muslims were water lifting devices used for irrigation; they also improved the Roman waterwheel, which was used for irrigation.

The windmill was used widely in Persia to pump irrigation water and run millstones for grinding corn, wheat, and crushing sugarcane.

### Geography

Muslim geographers and scholars have made significant advances to the development of the science of geography from the earliest times. Muslim geographers translated into Arabic the Greek geography texts, which provided them with the foundation for developing new concepts of the nature of the earth and methods of study by using advanced mapping techniques. The Muslim geographer Al-Idrisi (1100-1156 AD) constructed a silver planisphere showing the map of the world. He created a world map consisting of 70 sections. Al-Biruni, a well-known Muslim geographer, had many achievements in the field of geography; he had developed the discovery of longitudes and latitude locations in most geographical areas. He also prepared a map covering half of the globe's area, showing on it the borders of the seas and the routes between countries.

Al-Biruni was the first to obtain a simple formula for measuring the earth's radius.



Al-Idrisi's world map

#### Industry

Muslims were renowned for making carpets, textiles, leather, and metal industries such as copper, iron, silver, gold, and steel, as well as the manufacture of swords, weapons, and antiques, in addition to ships, glass, and crystal.

Most Arab industries have moved to Europe through Andalusia, Sicily, and Morocco.

The Andalusians taught the Europeans how to tile and light the houses and streets and use the wind to move the mills. The Arabs also introduced the Europeans to the issue of caring for public gardens, the diversity of trees, plants, and the digging of canals.

It is worth mentioning that many crops have been planted in Europe through the Arabs of Andalusia and Sicily, such as corn, wheat, rice, spinach, cherries, and coconuts.

## General Muslim inventions

Professor Salim Al- Hassani, chairman of the Foundation for Science, Technology and Civilization and the organizer of "The Exhibition 1001 Inventions: Discover the Muslim Heritage in our World," said: "The extent to which Muslims have contributed to Western civilization is not generally well known, yet these ancient scholars from the Islamic world gave us many of the everyday things we use such as coffee, soap, and clocks."

## The achievement of the Islamic civilization in architecture

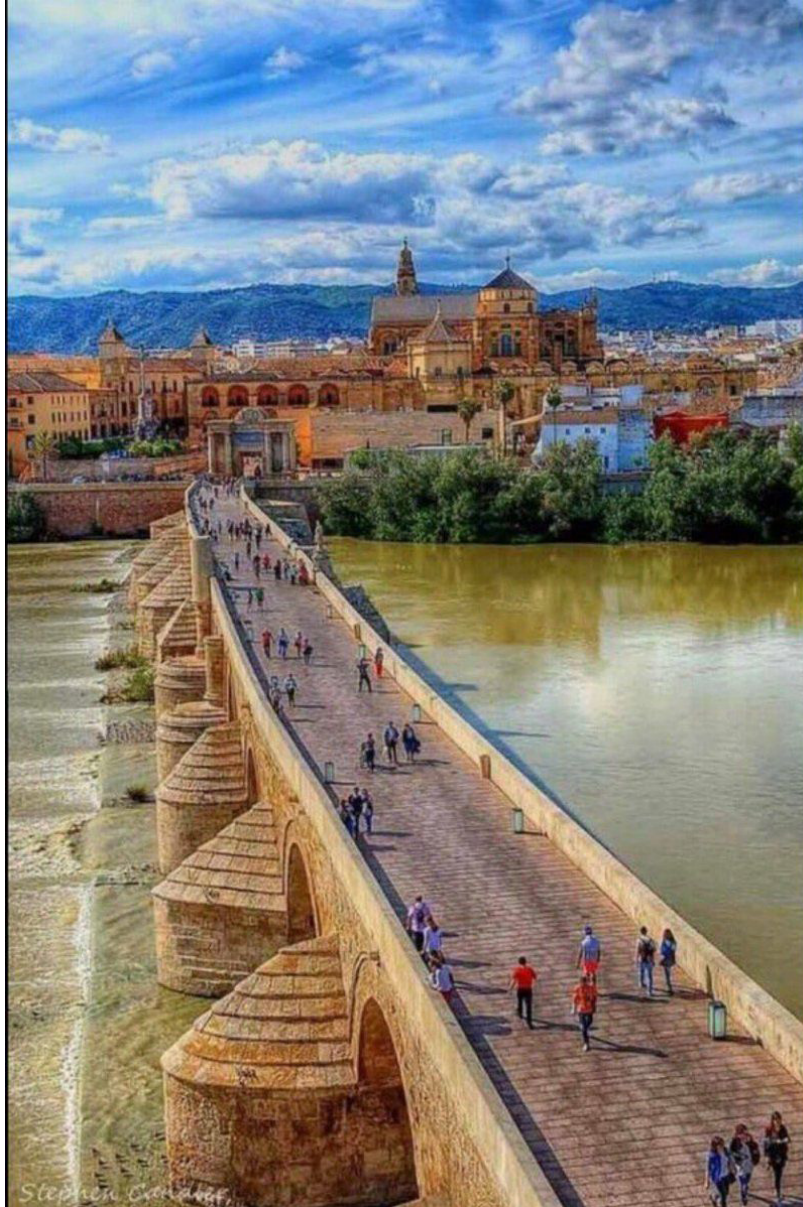
The significant buildings, especially mosques, served as the exterior symbols of the rich and powerful Islamic world. The magnificent mega mosques were spread in Cordoba in Andalusia, Morocco, Egypt, Damascus, the Arabian Peninsula, and Turkey. These Islamic regions also spread buildings with social, educational, and health functions, such as schools, reservoirs for travelers and pilgrims, and hospitals.

