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## A-level New Curriculum IRE

### SENIOR Five term 3

### TOPIC 2/5: Collection of Hadith

**Competency:** The learner demonstrates knowledge of Hadith collection methods, analyses their purpose, and appreciates their significance in preserving the teachings of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

A **Hadith** is a record of the sayings, actions, approvals, or disapprovals of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. Together with the Qur'an, Hadith forms the foundation of Islamic law, ethics, and spirituality.

#### 1. Definition

- **Hadith (plural: Ahadith):** Literally means “report” or “narration.”
- It documents what the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said, did, or tacitly approved.
- Serves as guidance for Muslims in matters of worship, morality, and daily life.

#### 2. Structure of a Hadith

- **Isnad (chain of transmission):** The list of narrators who passed down the report.
- **Matn (text):** The actual content of the Hadith (the Prophet's words or actions).

#### 3. Classification

- **Sahih (authentic):** Strong chain of narrators, reliable content.
- **Hasan (good):** Slightly weaker but still acceptable.
- **Da'if (weak):** Weak chain or questionable content.
- **Mawdu' (fabricated):** False reports not attributed to the Prophet.

#### 4. Major Collections

- **Sahih al-Bukhari**

- Sahih Muslim
- Sunan Abu Dawud
- Jami' al-Tirmidhi
- Sunan al-Nasa'i
- Sunan Ibn Majah

These six are often referred to as the *Kutub al-Sittah* (The Six Books).

## 5. Example of a Famous Hadith

The Prophet ﷺ said: "The best among you are those who have the best manners and character." (Sahih al-Bukhari)

- **Lesson:** Ethical conduct and good character are central to faith.

## 6. Hadith Collection Methods

Early Muslim scholars developed rigorous methods to ensure the authenticity of Hadith:

- **Isnād (Chain of Transmission)**
  - Every Hadith includes a chain of narrators tracing back to the Prophet ﷺ.
  - Scholars examined each narrator's reliability, memory, and integrity.
- **Matn (Text of the Hadith)**
  - The actual content of the Hadith was analyzed for consistency with the Qur'an and other authentic reports.
- **Verification Techniques**
  - **Jarh wa Ta'dīl:** Assessing narrators' credibility (criticism and validation).
  - **Comparison:** Cross-checking Hadith across multiple chains to confirm accuracy.
  - **Classification:** Hadith were categorized as *Sahih* (authentic), *Hasan* (good), *Da'if* (weak), or *Mawdu'* (fabricated).
- **Major Compilers**
  - Imam al-Bukhari (*Sahih al-Bukhari*) and Imam Muslim (*Sahih Muslim*) are considered the most rigorous collectors.
  - Other collections include Abu Dawud, al-Tirmidhi, al-Nasa'i, and Ibn Majah.

## 7. Purpose of Hadith Collection

- **Explains the Qur'an:** Provides context and details for Qur'anic verses.
- **Preserve the Prophet's Teachings:** Safeguard his sayings, actions, and approvals for future generations.
- **Guides worship:** Details on prayer, fasting, zakat, and pilgrimage.
- **Establish Law and Ethical conduct:** Teaches compassion, honesty, justice, and humility. Serve as a foundation for Islamic jurisprudence (*Shari'ah*).
- **Spiritual growth:** Inspires believers to emulate the Prophet's character.

- **Protect Against Fabrication:** Ensure false reports were identified and rejected.

## 8. Significance of Hadith

- **Preservation of Sunnah:** Hadith safeguard the Prophet's way of life (*Sunnah*), ensuring Muslims can emulate his example.
- **Spiritual Guidance:** Inspire believers to cultivate virtues like patience, honesty, humility, and compassion.
- **Ethical Conduct:** Provide practical lessons for daily life, family relations, business dealings, and community responsibility.
- **Unity of Practice:** Standardize worship and rituals across the Muslim world.
- **Historical Record:** Document the lived example of the Prophet ﷺ, offering insight into early Islamic society.

## 9. Appreciation of Their Role

- The meticulous science of Hadith collection reflects the **dedication of scholars** to preserve the Prophet's teachings with integrity.
- Without Hadith, many aspects of Islamic practice (like prayer details, zakat rules, or ethical guidance) would remain unclear.
- Their preservation ensures that Muslims today can **connect authentically** to the Prophet's example, maintaining continuity of faith and practice.

**Summary:** Hadith are essential sources of Islamic guidance, second only to the Qur'an. They preserve the Prophet's teachings, shaping worship, ethics, and spirituality.

**Thank you**

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