



Dr. Bhasa Science

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The Science Foundation College
Uganda East Africa
Senior one to senior six

+256 778 633682 0753 143413

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A-level New Curriculum IRE

SENIOR Five term 1

TOPIC 2/2: The Preservation of the Holy Qur'an

Competency: The learner critically analyses the authenticity of the Qur'an by examining its historical preservation, textual consistency, and the evidence supporting its divine origin while articulating its significance in Islamic teachings and practices.

Objective 1: Examine how the Qur'an was protected and preserved by Allah against corruption and distortions to foster a deeper spiritual connection to its teachings. (15:9, 41:42, 2:79, and 75:17)

Qur'anic Evidence of Preservation

1. Divine Protection (Qur'an 15:9)

- *"Indeed, it is We who sent down the Qur'an and indeed, We will be its guardian."*
- Allah Himself guarantees the Qur'an's protection from alteration or corruption.
- **Meaning:** Unlike previous scriptures, which were altered by human hands, the Qur'an remains intact.
- **Impact:** Builds trust among believers that the Qur'an is the unchanged word of God.

2. Immunity from Falsehood (Qur'an 41:42)

- *"Falsehood cannot approach it from before it or from behind it; [it is] a revelation from the Wise, the Praiseworthy."*
- The Qur'an is safeguarded against distortion, contradiction, or falsehood.
- **Meaning:** Its teachings remain consistent and free from error.
- **Impact:** Deepens spiritual confidence in the Qur'an as a flawless source of guidance.

3. Warning Against Human Corruption (Qur'an 2:79)

- *“So woe to those who write the Scripture with their own hands, then say, ‘This is from Allah,’ to exchange it for a small price...”*
- This verse condemns those who altered earlier scriptures for personal gain.
- **Meaning:** Highlights why Allah took special measures to protect the Qur’an.
- **Impact:** Encourages Muslims to value authenticity and avoid manipulation of divine teachings.

4. Divine Responsibility in Preservation (Qur'an 75:17)

- *“Indeed, upon Us is its collection and its recitation.”*
- Allah assures that He Himself oversees the Qur’an’s preservation and transmission.
- **Meaning:** The Qur’an was compiled, memorized, and recited under divine supervision.
- **Impact:** Strengthens the spiritual bond between believers and the Qur’an, knowing it is divinely safeguarded.

Methods of Preservation in Practice

- **Memorization (Hifz):** From the Prophet Muhammad’s time, Muslims memorized the Qur’an word for word.
- **Written compilation:** Recorded during the Prophet’s life and later standardized under Caliph Uthman.
- **Oral transmission:** Recitation traditions ensured accuracy across generations.
- **Global consistency:** Despite being spread worldwide, the Qur’an remains identical in content.

Summary Table

Verse	Teaching	Preservation Aspect	Spiritual Impact
15:9	Allah guards the Qur’an	Divine protection	Builds trust in authenticity
41:42	Immune to falsehood	Consistency of message	Deepens confidence in guidance
2:79	Warning against corruption	Contrast with altered scriptures	Encourages respect for truth
75:17	Allah oversees recitation	Divine supervision	Strengthens spiritual connection

Conclusion

The Qur'an is protected by Allah through **divine guardianship, immunity from falsehood, warnings against corruption, and assurance of preservation**. This protection fosters a deeper spiritual connection by assuring believers that the Qur'an they read today is the same revealed to Prophet Muhammad. Its preservation through memorization, compilation, and oral transmission reflects Allah's promise, making the Qur'an a **living miracle and eternal source of guidance**.

Objective 2: Analyse the methods used to maintain the authenticity of the Holy Qur'an to appreciate their significance in preserving its message for human guidance.

Methods of Preserving the Authenticity of the Qur'an

1. Divine Protection

- Allah Himself promised to guard the Qur'an from corruption (*Qur'an 15:9*).
- Unlike earlier scriptures, which were altered, the Qur'an remains unchanged.
- **Significance:** Builds trust in its authenticity and assures believers that they are guided by the true word of God.

2. Memorization (Hifz)

- From the Prophet Muhammad's time, companions memorized the Qur'an word for word.
- This tradition continues today, with millions of Muslims worldwide memorizing the entire Qur'an.
- **Significance:** Oral transmission ensures accuracy and prevents distortion across generations.

3. Written Compilation

- During the Prophet's lifetime, verses were written on parchments, bones, and leaves.
- Under Caliph Abu Bakr, the Qur'an was compiled into a single manuscript.
- Caliph Uthman later standardized copies and distributed them to different regions.
- **Significance:** Prevented variations and safeguarded the Qur'an's unity.

4. Standardization of Recitation (Qira'at)

- The Qur'an was revealed with different dialects to accommodate Arab tribes.
- Uthman's compilation preserved the authentic recitation while allowing recognized variations.
- **Significance:** Ensured consistency in pronunciation and meaning while respecting linguistic diversity.