Islamic architecture is one of the world's most celebrated building traditions known for its radiant colors and rich patterns. This distinctive approach has been popular in the Muslim world since the 7th century.

## The ISLAMIC CIVILIZATION

### Course Guidebook

The principal Islamic architectural types are the mosque, the tomb, the palace, the fort, the school, and urban buildings. Some buildings, such as public baths, fountains, interior gardens, and homes are less critical.



*Cordoba bridge in Andalusia*

### The characteristics of Islamic architecture

- ❁ Comprehensiveness: They are comprehensive because they include all human benefits.
- ❁ Privacy: Islamic architecture considers the privacy of both men and women, in contrast to Western architecture, which follows a single style regardless of gender.
- ❁ Environmental: Islamic buildings depend on environmental elements that are easy to recycle and do not harm the environment.
- ❁ No use of depiction: Islamic architects refrained from using human or animal representation.



*Old Damascus house*

### The elements of the Islamic architecture

Some elements of Islamic architecture were inherited from the pre-Islamic architecture of that region. Islamic buildings are unique, with a set of features that make them distinct from other buildings:

#### Arches:

Arches are common elements found in Islamic architecture, and their placement usually defines the entrances to buildings and rooms. Different types of arches include pointed arches, ogee-style arches, and horseshoe arches.

#### Minaret:

Minaret is a tower-like structure featuring small windows and an enclosed staircase that traditionally accompanies a mosque building, from which the muathen calls the worshippers to prayer. Minarets have had various forms, generally round, squared, spiral, or octagonal.

### **Domes:**

Like many pioneering architectural movements, including Byzantine and Roman, Islamic architects also incorporate domes. The first Islamic building to feature the architectural element is the Dome of the Rock, a 7th-century shrine in Jerusalem.

### **Entrances and gates:**

They are distinguished by their hugeness and height; they were decorated with mosaics and colored arches.

### **Mashrabiya:**

It is a prominent balcony placed in the house so that those inside can see those outside the house and not the other way around.

### **Architectural Ornaments:**

The architects used these decorations to decorate mosques, palaces, etc. As a standard feature, Islamic architecture uses specific ornamental forms, including geometric patterns, arabesque, floral, and calligraphic.

#### **The well-known examples of Islamic architecture are:**

- *Great Mosque of Damascus*
- *Dom of the Rock in Jerusalem*
- *Al-Hambrah Palace in Granada, Spain*
- *Suleymaniye Mosque in Istanbul*
- *Taj Mahal Mosque in the Indian city of Agra*

The best-known Islamic architects were Mimar Sinan, Ahmed Noe'man, and Ridwan Kamil



*Sultan Ahmad Mosque in Istanbul*

Many of the principles of Islamic architecture were later adopted by European architects during the Renaissance. Today, there is a growing appreciation for Islamic architecture worldwide. It is used in various ways, from office buildings to shopping malls.

