

*JUNIOR CERTIFICATE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SUPPORT SERVICE
SAMPLE LESSON PLAN RESOURCE MATERIALS FOR ELEMENTS OF SYLLABUS*

SECTION C: FOUNDATIONS OF RELIGION – MAJOR WORLD RELIGIONS

PART 4: DEVELOPMENT OF TRADITION

Syllabus Aim	To explore in detail a major world religion * Islam
Syllabus Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The students should be able to recognise important moments in the story of the chosen major world religion
Key Concepts	Commitment; persecution; schism; development; expansion.
Description of Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examining important people and key moments in the development of the religion
Methodology	A variety of methodologies are used including presentation and interpretation of data, pair/group work, discussion, self-assessment activities and role-play. These methodologies were used so as to give students an opportunity to identify, explore and clarify the concepts and to structure and elaborate on their existing knowledge and understanding of the content.

Procedure

Examining important people in the development of the religion

Allow students time to research information on the life of Muhammad using the Internet or the school library. To check their understanding ask students to answer the following questions in pairs or individually.

- Discuss:
1. Where was Muhammad born?
 2. What happened to Muhammad when he was 40 years old?
 3. How did Khadija help Muhammad during his lifetime?
 4. Why did Muhammad go to Medina?
 5. What happened when he returned to Mecca?
 6. What do followers of Islam believe about the prophet Muhammad?

As a follow up activity allow students time to fill out *Student Work: FACT FILE: THE PROPHET MUHAMMAD*.

Or using *Student Work: PEOPLE IN MUHAMMAD'S LIFE* identify the people who played an important part in the life of Muhammad and the development of the religion.

Take feedback on the students' assignment and correct their answers as follows:

Khadija	= Rich widow
Rasul	= Messenger of Allah
Caliph	= Successor
Abdallah	= Muhammad's father
Amina	= Muhammad's mother
Abu Talib	= Muhammad's uncle

Examining key moments in the development of the religion

Group Work Exercise

Make out information cards on the key moments in the development of Islam using sources such as *A Time To Live; World Religions and Beliefs Longman Study Guide Religious Studies, GCSE Key stage 4; World Religions, Hallstein; Great Religions Of The World, Sr. Pastva* or distribute *Student Work: KEY MOMENTS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF ISLAM*.

Each student in the group reads his/her information card to the group and together the group decides the order of the events. One of the following titles is put on each information card:

- § The Call of Muhammad/The Message
- § The Departure to Medina
- § The Return to Mecca
- § The Death of Muhammad
- § The Growth of Islam

When each group has completed their tasks ask them to prepare a presentation in pictures or word on the development of Islam using *Student Work: KEY MOMENTS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF ISLAM – STORYBOARD*. Allow each group time to present their storyboard to the rest of the class and display it on the classroom notice board.

Written Assignment:

Imagine you are one of the people who knew Muhammad. Write a letter to a friend telling what happened when he told you about the revelations. How did you feel about what he told you? How do you think the people of Mecca would react? Take feedback from students by asking them to read their letters to the class.

Role-play News Report

Divide students into groups of 5. Using *Student Work: NEWS REPORT* distribute role cards to the members of each group. The Situation is *It has just been announced that Muhammad has returned from Mount Hira telling of his encounter with the Angel Gabriel. The 6 O clock news is to present a report of this breaking story.* Allow students prepare the role-play and present it to the class.

Debrief/Discuss the following questions

1. Who were Muhammad’s first disciples and converts to Islam?
2. Why did the wealthy businessmen consider Muhammad a threat in the beginning?
3. How do you think the people of Mecca would react after watching the news report?
4. Why do you think they would react in this way?

Resources teachers have suggested include:

A Time to Live - The New Christian Way Series 3 – Veritas Unit 5
All About Faith 2 Gill and Macmillan Series, pages 26-27, 192-193 and 197-201, and 216-217.
Community of Faith Veritas, pages 66-67, 69-72, 74, 79-83, and 142-143.
Community of Hope Veritas, pages 23-30.
Cyberclass Teachers Manual 3 Scholastech
<http://www.islamicity.org/mosque/pillar.htm>
Logos
Show Us The Way New Christian Way Series 2 Veritas, pages 62-67, and 71-77.
World Religions and Beliefs, Ellen Fleming & Brigid O’Hara

Student Work: FACT FILE: THE PROPHET MUHAMMAD

NAME:

DATE OF BIRTH:

MOTHER’S NAME:

FATHER’S NAME:

PLACE OF BIRTH:

EMPLOYMENT:

CHARACTERISTICS: Circle the words you think would describe this person.

Kind Honest Corrupt Greedy Spiritual Intelligent Self-centred Courageous

REMEMBERED FOR:

NAME TWO TITLES GIVEN TO MUHAMMAD: i ii

GIVE A BRIEF EXPLANATION FOR EACH TITLE: i.....
ii.....

DATE OF DEATH:

SUCCEDED BY:

Student Work: PEOPLE IN MUHAMMAD'S LIFE

Match the name / title with the role

Khadija	Messenger of Allah
Rasul	Successor
Caliph	Rich widow
Abdallah	Muhammad's uncle
Amina	Muhammad's mother
Abu Talib	Muhammad's father
.....

Student Work: KEY MOMENTS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF ISLAM.

