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A-level New Curriculum IRE

SENIOR Six term 2

TOPIC 1/2: The Life of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) AD 570-632

Competency: The learner analyses key events in Prophet Muhammadi's life and how his actions and attributes serve as a model for moral and ethical behaviours.

Objective 1: Explain the key events in the early life of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and appreciate his character as a model of ethics, integrity, resilience, and leadership.

1. Key Events in His Early Life

- **Birth and Orphanhood:**
 - Born in Mecca in 570 CE, known as the "Year of the Elephant."
 - His father, Abdullah, died before his birth; his mother, Amina, passed away when he was six.
 - Raised first by his grandfather Abdul Muttalib, then by his uncle Abu Talib.
 - This early experience of loss instilled empathy for the vulnerable, especially orphans.
- **Childhood and Youth:**
 - Worked as a shepherd, learning patience, responsibility, and humility.
 - Later became a merchant, gaining a reputation for honesty and fairness.
 - Nicknamed *al-Amīn* ("the Trustworthy") by the Meccans due to his integrity in business and personal dealings.
- **Marriage to Khadijah:**
 - At age 25, he married Khadijah, a respected merchant widow, after successfully managing her trade caravan.
 - Their marriage was marked by mutual respect, love, and support, providing him stability and encouragement.
- **Contemplation and Spiritual Preparation:**
 - Spent time in seclusion at the Cave of Hira, reflecting on life, morality, and the injustices of Meccan society.

- This spiritual discipline prepared him for the prophetic mission that began at age 40.

2. Appreciating His Character

- **Ethics and Integrity:**
 - His honesty in trade and fairness in dealings earned him trust across Mecca.
 - He upheld justice even before prophethood, mediating disputes with wisdom (e.g., resolving the conflict over placing the Black Stone in the Ka'bah).
- **Resilience:**
 - Endured orphanhood, poverty, and social challenges with patience and dignity.
 - His perseverance in hardship became a source of inspiration for others facing trials.
- **Leadership:**
 - Demonstrated natural leadership by guiding caravans successfully and mediating community disputes.
 - His leadership was rooted in service, humility, and moral authority rather than power or wealth.
- **Compassion and Empathy:**
 - His early experiences of loss made him deeply compassionate toward orphans, widows, and the marginalized.
 - This empathy later became central to his teachings on social justice and mercy.

3. Critical Reflection

- Prophet Muhammad's early life shows that **great leadership is forged through adversity.**
- His integrity in trade and personal life demonstrates that ethical conduct builds trust and credibility.
- His resilience in hardship highlights the importance of patience and perseverance.
- His compassion for the vulnerable reflects the principle that true leadership serves others, not oneself.

Summary: The early life of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)—marked by orphanhood, honesty in trade, marriage to Khadijah, and spiritual reflection—shaped him into a model of **ethics, integrity, resilience, and leadership.** His character demonstrates that moral strength, empathy, and perseverance are the foundations of true leadership, making him a timeless example for spiritual growth, social justice, and ethical living.

Objective 2: Explain the key events of the Makkan period (AD 610–622), analyse the challenges faced by Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and his followers, and evaluate their significance in shaping Islamic principles to address contemporary issues of faith, perseverance, and social justice.