### Islamic Art

The history of Islamic art created in the areas where Islam was the main religion, such as Iran, Egypt, India, Spain, Syria, Morocco, and Turkey, takes in a wide range of genres and forms. Islam forbids depicting God, human, and animal figures. Instead of using these figures, Muslim artists created intricate patterns and designs such as geometric patterns, arabesque (leaves and flowers), and calligraphy (the art of beautiful handwriting). These can be seen in art forms such as ceramics, paintings, mosaics, walls, and Islamic canvas.



*Quranic Manuscripts*



*Early Ottoman carpet from the 15th century.*

## The ISLAMIC CIVILIZATION

## Course Guidebook

## Review Questions: Chapter 5

### Fill in the spaces:

- 1- The period of cultural, economic, and scientific flourishing in the history of Islam was called \_\_\_\_\_ age.
- 2- Darul-ilm was a great library established in \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3- Some famous interpreters of the Quran were Ibn Abbas, Abdullah bin Masoud and \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4- -The permanent dedication of one's assets for general Charitable causes is called \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5- Muslim artists created different patterns and designs such as geometric patterns, arabesque, and \_\_\_\_\_.

### Choose the correct answer:

1. The Islamic golden age dated from:
  - a. The eighth century to the fourteenth century A.D.

- b. The seventh century to the fifteenth century A.D.
  - c. The ninth century to the nineteenth century.
- 2. The art of papermaking was obtained from:
  - a. India
  - b. Persia
  - c. China
- 3. The earliest Islamic form of school was:
  - a. Bimaristans
  - b. Katateeb
  - c. Madrasa
- 4. A Muslim scholar who introduced the 'zero' symbol:
  - a. Al Khawarizmi
  - b. Ibn al-Haytham
  - c. Jaber bin Hayyan

### True or False:

1. ( ) The most cultural activity in the golden age was the translation movement.
2. ( ) Al-Razi is a Muslim physician who described the function of the blood circulation system.
3. ( ) Medical science in the Islamic civilization was based on observation and experimentation.
4. ( ) The scholar Al-Bayruni was known for his contribution to Optics.

### Mention three characteristics of Islamic architecture

1- \_\_\_\_\_

2- \_\_\_\_\_

3- \_\_\_\_\_

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## Chapter 6

### Women in the Islamic Civilization

Muslim women played political, economic, educational, and medical roles. They enriched the Islamic civilization's scientific, intellectual, and literary movements.

#### Women as scholars

The contribution of women in preserving hadith has been significant indeed. Most important male compilers of hadith from the earliest period received much of it from women teachers. Ibn Hajar studied under many scholar women also As-Sakhawi who had ijazas from numerous women.

**1 - Aishah bint Abi Bakr:** (May Allah be pleased with her) , the wife of the Prophet ﷺ, transmitted expanses of knowledge from him ﷺ and became a great jurist and scholar. Due to her profound understanding of the tafseer of the Quran and hadith, she was one of the seven fuqaha (those who have legal knowledge) who delivered fatawa (religious rulings).

**2- Asma'a bint Asad al-Qairawaniyah** (died 250 H): Was of the pioneering women of her time in jurisprudence and hadith as she was constantly attending her father's scholarly councils and participating in questions and debates.

**3- Zaynab bint Kamal** (born 646 H): Well known for her knowledge of hadith, she was a teacher in Damascus who taught more than 400 books.

**4-Nana Asma'a:** The granddaughter of Othman Bin Foody, the famous religious reformer. Asma'a was born in Nigeria in 1792. She was a scholar, jurisprudence, poet, and educator who profoundly impacted education among women by various means in Nigeria and West Africa. She established circles to teach women reading, writing and memorizing Quran, tajweed, and fiqh.

### Women's contribution to the Field of Medicine

Muslim women generally specialized in war surgery, midwifery and gynecology, Kahalah (eye therapy), and ophthalmology.

**1-Rufaidah al-Aslamia:** She was the first nurse and the first female surgeon in Islam. She used to nurse the wounded on the battlefield. She also trained other women how to work in health care.