Read the cards below and decide on the correct order of events i.e Parts 1 to 5

Give each information card one of the following titles:

1. *The Call of Muhammad/ The Message*
2. *The Departure to Medina*
3. *The Return to Mecca*
4. *The Death of Muhammad*
5. *The Growth of Islam*

PART: TITLE:

Muhammad was determined to return to Mecca and to convert its people to Islam. He decided to wage a Jihad (i.e. a holy war) against the opponents of Islam. After three major battles, Muhammad led ten thousand of his followers in victory into Mecca in A. D. 630. He went directly to the Kaaba and had all the idols removed and destroyed. Muhammad ordered that from that time on the Kaaba would stand empty except for the Black Stone, which he believed had been given to Abraham by the angel Gabriel. Before long Mecca became the centre of Islam.

PART: TITLE:

In A.D. 620 Muhammad preached to a group of pilgrims from the city of Yathrib, north of Mecca. They invited Muhammad to come to Yathrib, now called Medina, to be their leader. During the summer of A.D. 622 Muhammad left Mecca to go to Medina. There Muhammad proved a great political as well as religious leader. His fair and honest rule united the people of Medina and made them proud of their city. People now began to refer to Muhammad as the Rasul, or Messenger of Allah.

PART: TITLE:

Muhammad was born in Mecca around the year A.D. 570. Orphaned at the age of six, Muhammad (meaning Highly Praised) was adopted by his uncle Abu Talib and grew up with his cousin Ali. As a young man Muhammad entered the employment of a rich widow named Khadijah. She found Muhammad to be a thoroughly good and very intelligent person. They married and were happy together. Muhammad became a respected businessman. He grew increasingly troubled by the lifestyle of the people of Mecca. Corruption was widespread. Muhammad prayed and fasted in a cave in Mount Hira. He concluded that there was only one God ALLAH. In A.D. 610 Muhammad is said to have received a revelation from God. He was told that he was to be the prophet of his people. This night is known as The Night of Power and Excellence.

PART: TITLE:

In A.D. 631 Muhammad fell ill and died at Medina. Within 20 years of Muhammad's death Syria, Iraq, Palestine, Egypt and the Persian Empire had all fallen to Islam. In only a century after the death of Muhammad, all the land between the rock of Gibraltar in Spain and the Himalaya Mountains in India was under Islamic control. This area is larger than the area ruled by the Romans when the Roman Empire was at its strongest! A particular strategy was used in the spread of Islam that contributed to its spreading successfully. Missionaries were sent to an area. If they were not successful, the Islamic cavalry followed swiftly to force submission. The first three caliphs were brilliant military leaders. It was the Islamic merchants and travellers that introduced Islam to the Indian sub-continent, especially present-day Pakistan and Bangladesh, and also further east to Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines. Local people were impressed by the advanced culture of these Islamic traders and inter-marriage became acceptable, encouraging conversion to Islam.

PART: TITLE:

During the Middle Ages there was frequent conflict between Islam and the Christian states of Europe. Crusades were organised by Christian kings to regain conquered territories, particularly Jerusalem, but none had any lasting success, except in Spain. The eighth through twelfth centuries are called the Golden Age of Islam because art, literature, science, architecture and mathematics flourished in such Islamic cities as Baghdad, Iraq, Cairo, Egypt and Damascus among others. The final great expansion occurred in the fifteenth century when the Islamic Turks overran what was left of the old eastern Roman Empire, took Constantinople in 1453, and gained control of Greece and other neighbouring territories in eastern Europe. That is why, even today, in some parts of eastern Europe there are still large Islamic communities to be found. However, by the thirteenth century, the Islamic world had begun to split apart, divided mainly by political, ethnic and religious factions.

Student Work: KEY MOMENTS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF ISLAM – STORYBOARD

Date:

Place:

Main Events:

Student Work: NEWS REPORT Student Work: NEWS REPORT - ROLE CARDS

The Situation is

It has just been announced that Muhammad has returned from Mount Hira telling of his encounter with the Angel Gabriel. The 6 O clock news is to present a report of this breaking story.

Group 1 Studio Presenters

Your role is to write and read a brief introduction of what has been reported to the newsroom before going to Charlie Bird in Mecca for the latest news there.

Group 2 Khagijah Family

You are members of Khagijah family. You have listened to Muhammad's story and you are convinced that this is a genuine message from Allah and that Muhammad has been called to be a prophet. You know many people will not want to hear what he has to say but you are going to support and follow him.

Group 3 Muhammad's Cousins

You are Muhammad's cousins. You know Muhammad to be a good and generous person. You have listened to his story and believe that Allah has indeed spoken to Muhammad through the Angel Gabriel. You will definitely be followers of the new religion Islam.

Group 4 Outside Broadcasters

You are working with Charlie Bird. You are in Mecca to interview people for the news on their reactions to Muhammad's account of the revelations. Prepare the report you will give to the news at 6:00 Ask each person 3 questions:

1. How well do you know Muhammad?
2. Do you believe his account of the revelations of the Angel?
3. Will you follow him? Why/Why not?

Group 5 Traders

You are traders in Mecca . You have heard Muhammad's story but you are not convinced by it. You work hard and earn a lot of money. You find it hard to believe that there is a God watching who will make you pay one day for the things you are doing wrong. You would need more evidence before you would change your life and follow Muhammad.