

QURAN - IRE FORM 4 Notes

- [Distinctive Features of the Qur'an](#)
- [The Structure and Divisions of the Qur'an](#)
 - [Ayat](#)
 - [Surahs](#)
 - [Juz'u](#)
 - [Ruk'u](#)
 - [Manzil](#)
- [The Makkan and the Madinan Surahs](#)
 - [Makkan Surahs](#)
 - [Madinan Surahs](#)
- [Language and Style of the Qur'an](#)
 - [Language of the Qur'an](#)
 - [Style of the Qur'an.](#)
- [Miraculous Nature of the Qur'an](#)
- [Translation of the Holy Quran](#)
 - [Condition for the Translation](#)
 - [Benefits of Translating Qur'an](#)
 - [Problems of Translating Qur'an](#)
- [Quran as Perfect and Final Revelation](#)
- [Suratul Hujurat \(The Inner Apartments or the Chambers\)](#)
 - [Background to the Revelation of Surah al Hujurat](#)
 - [Teachings of Hujurat](#)

[Distinctive Features of the Qur'an](#)

- In form two, we learnt that Allah (SWT) revealed various scriptures to different generations.
- We also learnt the reasons why humankind needed divine guidance.
- You will realise that the main purpose of all the revealed scriptures was to guide humankind to the path of Allah (SWT).
- It is important to note that all the revealed scriptures have certain similar characteristics.
- Among the characteristics of revealed scriptures such as Taurat, Zabur, suhuf, Injil and Qur'an are as follows:
 - They were revealed by Allah (SWT).
 - They teach Tawheed (Monotheism).
 - They were sent to specific umma (nations) apart from the Qur'an which was sent to the entire humankind.
 - They guide humankind on good morals and condemn immoral practices.
 - Their message is simple, clear and straight forward.
 - They were revealed through the Prophets.
- In this chapter, we are going to study the unique and distinctive features of the Qur'an that distinguish it from the revealed scriptures we have mentioned earlier.
 - The Qur'an is the speech of Allah (SWT) revealed in its precise meaning and wording.
 - It was revealed for the entire Alamin (mankind, jinns and other creations).
 - It has unique themes that have been integrated in different surahs (chapters).
 - The literal style of the Qur'an is different from other books.
 - It challenges humankind to come up with a book equal to the Qur'an.
- Allah (SWT) has vowed to protect the Qur'an from any form of corruption or human interference. Allah (SWT) says, "**We have, without doubt, send down the message; And we will**

assuredly guard it (from corruption)." [Q15:9]

The Structure and Divisions of the Qur'an

- The word structure or division in reference to the Qur'an is the arrangement of the content of the Qur'an in a systematic manner to form a whole.
- The Quran has its unique structure and division as follows:

Ayat

- The word Aya (plural ayat) is an Arabic word which linguistically has several meanings as derived from its use in the Qur'an.
- Among these meaning include the following:
 - A sign or an indication.
Allah (SWT) says, "**And their prophet said to them (children of Israil), the sign ('ayah) if his Kingdom is that there shall come to you a wooden box...**" [Q 2:248]
 - A lesson or an admonition to a group of people.
Allah (SWT) says, "**In this there is a lesson ('ayah) for those who give thought.**" [Q 16:11]
 - A verse or a sentence.
Allah (SWT), "**And when We change a verse in the Qur'an in place of another-and Allah knows best what he sends down-they say, 'You (O Muhammad) are nothing but a forger.' Nay, (but) most of them are ignorant.**" [Q 16:101]
- Technically it refers to the shortest division of the Qur'anic text, meaning, a phrase or sentence but most commonly referred to as 'verse.'
- Ayat vary in length.
- Some are short, consisting of only a few letters e.g. Alif Lam Meem, Ha Meem. Others are medium while others are long.
- During the early period of revelation (Makkan period) the Ayat were short and became longer as the revelation progressed in the Madinan phase.
- The longest ayat is found in Sura al Baqara [Q 2:282] and contains 128 words.
- There are also short verses in the Qur'an comprising of just few words or letters (abbreviated).
- Let us look at the short and abbreviated verses.

Abbreviated verses in the Qur'an

- The Arabic language, which is the original language of the Holy Qur'an, has twenty nine alphabets.
- Coincidentally, there are twenty nine surahs (chapters) that start with abbreviations.
- It is only Allah who knows the translation and objectives of these abbreviated ayat.
- It is only sura tul Shura (Q 42) that has two sets of abbreviations at the beginning.
- There are fourteen letters that are used in combinations of one, two, three, four and five letter words to form the abbreviated ayat.

- These letters are as follows: **ي ه ن م ل ك ق ع ط ص س ر ح ا**
- The table below shows the abbreviated Ayat in their various combinations:

No. of letters	Abbreviation	Verse/sound	Surah
One		Saad	Saad (Q.38)
		Qaaf	Qaaf (Q.50)
		Nuun	Al Qalam (Q.68)
Two	طه	Twaa Haa	Twaa Haa (Q.20)