**2-The daughter of Shehab Ad-Deen As-Sa'egh:** who was her father's successor in leading the medical duties in the Dar Ash-Shefaa' Al-Mansoury in Egypt. She was an example of a female physician whose activity was not limited to medical practices only. Still, she became the chief of the physicians in her country.

As for pharmacists, women in the 12<sup>th</sup> century played a significant role in inventing and making medicines:

- **Set al-Sham:** the sister of Salah al-deen Al Ayoubi, who learned to manufacture medicines. She established a pharmaceutical factory; she supplied medicines to the army of her brother Salah al-deen Al Ayoubi. A hundred women joined her in working in that factory.

### **Women's Contribution to the Field of Charity**

- 1-Fatima al-Fihriyyah:** donated her money to build the Mosque and the world's first University of al- Qarawiyyin in Fez, Morocco (245 H). With her inherited fortune, she built this university to benefit her local community so they could pursue higher education.

**2-Zubaidah:** The wife of the Caliph Haroon Al- Rasheed. She donated to the construction of the Zubaidah canal (a series of wells) from Baghdad to Makka, which served Hajj pilgrims for 1000 years.



*One of the wells of Zubaidah's canal*

**3-Aziza bint Ahmed:** A Tunisian Princess who died in 1669AD. She endowed everything she possessed for charitable work. She established a hospital to treat various diseases. She left some of her property to free enslaved people and prepare poor orphan girls for marriage.

### **Women's contribution in the fields of engineer and mathematics**

**1 - Mariam al-Astrulabi:** Was born in 944 AD in Aleppo, Syria. She was the first female engineer to have designed and made astrolabes, an ancient device used to measure time and the position of the sun and stars.

**2-Lubna of Cordoba:** was an Andalusian intellectual, mathematician, and poet of the second half of the 10th century. She was the personal secretary for Sultan Al Hakam al Mustanser. In addition to being a royal advisor, Lubna was also a poet and a library master.

### **Women's contribution to the Field of Calligraphy**

There were famous female calligraphers in Rashidun's Caliphate era, among them Aisha bint Saad bin Abi Waqqas, Hind bint Abi Sufyan, and Al-Shifa bint Abdullah who taught calligraphy to Hafsa bint Umar (May Allah be

pleased with her). In later Islamic periods, Auraib from Basra (who died in 277 H) arose as a poet and a calligrapher known for being a master of calligraphy. In the Abbasid era of Baghdad and Andalusia, dozens of female calligraphers worked in libraries; The Granada University alone employed 1000 women daily to copy books. Among the famous calligraphers who practiced Arabic calligraphy Fadhl Al Qayrawaniyyah who wrote a complete version of the Holy Qur'an.

Other names include Lubna bint Abdumaula (died in 374 H), a calligrapher of the Caliph Al-Mustansir Billah Al-Hakam II of Umayyad Andalusia. Fatima Bint Al-Hasan, bin Ali al-Baghdadi, was assigned to write the Caliph's letter of Truce to the tyrant Roman Emperor. She was also known for writing a complete version of the Holy Qur'an.

## Review Questions: Chapter 6

### Fill in the spaces:

- 1- \_\_\_\_\_ was one of the seven fuqaha in Al Madinah.
- 2- Fatma Al- Fihriyyah built the Mosque of \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3- Fatma bint Al- Hassan wrote a complete version of \_\_\_\_\_

### Choose the correct answer:

1. The first female nurse in Islam was:
  - a. Rufaidah Al- Aslamia
  - b. The sister of Salah Addeen Al-Ayyoubi
  - c. The daughter of Shehab Addeen As-Sa'egh

2. The Canal of Zubaidah is a series of wells from:

- a. Baghdad to Madinah
- b. Baghdad to Makkah
- c. Baghdad to Damascus

3. Mariam al- Astrulabi designed:

- a. Water clock
- b. Water wheel
- c. Astrolabes

**True or False:**

- 1. ( ) Princess Aziza bint Ahmed endowed everything she possessed for charity.
- 2. ( ) Nana Asma'a was a famous scholar from Nigeria.
- 3. ( ) Ibn Hajar has ijaza from Asma'a bint Asad al-Qairawaniyah.