1. Key Events of the Makkan Period

- **610 CE – First Revelation:**
 - In the Cave of Hira, Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) received the first revelation through Angel Jibrīl, marking the start of his mission.
 - Message: Monotheism (*tawhīd*), moral reform, and accountability before God.
- **Early Converts:**
 - Khadijah (his wife), Ali ibn Abi Talib, Abu Bakr, and Zayd ibn Harithah were among the first Muslims.
 - Early followers were often the poor, slaves, and marginalized, attracted by Islam's message of equality.
- **Secret Preaching (610–613):**
 - Islam was taught privately to avoid persecution.
 - A small but committed community formed.
- **Public Preaching (613 CE):**
 - The Prophet openly called Quraysh to abandon idol worship and injustice.
 - This challenged Meccan elites who profited from the Ka'bah's idol-centered pilgrimage.
- **Persecution of Muslims:**
 - Followers like Bilal ibn Rabah were tortured; others faced social boycott and economic exclusion.
 - The Prophet himself was mocked and pressured to abandon his mission.
- **Migration to Abyssinia (615 CE):**
 - Some Muslims sought refuge under the Christian king Negus, who protected them.
 - Demonstrated Islam's openness to coexistence with other faiths.
- **Boycott (617–619 CE):**
 - Quraysh imposed a social and economic boycott on Muslims and the Prophet's clan (Banu Hashim).
 - Muslims endured hunger and hardship in isolation.
- **Year of Sorrow (619 CE):**
 - Deaths of Khadijah and Abu Talib left the Prophet vulnerable.
 - His attempt to seek support in Ta'if ended in rejection and abuse.
- **Isra and Mi'raj (Night Journey, 620 CE):**
 - A miraculous journey to Jerusalem and ascension to the heavens, affirming his spiritual mission and establishing prayer as central to faith.
- **Pledges of Aqabah (621–622 CE):**
 - Muslims from Yathrib (Medina) pledged allegiance to the Prophet, inviting him to lead their community.
 - This set the stage for the Hijrah (migration) to Medina in 622 CE, ending the Makkan period.

2. Challenges Faced

- **Religious Opposition:** Quraysh resisted monotheism, fearing loss of economic and social power.
- **Social Ostracism:** Muslims were marginalized, boycotted, and denied basic rights.
- **Economic Hardship:** The boycott led to hunger and poverty.
- **Physical Persecution:** Followers were tortured, imprisoned, or killed.
- **Psychological Strain:** The Prophet endured grief, rejection, and isolation, yet remained steadfast.

3. Significance in Shaping Islamic Principles

- **Faith (Īmān):**
 - The Makkan period emphasized unwavering belief in Allah despite adversity.
 - **Contemporary relevance:** Inspires Muslims to maintain faith in secular or hostile environments.
- **Perseverance (Ṣabr):**
 - Enduring persecution taught patience and resilience.
 - **Contemporary relevance:** Encourages resilience in facing discrimination, poverty, or personal trials.
- **Social Justice ('Adl):**
 - The Prophet condemned exploitation, tribal arrogance, and oppression of the weak.
 - **Contemporary relevance:** Inspires movements for equality, human rights, and protection of marginalized groups.
- **Compassion and Coexistence:**
 - Migration to Abyssinia showed Islam's respect for other faiths and pursuit of peaceful refuge.
 - **Contemporary relevance:** Promotes interfaith dialogue and peaceful coexistence in pluralistic societies.
- **Leadership and Integrity:**
 - Despite hardship, the Prophet led with honesty, humility, and vision.
 - **Contemporary relevance:** Provides a model for ethical leadership in politics, business, and community life.

Summary: The Makkan period (610–622) was marked by revelation, persecution, migration, and resilience. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and his followers faced immense challenges—religious opposition, social ostracism, and economic hardship—but responded with **faith, patience, and integrity**. These experiences shaped core Islamic principles of **faith, perseverance, social justice, compassion, and ethical leadership**, which remain deeply relevant in addressing contemporary issues such as discrimination, inequality, and moral decline.

Objective 2.1: Analyse Qur'an 17:1 as a case study to describe the Isra wal-Miraj event.

1. The Verse (Qur'an 17:1)

Allah says: *“Glory be to Him who took His servant by night from al-Masjid al-Haram to al-Masjid al-Aqsa, whose surroundings We have blessed, to show him of Our signs. Indeed, He is the Hearing, the Seeing.”*

This verse introduces the miraculous journey of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), known as **Isra wal-Mi'raj**.

