



Dr. Bbosa Science

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

+256 778 633682 0753 143413

Based on, Best for Science

digitalteachers.co.ug



Nuture your dreams

A-level New Curriculum IRE

SENIOR Six term 1

TOPIC 1/5: The Development of Islamic Law (Sharia)

Competency: The learner analyses the origin, development, and principles of Islamic law (Sharia) and understands its evolution and relevance in contemporary contexts.

Objective 1: Examine the stages of Islamic law development to appreciate the values of the Islamic legal practices

The development of **Islamic law (Sharī'ah)** unfolded in distinct stages, each reflecting the evolving needs of the Muslim community and the safeguarding of divine guidance. Examining these stages helps us appreciate the values embedded in Islamic legal practices—justice, mercy, accountability, and community welfare.

1. The Qur'anic Stage (610–632 CE)

- **Source:** Direct revelation of the Qur'an to Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.
- **Nature:** Provided foundational principles—belief in God, worship, morality, social justice, and basic legal rulings (e.g., inheritance, marriage, contracts).
- **Values:**
 - **Divine authority:** Law rooted in God's will.
 - **Justice and equality:** Protection of orphans, women, and the poor.
 - **Mercy and compassion:** Encouragement of forgiveness and charity.

2. Prophetic Stage (Sunnah)

- **Source:** The Prophet's sayings, actions, and approvals (Hadith).
- **Nature:** Clarified and expanded Qur'anic rulings; provided practical examples of worship, ethics, and governance.
- **Values:**
 - **Living example:** The Prophet embodied the law in daily life.
 - **Flexibility:** Adapted rulings to circumstances with wisdom.
 - **Community guidance:** Ensured unity and moral integrity.

3. The Companions' Stage (632–661 CE)

- **Source:** Interpretations and rulings of the Prophet's Companions (Sahābah).
- **Nature:** Applied Qur'an and Sunnah to new situations after the Prophet's death.
- **Values:**
 - **Collective responsibility:** Decisions made through consultation (*shūrā*).
 - **Continuity:** Preserved the Prophet's teachings faithfully.
 - **Practicality:** Addressed emerging issues in expanding Muslim lands.

4. The Early Jurists' Stage (661–750 CE)

- **Source:** Scholars in centers like Madinah, Kufa, Basra, and Damascus.
- **Nature:** Development of *fiqh* (jurisprudence) and systematic methods of interpretation.
- **Values:**
 - **Reasoning (ijtihād):** Use of analogy (*qiyās*) and consensus (*ijmā'*).
 - **Adaptability:** Law applied to diverse cultures and societies.
 - **Integrity:** Scholars resisted political manipulation of law.

5. The Codification Stage (8th–10th Century)

- **Source:** Formation of the major schools of law (*madhāhib*): Hanafi, Maliki, Shafi'i, Hanbali (Sunni), and Ja'fari (Shi'a).
- **Nature:** Systematic codification of legal principles and rulings.
- **Values:**
 - **Unity in diversity:** Multiple schools allowed flexibility while maintaining orthodoxy.
 - **Scholarship:** Emphasis on rigorous study and transmission.
 - **Stability:** Provided consistent legal frameworks for governance.

6. The Consolidation Stage (10th–19th Century)

- **Source:** Commentaries, fatwas, and legal manuals.
- **Nature:** Expansion of jurisprudence into detailed rulings; reduced independent *ijtihād* in favor of established precedents.
- **Values:**
 - **Preservation:** Safeguarded centuries of scholarship.
 - **Continuity:** Maintained consistency across generations.
 - **Community welfare:** Law applied to social, economic, and political life.

7. The Modern Stage (19th Century–Present)

- **Source:** Interaction with modernity, colonialism, and nation-states.
- **Nature:** Reform movements, revival of *ijtihad*, and integration of Sharī'ah with modern legal systems.
- **Values:**
 - **Relevance:** Addressing contemporary issues (human rights, finance, governance).
 - **Balance:** Preserving tradition while engaging modern challenges.
 - **Justice and ethics:** Upholding timeless values in new contexts.

Appreciation of Islamic Legal Values

- **Justice:** Protecting rights and ensuring fairness.
- **Mercy:** Encouraging forgiveness and compassion.
- **Accountability:** Holding individuals and rulers responsible.
- **Community welfare:** Promoting social harmony and protecting the vulnerable.
- **Adaptability:** Ensuring relevance across cultures and eras.

Summary: Islamic law developed through stages—from Qur'anic revelation, Prophetic guidance, and Companions' rulings, to juristic codification, consolidation, and modern reform. Each stage reflects values of justice, mercy, accountability, and adaptability, ensuring that Sharī'ah remains a living system guiding both personal conduct and communal life.

Thank you

DR. Bbosa Science