**Name three Muslim women who contributed to the field of charity:**

**1-** \_\_\_\_\_

**2-** \_\_\_\_\_

**3-** \_\_\_\_\_

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## Chapter 7

### Great Cities in the Islamic civilization

The Islamic cities were the centers of intellectual and civilizational radiation for Muslims. These cities played a crucial role in bringing the Islamic civilization to the horizons in the East and West. The thinker Leopold Weiss<sup>(1)</sup> or Mohammed Asad said: "We would not be exaggerating if we say: The modern scientific age in which we live did not start in European cities, but in Islamic centers; in Damascus, Baghdad, Cairo, and Cordoba."

#### **Madinah Munawara:**

In Madinah, Islam and Muslims settled, and the revelation of the Quran was completed. The migration to Madinah was a turning point in the history of the Islamic nation as it was the beginning of the establishment of the Islamic state. The Prophet laid the foundations of the Islamic state's social, political, and economical construction there.

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1 - Leopold Weiss (1900-1996): An Austrian journalist who converted to Islam

#### **Damascus:**

Damascus was the capital of the Umayyad era. The scientific movement in the Umayyad era played a significant and prominent role in laying the foundations of the scientific heritage on which the Islamic civilization was built. In Damascus, the Arabization movement started during the reign of Abdul Malik ibn Marwan who made the Arabic language an official language all over the Islamic state. This helped in translating the sciences and knowledge of other nations.

The most critical areas of prosperity in the Umayyad era (in Damascus) were religious and linguistic sciences, history, geography, philosophy and medicine.

#### **Baghdad:**

Baghdad was the capital of the Abbasid Caliphate in the eighth century. It was the center of the trade routes between East and West, linking Asia with Europe. Baghdad was a world center of religious, political, cultural, and scientific influence in the Muslim empire, attracting scholars, scientists, and philosophers worldwide.

The heritage of the great Greek philosophers, physicians, and scientists was translated to Arabic in Baital-Hikmah (House of Wisdom), a public academy and a grand library founded by Abbasid caliph Haroon al-Rasheed in the golden age of Islam.

### **Cordoba:**

The city of Cordoba, the largest in Europe in the Andalusia era, became one of the leading cultural and economic centers throughout Europe and the Islamic world.

Speaking about the status of Cordoba, particularly in the movement of Islamic civilization, Juan Brand Trand said: "Cordoba, which was more civil than all European cities during the tenth century was, in fact, the focus of the world's admiration and astonishment, such as Venice in the eyes of Balkan States. The tourists from the north used to show almost piety and fear when they were listening to what was being said about this city, which has seventy libraries and 900 public baths. If Leon, Navarre, or Barcelona governors needed a surgeon, an engineer, an architect, a tailor or a musician, they would only go to Cordoba."

The *Great Mosque of Cordoba* is one of the oldest structures still standing when Muslims ruled *Al-Andalus*.

#### **Cairo:**

Cairo was established in 969 AD. Cairo was a relatively recent city, reaching its zenith under the Abbasids and Mamluks. It became the center of the Islamic's most riches and exquisite architecture.

#### **Qairowan:**

Qairowan city's foundation dates to about 670 AD (Umayyad Caliphate) by Uqba ibn Nafa'a. Muslims brought with them the Quran and the Islamic teaching to Tunisia.

In Qairowan lies one of the oldest mosques in the Islamic world, the *Mosque of Uqba*, which was established in the seventh century A.D. This Mosque was an architectural masterpiece from which Moroccan and Andalusian architecture borrowed its decorative and architectural elements. There is also the *Mosque of the Three Doors*, founded in 866 AD and considered an impressive example of Andalusian architecture.

At the same time, Qairowan was influential in its geographical setting. Many delegations were arriving from the middle and far Maghreb, Andalusia, and Sicily to benefit from its schools in many fields. These fields include religion, medical sciences, literature and arts.

### **Fez:**

Fez is a Moroccan city established by Muslims in the year 789 AD. Muslims built numerous madrasas (schools) and mosques across this city, many of which survive today. They also established the oldest university in the world, the University of Al-Qarawiyyin, in the year 859 AD, from which great Muslim scholars graduated like Ibn Rushd, Ibn Khaldoun, and Ibn Hazm as well as Pope of Europe SylvesterII. Among the subjects taught in Qarawiyyin University: Quran, Fiqh; grammar, logic, medicine, mathematics, astronomy and geography.