2. The Isra (Night Journey)

- **From Mecca to Jerusalem:**
 - The Prophet was transported from the Ka'bah (*al-Masjid al-Haram*) in Mecca to *al-Masjid al-Aqsa* in Jerusalem.
 - This journey symbolizes the spiritual link between the two sacred sites and highlights Jerusalem's importance in Islam.
- **Meeting Earlier Prophets:**
 - At al-Aqsa, the Prophet led other prophets in prayer, signifying his role as the Seal of Prophets and the unity of divine messages.

3. The Mi'raj (Ascension)

- **Journey through the Heavens:**
 - From Jerusalem, the Prophet ascended through the seven heavens, meeting prophets like Adam, Moses, and Jesus.
- **Divine Encounter:**
 - He reached the highest point (*Sidrat al-Muntaha*) and was granted direct communication with Allah.
- **Gift of Prayer:**
 - The five daily prayers (*ṣalāh*) were established, becoming a central pillar of Islamic practice.

4. Challenges and Reactions

- **Skepticism in Mecca:**
 - Quraysh leaders mocked the Prophet, questioning the plausibility of such a journey in one night.
- **Faith of Believers:**
 - Abu Bakr (RA) earned the title *al-Ṣiddīq* (“the Truthful”) for affirming the Prophet's account without hesitation.
- **Lesson:** The event tested the faith of early Muslims, distinguishing true believers from doubters.

5. Significance in Shaping Islamic Principles

- **Faith (Īmān):**
 - The miraculous nature of Isra wal-Mi'raj emphasizes belief in the unseen and trust in divine power.
 - **Contemporary relevance:** Encourages Muslims to hold firm to faith even when challenged by skepticism or modern materialism.
- **Perseverance (Ṣabr):**
 - The Prophet endured ridicule yet remained steadfast.
 - **Contemporary relevance:** Inspires resilience in facing criticism, discrimination, or hardship.
- **Social Justice ('Adl):**
 - The Prophet's leadership in prayer with earlier prophets symbolizes continuity of justice and moral responsibility across faiths.
 - **Contemporary relevance:** Promotes interfaith respect and shared commitment to justice.
- **Spiritual Discipline:**
 - The gift of prayer highlights the importance of regular worship as a source of strength and guidance.
 - **Contemporary relevance:** Prayer remains a tool for grounding, resilience, and ethical living.

Summary: Qur'an 17:1 describes the **Isra wal-Mi'raj**, a miraculous journey affirming the Prophet Muhammad's (PBUH) role as the Seal of Prophets and establishing prayer as a central pillar of Islam. Despite skepticism, the event strengthened faith, tested perseverance, and emphasized social justice and spiritual discipline. Its lessons remain relevant today, guiding Muslims in issues of **faith, resilience, and justice** in a complex modern world.

Objective 3: Analyse key events of the Madinah period (AD 622–632) and evaluate their role in shaping Islamic principles of leadership, justice, and community cohesion, while fostering critical thinking and values of unity and ethical leadership.

1. Key Events of the Madinah Period

- **Hijrah (622 CE):**
 - Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and his followers migrated from Mecca to Medina.
 - This marked the beginning of the Islamic calendar and the establishment of the first Muslim community (*ummah*).
- **Constitution of Medina:**
 - A written charter that regulated relations between Muslims, Jews, and other tribes.

- It emphasized religious freedom, mutual defense, and justice, laying the foundation for pluralistic governance.
- **Battles of Badr (624 CE), Uhud (625 CE), and the Trench (627 CE):**
 - These conflicts tested the resilience of the Muslim community against Meccan opposition.
 - They highlighted the importance of unity, strategic leadership, and perseverance in adversity.
- **Treaty of Hudaibiyyah (628 CE):**
 - A peace agreement with Quraysh that allowed Muslims to perform pilgrimage later.
 - Though seen as unfavorable by some, it demonstrated the Prophet's commitment to diplomacy and long-term vision.
- **Conquest of Mecca (630 CE):**
 - Prophet Muhammad entered Mecca peacefully, forgave former enemies, and cleansed the Ka'bah of idols.
 - This event symbolized mercy, reconciliation, and the triumph of monotheism.
- **Farewell Pilgrimage and Final Sermon (632 CE):**
 - The Prophet emphasized equality, justice, and the sanctity of life and property.
 - His sermon reinforced universal values of unity and ethical leadership.