5. Scholarly Transmission and Tafsir

- Islamic scholars preserved the Qur'an through teaching, commentary (tafsir), and strict chains of transmission (isnad).
- **Significance:** Protected the Qur'an's meaning and context, preventing misinterpretation.

6. Global Dissemination

- The Qur'an spread across cultures and continents, yet remains identical in content everywhere.
- **Significance:** Its universality confirms divine preservation and strengthens unity among Muslims.

Significance for Human Guidance

- (i) **Authenticity:** Assures believers that the Qur'an is the unchanged word of God.
- (ii) **Spiritual connection:** Deepens faith and trust in divine guidance.
- (iii) **Moral compass:** Provides timeless principles of justice, compassion, and honesty.
- (iv) **Unity:** Preserves a common foundation for Muslims worldwide, fostering solidarity.
- (v) **Continuity:** Ensures the Qur'an remains relevant and applicable across generations.

Summary Table

Method	Description	Significance
Divine protection	Allah's promise to guard the Qur'an	Builds trust in authenticity
Memorization	Oral transmission across generations	Prevents distortion
Written compilation	Standardized manuscripts	Safeguards unity
Standard recitation	Preserved dialects and qira'at	Ensures consistency
Scholarly tafsir	Commentary and teaching	Protects meaning
Global dissemination	Spread across cultures	Confirms universality

Conclusion

The authenticity of the Qur'an has been preserved through **divine protection, memorization, written compilation, standardized recitation, scholarly transmission, and global dissemination**. These methods ensure that the Qur'an remains **unchanged, reliable, and universally accessible**, allowing it to continue guiding humanity with integrity, justice, and spiritual wisdom.

Objective 3: Analyse Qur’anic verses 3:144, 53:19-20, 22:52, 96:1 5,62:2,68:2,29:51,10:37,3:3,3:7,6:192,6:38 and 2:114 and hadith report to appreciate the authenticity of the Qur’an.

Qur’anic Verses and Their Significance in confirming authenticity of the Qur’an

1. Qur’an 3:144

- *“Muhammad is no more than a messenger; many were the messengers that passed away before him...”*
- Emphasizes that the Qur’an is not Muhammad’s invention but divine revelation, continuing the line of earlier prophets.
- **Authenticity:** Shows the Qur’an’s independence from the Prophet’s mortality, affirming its divine origin.

2. Qur’an 53:19–20

- Condemns false deities (al-Lat, al-‘Uzza, and Manat).
- **Authenticity:** Demonstrates the Qur’an’s role in purifying faith from corruption and idolatry.

3. Qur’an 22:52

- *“Never did We send a messenger or a prophet before you but when he desired, Satan threw some falsehood into his desire...”*
- **Authenticity:** Affirms that divine revelation is protected from satanic distortion, ensuring purity of message.

4. Qur’an 96:1–5

- *“Read in the name of your Lord who created...”*
- The first revelation to Prophet Muhammad.
- **Authenticity:** Marks the divine initiation of the Qur’an, not human authorship.

5. Qur’an 62:2

- *“It is He who has sent among the unlettered a Messenger from themselves...”*
- **Authenticity:** The Prophet, being unlettered, could not have authored such a profound scripture, proving divine origin.

6. Qur’an 68:2

- *“You are not, by the favor of your Lord, mad...”*
- **Authenticity:** Defends the Prophet against accusations of insanity, affirming the Qur’an as divine revelation.

7. Qur'an 29:51

- *“Is it not sufficient for them that We have sent down to you the Book which is recited to them?”*
- **Authenticity:** The Qur'an itself is the living miracle, sufficient proof of its divine source.

8. Qur'an 10:37

- *“This Qur'an could not have been produced by anyone other than Allah...”*
- **Authenticity:** Explicitly denies human authorship, affirming divine revelation.

9. Qur'an 3:3

- *“He has sent down upon you the Book in truth, confirming what was before it...”*
- **Authenticity:** Shows continuity with earlier scriptures, proving divine consistency.

10. Qur'an 3:7

- Distinguishes between clear and allegorical verses.
- **Authenticity:** Demonstrates the Qur'an's depth and divine wisdom, beyond human capacity.

11. Qur'an 6:192

- *“And this is a blessed Book which We have sent down...”*
- **Authenticity:** Declares the Qur'an's divine blessing and authority.

12. Qur'an 6:38

- *“We have not neglected in the Book a thing...”*
- **Authenticity:** Affirms completeness of the Qur'an, leaving no room for distortion.

13. Qur'an 2:114

- Condemns those who prevent remembrance of Allah in His mosques.
- **Authenticity:** Highlights the Qur'an's role in safeguarding worship and truth against corruption.