Besides being a leading city in education and an intellectual center, Fez was also an important center for trade and industry.



*The courtyard the of the Al-Qarawiyyin mosque and oldest university in Fez, Morocco*

## Review Questions: Chapter 7

### Fill in the spaces:

- 1- Baitul-Hikmah was a public academy as well as a grand \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2- Fez was established in the year \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3- The Mosque of the Three Doors is in \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4- The Caliph \_\_\_\_\_ established the House of Wisdom.

### Choose the correct answer:

- 1-Who said that the modern scientific age started in Islamic centers?
  - a) Juan Brand Trand
  - b) Mohammed Asad
  - c) Sylvester II
- 2- Who made Arabic the official language of all the Islamic states?
  - a) Uqba bin Nafi
  - b) Haroon Al-Rasheed
  - c) Abdul Malik ibn Marwan

3-Where is the University of Al-Qarawiyyin located?

- a) Tunis
- b) Fez
- c) Baghdad

**True or False:**

1. ( ) Damascus was a turning point in the history of the Islamic Ummah.
2. ( ) The Arabization movement helped translate the sciences of other nations.
3. ( ) Cairo was the center of rich architecture.
4. ( ) Qairwan is a city in Morocco.

**Name three great cities in the Islamic Civilization.**

- 1- \_\_\_\_\_
- 2- \_\_\_\_\_
- 3- \_\_\_\_\_

## Chapter 8

### Routes of Islamic Civilization to Europe

During the eight centuries in which Muslims led the march of civilization, Europe lived in what was known as its dark middle ages. The Islamic culture came in cultural contact with the Christian European West through three routes: Andalusia, Sicily, and the Crusades.



*A map showing a network of Islamic sea trade routes in 1500.*

#### 1-Andalusia

Andalusia remained a prominent center of education and learning worldwide for eight centuries (711-1492 A.D.), producing numerous philosophers and scientists.

Andalusia was the first bridge from which Islamic civilization moved to Europe, impacting various scientific, intellectual, social, and economic fields. Contact and coexistence between Muslims and Christians facilitated the Islamic culture to move to Europe quickly. When Europe lived in what was known as the Dark Middle Ages, many Europeans sent their children to learn in Arab institutes, especially those in Andalusia.

Gustav Le Bon<sup>(2)</sup> says: "No sooner had the Arabs completed the conquest of Spain than they started to carry out the message of civilization there. In less than a century, they managed to give life to dead lands, reconstruct ruined cities, set up magnificent buildings, and strengthen close trade relations with other nations. They then started to dedicate themselves to studying sciences and arts, translate Greek and Latin books, and set up universities which continued to be a place for Culture in Europe for a long time."

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2- Gustav Le Bon (born 1841) was a French historian

## 2- Sicily

Sicily was the second cultural bridge in the Middle Ages for transmitting Islamic civilization to European Culture. In 859 AD, the island of Sicily became under Muslim rule. They ruled it for about 200 years between the ninth and eleventh centuries. Thanks to Muslim's control and creation of suitable conditions which helped the spread of civilization. What distinguished Sicily from others was that it was a meeting point of Greek, Latin, and Arab cultures.

The Islamic cultural impact on the Island was caught by the traveler Ibn Hawqal<sup>(3)</sup> who visited Sicily in 972-973 AD. He described the quarters of Palermo, their palaces, and their hundreds of mosques which also served as schools. There was also the University of Palermo which had long been the resort of scholars and students from every country in Europe.

The translation movement of various works started, due to which many works of Muslim scientists in different fields were translated from Arabic to Latin by Sicilian translators. Sicily contributed to the awakening of the Western world and entering a new era known as European Renaissance. The Islamic contributions to Medieval Europe were numerous, affecting such

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3- Ibn Hawqal: was a 10th Arab Muslim writer, geographer, and a traveler

varied areas as art, architecture, medicine, agriculture, music, language, education, law, and technology.

### 3-The Crusades

The Crusades were a series of religious wars initiated and supported by the Latin Church in the medieval period. The best known of these Crusades are those to the Holy Land between 1095 and 1291 AD that were intended to recover Jerusalem and its surrounding area from Islamic rule.