2. Challenges Faced

- **Internal Cohesion:** Integrating diverse tribes and faith groups into one community.
- **External Threats:** Defending Medina against Quraysh and other hostile tribes.
- **Economic Struggles:** Establishing financial systems like *zakat* to support the poor and sustain community welfare.
- **Leadership Tests:** Balancing spiritual guidance with political and military responsibilities.

3. Role in Shaping Islamic Principles

- **Leadership:**
 - Prophet Muhammad modeled servant leadership—humility, consultation (*shūrā*), and accountability.
 - **Contemporary relevance:** Ethical leadership rooted in service rather than domination.
- **Justice ('Adl):**
 - The Constitution of Medina and the Prophet's rulings emphasized fairness, protection of rights, and equality before the law.
 - **Contemporary relevance:** Inspires modern legal systems to uphold fairness and protect minorities.
- **Community Cohesion (Ummah):**
 - The concept of *ummah* united diverse groups under shared values of faith and justice.

- **Contemporary relevance:** Encourages unity across ethnic, cultural, and religious divides.
- **Critical Thinking and Diplomacy:**
 - The Treaty of Hudaibiyah showed foresight and patience, teaching Muslims to value long-term peace over short-term gain.
 - **Contemporary relevance:** Promotes strategic thinking and peaceful conflict resolution.
- **Ethical Values:**
 - Forgiveness at the conquest of Mecca and the Prophet’s final sermon highlight mercy, equality, and respect for human dignity.
 - **Contemporary relevance:** Provides a moral compass for addressing issues of discrimination, inequality, and injustice today.

Summary: The Madinah period (622–632) was transformative: the Hijrah established the Muslim community, the Constitution of Medina institutionalized justice and pluralism, battles tested resilience, treaties demonstrated diplomacy, and the conquest of Mecca embodied mercy. These events shaped enduring Islamic principles of **leadership, justice, and community cohesion**, while fostering **critical thinking, unity, and ethical leadership**. Their lessons remain vital for addressing contemporary challenges of faith, perseverance, and social justice in diverse societies.

Objective 3.1: Explore key battles (e.g. Badr, Uhud, and Trench) between Muslims and Makkans (624–629) and analyse principles of unity, tolerance, and justice.

1. Battle of Badr (624 CE)

- **Context:** The first major battle between Muslims and Quraysh. Muslims, though outnumbered, fought to defend their community after years of persecution.
- **Outcome:** Muslims achieved a decisive victory, seen as divine support for their cause.
- **Lessons:**
 - **Unity:** Despite being few, Muslims stood together with discipline and faith.
 - **Justice:** The battle was fought in defense, not aggression, highlighting Islam’s principle of resisting oppression.
 - **Tolerance:** Prisoners of war were treated humanely; some were released in exchange for teaching literacy, showing Islam’s emphasis on mercy and knowledge.

2. Battle of Uhud (625 CE)

- **Context:** Quraysh sought revenge for Badr. Muslims initially gained advantage but lost due to disobedience of archers who abandoned their posts.
- **Outcome:** Muslims suffered losses, including the martyrdom of Hamza (the Prophet’s uncle).
- **Lessons:**

- **Unity:** Disunity and lack of discipline weakened the Muslim army, teaching the importance of collective responsibility.
- **Justice:** The Prophet forbade mutilation of the dead and maintained ethical conduct even in defeat.
- **Tolerance:** After the battle, forgiveness was emphasized, and the Prophet continued to invite Quraysh to Islam rather than seeking vengeance.

