

RE, Philosophy and Ethics (RPE) –

Closure work for Year 8

Continuing with this topic of Islam, Islamophobia and Islam in Britain, you are now going to investigate what the Qur'an is and why it is important in Islam.

Tasks:

1. Read the knowledge on how Islam began
2. Summarise the knowledge in your books
3. Create a guide for someone to learn more about the Qur'an.

This could be in the form of a leaflet/ poster/ mind map. It must include:

- a. What is the Qur'an?
- b. Why is it important to Muslims?
- c. How should people respect for the Qur'an?
- d. Facts about the Qur'an.

Use this clip for further knowledge: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p02mwjsw>

The nature of God

For Muslims the Qur'an is the most important source of authority as it is believed to be the revealed word of God. Muslims believe it is the most sacred text and contains ultimate guidance for all humankind. Muslims believe that the Angel Jibril revealed the word of Allah to the Prophet Muhammad, who then passed it on to his followers.

The Qur'an consists of 114 chapters, or Surahs, which were revealed over a period of 23 years. Surahs are divided into verses or ayat. The Qur'an instructs Muslims on how to behave and sets out what is right and wrong.

Meaning of Qur'an

The Qur'an was revealed to Muhammad over a period of 23 years. The first instruction the Angel Jibril gave was for Muhammad to recite. This means that all Muslims have followed in his footsteps and recite passages from the Qur'an. Passages from the Qur'an are recited as part of prayer and worship and all Muslims are expected to learn passages from the Qur'an.

The Qur'an is a highly respected book and Muslims usually perform **wudu**, a ritual washing of the face, hands and feet before reading it, and keep it wrapped in cloth when it is not being used.

The 114 chapters, or Surahs, of the Qur'an are divided into 30 parts, which makes it possible for a Muslim to complete a reading of the whole Qur'an in a month. They often recite one part each day, especially during the month of Ramadan. Many Muslims learn parts of the Qur'an by heart. A person who has memorised and can recite the entire Qur'an is known as a **Hafiz**.

Muslims regard the Qur'an as a source of guidance or road map for life, as well as being a source for knowledge about their faith and traditions.

Together with other sacred texts, it is used by Muslims to express beliefs about the nature of God both in the mosque and at home. The Qur'an is also used during religious ceremonies and rites of passage, for example a couple may choose to have readings from the Qur'an at their wedding.

Treatment of the Qur'an – when not in use

- When the Qur'an is not being used, it will usually be covered and put in a safe place, often on a high shelf.
- If someone wishes to dispose of a copy of the Qur'an, it must be done in a respectful manner.
- The Qur'an is not left open if it is not being used. It must remain closed.

Examples of respect for the Qur'an

Muslims treat the Qur'an with great respect. This means treating individual copies of the Qur'an in a special way, separate from all other books. Muslims are taught to read the Qur'an in a special way, and to regard it as a sacred text.

Before reading the Qur'an Muslims must perform a ritual wash, known as wudu, and ensure that they are using an approved translation of the Qur'an if they are not in a position to read it in the original Arabic.