The Crusades intensified exchanges between Europe and some cities in the Levant (Palestine, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and Iraq), such as Antioch, where Arab and Latin cultures intermixed intensively.

The Crusades allowed Europeans to learn about the Islamic civilization in terms of military arts, architecture, agriculture, industry, medicine, and social life.

## Review Questions: Chapter 8

### Fill in the spaces:

- 1- Works of Muslim scientists in different fields were translated from Arabic to Latin by\_\_\_\_\_ translators.
- 2- The \_\_\_\_\_ aimed to recover Jerusalem and its surrounding area from Islamic rule.
- 3- The University of \_\_\_\_\_ is in Sisley.

### Choose the correct answer:

- 1-The first bridge from which Islamic civilization moved to Europe was:
  - a. Andalusia
  - b. Sisley
  - c. Baghdad
- 2-The Arab and Latin culture was intermixed intensively in:
  - a. Fez
  - b. Cordoba
  - c. Antioch

3-The Crusades were a series of religious

- a. Wars
- b. Education
- c. Customs

**True or False:**

1. ( ) Islamic Culture helped Europe out of the dark ages.
2. ( ) Many Europeans sent their children to learn in the Andalusia institutes.
3. ( ) The Crusades took place in the ninth century.

**List the three routes that the Islamic civilization came in cultural contact with the West:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

## Chapter 9

### The setback of the Islamic civilization

While the Islamic civilization had enjoyed its glory in its early centuries, the sudden decline emerged in the early 13<sup>th</sup> century A.D. due to the Mongol invasions and the siege of Baghdad in 1258 AD. This led to this period's decline in intellectual, scientific, cultural, and political life.

#### Reasons for the setback of the Islamic civilization:

##### 1-The political factor:

The decline of shura, justice, and equality principles ultimately resulted in internal conflicts, power struggles, divisions, and warring states that negatively affected the Islamic civilization.

##### 2-The moral factor:

Islam played a positive role in the development and glory of the Islamic civilization in the early Muslim Ummah. Muslims have turned away from the teachings of Islam. The Decline of Islamic values, such as (dishonesty, cheating, neglecting obligation, and indulging in pleasure and enjoyment rather than serious matters), as a result, led to the fall of the Islamic civilization.

### 3-The trade factor:

The Muslims were the masters of trade routes for centuries; however, the Europeans later invented sea fleets. The trade routes shifted from the Islamic cities to the routes of European cities. Therefore, Muslims lost sovereignty over the trade roads.

### 4-The industrial revolution factor:

The industrial revolution was the transition from creating goods by hand to using machines and new manufacturing processes. It started in Great Britain in about 1766. The Ottoman Empire was affected by this revolution in the nineteenth century and was influential in its collapse. The Ottoman lands became essential markets for many European manufacturers. Their wares and goods increasingly displaced traditional Ottoman products, made Ottoman handicraftsmen jobless, reduced Ottoman's internal sources of taxes, and contributed to eventual European control of Ottoman's finances.

### 5-The Western colonialism factor:

In two and a half centuries, from the beginning of the seventeenth century A.D. to the second half of the nineteenth century, Western

Christian colonialism (Portugal, Britain, France, and Spain) took complete control of Muslims in central and eastern Asia and in Africa. It managed its influence to the heart of the Islamic world primarily for economic benefits. As soon as the First World War came, the entire Muslim world came under the influence of these colonialists.

### **Despite all these factors, Islam remained:**

Despite all the challenges mentioned, Islam will always remain persistent and valid. The Islamic civilization will find its glory back again. To achieve that, Muslims must endeavor all their efforts by uniting to reconstruct and revive that glory. Therefore, one of the most important ways to gain recognition for this Ummah is to root back to the morals and principles of Islam. Other approaches include adopting the best strategy for political reform and enhancing the command of various disciplines of knowledge in education. And this has all the fields of knowledge, especially those related to solving the current problems of humankind, which Muslims must explore based on the sources of the Quran and Sunnah, such as medicine, information technology, astronomy, sociology and education.