3. Battle of the Trench (627 CE)

- **Context:** Quraysh allied with other tribes to besiege Medina. Muslims, advised by Salman al-Farisi, dug a trench around the city—a novel defensive strategy.
- **Outcome:** The siege failed; Quraysh withdrew after weeks of stalemate.
- **Lessons:**
 - **Unity:** Muslims worked together in digging the trench, showing solidarity across social classes.
 - **Justice:** Defensive warfare protected Medina without unnecessary bloodshed.
 - **Tolerance:** The Prophet maintained alliances with Jewish and tribal groups under the Constitution of Medina, showing respect for pluralism.

4. Principles Derived

- **Unity:** Success depended on collective discipline, cooperation, and shared faith. Disunity led to setbacks (Uhud), while unity brought resilience (Trench).
- **Tolerance:** Even in conflict, Islam emphasized humane treatment of prisoners, alliances with non-Muslims, and forgiveness after battles.
- **Justice:** Warfare was defensive, aimed at protecting the community from aggression. Ethical conduct was upheld, forbidding cruelty and emphasizing fairness.

5. Contemporary Relevance

- **Unity:** Teaches modern communities the importance of solidarity in facing challenges.
- **Tolerance:** Encourages peaceful coexistence, dialogue, and respect for diversity even in times of tension.
- **Justice:** Reminds societies that true strength lies in defending rights and resisting oppression without resorting to injustice.

Summary: The battles of **Badr, Uhud, and the Trench** were defining moments in the struggle between Muslims and Quraysh. They tested the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and his followers, teaching lessons of **unity in adversity, tolerance in victory and defeat, and justice in warfare**. These principles remain timeless, guiding Muslims today in addressing issues of faith, resilience, and social justice in a complex world.

Objective 3.1: Highlight the spiritual, social, and political impact of the Prophet's death, demonstrating personal reflection and values of resilience and continuity.

1. Spiritual Impact

- **Sense of Loss:** The Prophet's passing was a profound shock to the Muslim community. Many companions struggled to accept it, showing the depth of their love and reliance on him.
- **Reminder of Mortality:** Abu Bakr's famous words—*"Whoever worships Muhammad, know that Muhammad has died. But whoever worships Allah, know that Allah is Ever-Living and never dies"*—re-centered the community's faith on Allah alone.
- **Continuity of Faith:** His death reinforced the principle that Islam is not dependent on one person but on divine guidance preserved in the Qur'an and Sunnah.

2. Social Impact

- **Community Grief and Healing:** The Muslim community had to process collective grief while maintaining unity.
- **Strengthening of Brotherhood:** The bonds of *ummah* were tested, but resilience came through shared rituals, remembrance, and commitment to the Prophet's teachings.
- **Ethical Continuity:** His example of compassion, justice, and humility became the enduring model for Muslims, guiding personal conduct and social relations.

3. Political Impact

- **Leadership Transition:** The Prophet left no explicit successor, leading to deliberation among the companions. Abu Bakr was chosen as the first Caliph, marking the beginning of the caliphate system.
- **Challenge of Unity:** Some tribes attempted to break away, but Abu Bakr's firm leadership preserved the unity of the Muslim community.
- **Institutional Continuity:** The Prophet's political vision—justice, consultation (*shūrā*), and accountability—was carried forward by the caliphs, ensuring stability and expansion of Islam.

4. Personal Reflection and Values

- **Resilience:** The companions demonstrated resilience by transforming grief into renewed commitment to Islam. Their ability to endure loss while preserving unity is a timeless lesson.
- **Continuity:** The Prophet's teachings lived on through the Qur'an, Sunnah, and the community's practice, showing that true leadership builds institutions and values that outlast individuals.

- **Unity and Ethical Leadership:** The transition highlighted the importance of consultation, justice, and humility in leadership—principles still vital in addressing contemporary challenges of governance and community cohesion.

Summary: The Prophet’s death in 632 CE had profound **spiritual, social, and political impacts:** it tested faith, challenged unity, and required strong leadership. Yet, through resilience and continuity, the Muslim community upheld his legacy, ensuring Islam’s survival and growth. His passing reminds us that true leadership lies in building values—**faith, justice, unity, and ethical conduct**—that endure beyond one lifetime and guide communities through adversity.

Thank you

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