Hadith Reports Supporting Authenticity of the Qur'an

- (i) **Hadith on Preservation:** Prophet Muhammad said, *“The best among you are those who learn the Qur'an and teach it”* (Sahih al-Bukhari).
 - Shows the Qur'an was preserved through memorization and transmission.

- (ii) **Hadith on Divine Protection:** The Prophet assured that the Qur'an would remain intact and recited until the Day of Judgment.
- (iii) **Hadith on Revelation:** Reports describe Angel Jibril delivering revelation, confirming divine mediation and accuracy.

Summary Table

Verse	Key Message	Authenticity Aspect
3:144	Prophet is mortal	Qur'an is divine, not human
53:19–20	Rejects idols	Purifies faith
22:52	Satan cannot corrupt	Revelation protected
96:1–5	First revelation	Divine initiation
62:2	Prophet unlettered	Proof of divine origin
68:2	Prophet not mad	Defends authenticity
29:51	Qur'an is sufficient	Living miracle
10:37	Not human-made	Divine authorship
3:3	Confirms earlier books	Continuity of revelation
3:7	Clear/allegorical verses	Depth of wisdom
6:192	Blessed Book	Divine authority
6:38	Completeness	No distortion
2:114	Protects worship	Guards truth

Conclusion

The Qur'an's authenticity is upheld through its **divine protection, continuity with earlier revelations, miraculous eloquence, completeness, and preservation through memorization and transmission**. The verses and hadith reports confirm that the Qur'an is not a human invention but a **living miracle safeguarded by Allah**. This assurance fosters a deeper spiritual connection, as believers trust that the Qur'an they recite today is the same unchanged word revealed to Prophet Muhammad, guiding humanity with integrity and truth.

Activity 1: Write an essay about the authenticity of the Qur'an.

Example is given below:

Essay: The Authenticity of the Qur'an (for example)

The Qur'an, the central religious text of Islam, is regarded by Muslims as the literal word of God revealed to Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) through the Angel Jibril (Gabriel). Its authenticity has been a subject of reverence and scholarly study for centuries. Unlike other scriptures that have undergone alterations, the Qur'an is believed to have remained unchanged since its revelation more than 1,400 years ago. This essay examines the authenticity of the Qur'an by exploring divine protection, methods of preservation, and its impact on spiritual guidance.

One of the strongest proofs of the Qur'an's authenticity lies in Allah's promise of divine protection. In Qur'an 15:9, Allah declares: *"Indeed, it is We who sent down the Qur'an, and indeed, We will be its guardian."* This assurance highlights that the Qur'an is safeguarded against corruption and distortion. Similarly, Qur'an 41:42 affirms that falsehood cannot approach it from any direction, emphasizing its immunity from error. These verses reassure believers that the Qur'an they recite today is the same as that revealed to Prophet Muhammad, fostering a deep spiritual connection to its teachings.

Another aspect of authenticity is the Qur'an's preservation through memorization and transmission. From the earliest days of Islam, companions of the Prophet memorized the Qur'an word for word, a practice known as *hifz*. This oral tradition continues today, with millions of Muslims worldwide committing the entire Qur'an to memory. In addition, the Qur'an was recorded during the Prophet's lifetime on parchments, bones, and leaves, and later compiled into a single manuscript under Caliph Abu Bakr. Caliph Uthman standardized the text and distributed copies to different regions, ensuring consistency and preventing variations. This meticulous process of preservation demonstrates the seriousness with which Muslims safeguarded the Qur'an's authenticity.

The Qur'an also asserts its authenticity by distinguishing itself from human authorship. In Qur'an 10:37, it states: *"This Qur'an could not have been produced by anyone other than Allah."* The Prophet Muhammad, being unlettered (Qur'an 62:2), could not have authored such a profound and eloquent scripture. Its unmatched linguistic style, depth of meaning, and consistency across themes further prove its divine origin. The Qur'an even challenges humanity and jinn to produce a chapter like it (Qur'an 2:23, 17:88), a challenge that remains unmet, reinforcing its miraculous nature.

Hadith reports also support the Qur'an's authenticity. The Prophet emphasized learning and teaching the Qur'an, saying: *"The best among you are those who learn the Qur'an and teach it"* (Sahih al-Bukhari). This tradition ensured that the Qur'an was preserved both orally and textually. Furthermore, the Prophet assured that the Qur'an would remain intact until the Day of Judgment, highlighting its eternal relevance.

In conclusion, the authenticity of the Qur'an is upheld through divine protection, meticulous preservation, and its inimitable nature. Its unchanged text, memorization across generations, and universal consistency confirm that it is the true word of God. For Muslims, this authenticity fosters a deeper spiritual connection, as they trust that the Qur'an provides timeless guidance for faith, morality, and social justice. The Qur'an thus stands not only as a historical miracle but also as a living source of divine wisdom, shaping personal spirituality and collective harmony across the world.

Thank You

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