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## Review Questions: Chapter 9

### Fill in the spaces:

- 1- The siege of Baghdad by the \_\_\_\_\_ caused the decline of the Islamic civilization.
- 2- The industrial revolution affected the \_\_\_\_\_ empire in the 19th century.
- 3- Muslims must explore all the disciplines of \_\_\_\_\_ in order to achieve glory.

### Choose the correct answer:

- 1- Muslim countries were taken into complete control by:
  - a. China
  - b. Russia
  - c. The West
- 2- The decline of the principles of shura, justice, and equality resulted in the following:
  - a. Internal conflicts, power struggles.
  - b. Divisions and warring states
  - c. Both

3- Muslims lost sovereignty over the roads because of:

- a. Inventing the sea fleets by the West
- b. Western colonialism.
- c. Exploring oil.

#### True or False:

1. ( ) The decline of Islamic values helped in the fall of the Islamic civilization.
2. ( ) The fall of Baghdad caused the decline of the cultural and political life.
3. ( ) Western colonialism took complete control of most Muslim countries at the beginning of the twentieth century.
4. ( ) The industrial revolution means the transition from creating goods by hand to using machines.

#### List three reasons for the setback of the Islamic Civilization:

- 1- \_\_\_\_\_
- 2- \_\_\_\_\_
- 3- \_\_\_\_\_

# The Answers

## Review Questions: Chapter 1 & Chapter 2

Fill in the spaces:

Government-economic system-Greek

Choose the correct answer:

b-a-c

True or False:

T-F-T-T-T

Name five elements that distinguish a civilization from other kinds of societies:

Advanced cities- Social structure- Advanced technology-Writing-religion

## Review Questions: Chapter 3

Fill in the spaces:

Madinah-Quran-Sunnah-center-equal- knowledge

Choose the correct answer:

b -a -a

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**True or False:**

T-T-F-F-T

**Write three sentences about the importance of the Noble Quran to the Islamic Civilization:**

Cultivating the mind and purifying the soul.

Saving people from ignorance and oppression.

Joining people as brothers regardless of color, language, or otherwise.

### **Review Questions: Chapter 4**

**Fill in the spaces:**

Rashidun - treasury - Persia - education

**Choose the correct answer:**

a- c- c

**True or False:**

T- F - F- T- T

**Name three Muslim military leaders at the time of prominent the Rashidun Caliphate:**

Khalid bin Al-Waleed

Abu Ubaidah ibn-Al Jarrah

Al Mugheerah bin Shu'bah

## **Review Questions: Chapter 5**

**Fill in the spaces:**

Golden - Cairo - Ibn Katheer - waqf - calligraphy

**Choose the correct answer:**

a -c -b- c

**True or False:**

T -F -T -F

**Mention three characteristics of Islamic architecture:**

Comprehensiveness

Privacy

Environmental

## **Review Questions: Chapter 6**

**Fill in the spaces:**

Aishah bint Abi Bakr - Al-Qarawiyyin - Quran

**Choose the correct answer:**

a - b- c

**True or False:**

T - T- F

**Name three Muslim women who contributed to the field of charity:**

Fatima Al-Fihriyah

Zubaidah, wife of the Caliph Haroon Al- Rasheed

Princess Aziza bint Ahmed

## **Review Questions: Chapter 7**

**Fill in the spaces:**

Library- 789AD - Qairowan - Haroon Al-Rasheed

**Choose the correct answer:**

a-c- b

**True or False:**

F- T - T - F

**Name three great cities in the Islamic Civilization.**

Qairawan

Fez

Baghdad

### **Review Questions: Chapter 8**

**Fill in the spaces:**

Sicilian- Crusades-Palermo

**Choose the correct answer:**

a - c - a

**True or False:**

T - T - F

## The ISLAMIC CIVILIZATION

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**List the three routes that the Islamic civilization came in cultural contact with the West:**

1-The Crusades

2-Sicily

3-Andalusia

### **Review Questions: Chapter 9**

**Fill in the spaces:**

Mongol-Ottoman- education

**Choose the correct answer:**

b-c-a

**Tick True or False:**

T-T-F-T

**List three reasons for the setback of the Islamic Civilization:**

The shift of trade routes from the Islamic cities to the roads of the European cities

The industrial revolution in the West

The Western colonialism of Muslim lands

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