

SHIFA

T R U S T

The Traditional Halaqa

A Retreat for Traditional Learning

Information Pack

Traditional Halaqa 1431 AH

25th July – 1st August 2010



Acquainting Our Students with Traditional Islamic Learning



In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most, Merciful.

Table of Contents

The Traditional Halaqa 1431/2010	3
Introduction	3
Teachers	3
Shaykh Dr. Samir al-Nass	3
Ustad Tanweer Hussain	4
Ustad Haroon Hanif.....	4
Course Programmes.....	4
Programme for Foundation 1	4
Programme for Foundation 2.....	4
Programme for all Students	4
Arrival and Registration.....	5
Induction	5
Student Essentials	5
Accommodation.....	6
Brothers	6
Sisters.....	6
Special Facilities for Sisters	6
Student Commitments – What we need from you.....	6
General Advice	7
Course Contribution	7
Full Course:	7
Daily:	7
Queries.....	8
Childrens Policy.....	9
Official Sponsor	10

All Praise is due to Allah, Lord of the Universe, and Peace and Blessings be upon His final Prophet and Messenger Muhammad ﷺ and upon his family, and his companions and all those who follow his way until the Day of Judgement- Amin

The Traditional Halaqa 1431/2010

Introduction

Knowledge is said to be taken from the presence of scholars, not the pages of books. For this reason Shifa Trust is pleased to present the 19th in its series of Traditional Halaqa courses which bring Muslims in the West into contact with scholars who are living vessels of wisdom.

The course has a twofold aims: To teach students the central elements of their faith, knowledge that is personally obligatory upon every Muslim (fard al-'ain). To introduce students to various Islamic sciences in order to inspire and motivate them to further pursue these studies within authentic circles in their communities and around the Muslim world.

We are pleased and consider it a great blessing to have the following teachers with us:

Teachers

Shaykh Dr. Samir al-Nass

Shaykh Samir al-Nass was born in Damascus, Syria, where he studied at the College of Medicine of the University of Damascus. He went on to study in the United States where he qualified in internal medicine.

The Shaykh has studied under some of the great 'ulama of the Levant (Shaam) and the Arabian peninsula. He has a traditional license to teach (ijazah) in the ten styles of recitation of the narration of the Shatibiyyah and the Durra from Shaykh Muhammad Sukkar. He received an ijazah in the ten styles of recitation of the narration of Tayyibah from the Egyptian Shaykh Ahmad Mustafa in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, himself a student of Shaykh Abd al-Aziz al-Zayyat of Egypt. Shaykh Samir has a traditional license to teach (ijazah) in Islamic law (fiqh) and theology and creed ('aqida) from the previous Mufti of Syria, Shaykh Abu Yusr Ibn `Abidin, Shaykh Lutfi al-Fayumi, and the late Hanafi Mufti, Shaykh Adib al-Kallas.

Shaykh Samir was honoured to study hadith in Mecca with the great Indonesian-Meccan Shaykh Yasin al-Fadani, and with Shaykh Nur ud-din `Itr of Syria. He also has an ijazah in Prophetic traditions (hadith) from the late Shaykh `Abd Allah Siraj al-Din of Aleppo, Syria.

Shaykh Samir is presently a teacher in the al-Fatih al-Islami University in Damascus, teaching the Hanafi fiqh manual Al-Hidayah in the department of Islamic Law (Shariah), and lecturer on the ten recitations of the Qur'an in the MA programme. The Shaykh teaches Qur'anic recitation (tajwid) after fajr prayers daily in the blessed mosque of Shaykh Ibn `Arabi, a post given to him by his Shaykh and father-in-law, one of the illustrious Shaykhs of Quran in the Levant (Sham), the late Shaykh Muhammad Sukkar. Shaykh Samir has been teaching at various Islamic studies intensive courses in

England and North America since 2000.

Ustad Tanweer Hussain

Ustad Tanweer studied the Islamic Sciences in Syria for 8 years with notable teachers such as: Shaykh Dr. Samir al-Nass, Shaykh Abdul-Razzaq al-Halabi, Shaykh Adeeab Kallas, Shaykh Muhammad al-Yaqoubi, and Shaykh Anas al-Hibri. Sidi Tanweer is a graduate of M'ahad al-Fath al-Islami.

He now resides in Oxfordshire, where he teaches at Shifa School, Shifa Evening School, and at the Sacred Sciences Programme. Ustad Tanweer is an Executive Director of the Shifa Trust.

Ustad Haroon Hanif

Ustad Haroon studied Arabic for one year in an institute in France. Thereafter he returned to Liverpool and studied for over 10 years under the tutelage of Shaykh Siraj al-Deen. In 2007 he travelled to Syria to further his education where his teachers include Shaykh Muhammad Jum'ah, Shaykh Muhammad Derwesh and Shaykh Anas al-Hibri.

Course Programmes

Programme for Foundation 1

Foundation 1 classes will be aimed at beginners and first time Halaqa students. This programme will focus on the core Islamic sciences (fard ul-ain). The Foundation 1 class will focus on specific sciences which will change in each Halaqa course. In this Halaqa the following courses will be studied:

- Hanafi Fiqh Rules of Worship relating to Tahara (purification) and Salah (prayer).

Programme for Foundation 2

The Foundation 2 programme is **exclusively** for those students who have studied their fard ul-ain knowledge pertaining to tahara and salah. This rule will be strictly applied for the benefit of those who need to study fard ul-ain as well as those who have already studied it. Therefore, on induction day those who wish to attend the foundation 2 class will need to take a short test on basic fard ul-ain fiqh of tahara and salah. Those students who do not reach the necessary standard will not be permitted to sit in the Foundation 2 classes.

The Foundation 2 class will focus on specific sciences which will change in each Halaqa course. In this Halaqa the following courses will be studied:

- Hanafi Fiqh Rules of Marriage based upon al-Mukhtar.

Programme for all Students

- Aqeeda based on the text Jawhara al-Tawheed
- Lessons from the Seerah
- Tajweed
- Question & Answer Session on contemporary issues.
- Lectures on contemporary issues:
 - Differences in the religion. (Bid'ah, Mawlid, The 4 madhabs, Tariqah etc)
 - What milestones should a person living in this country aim for in his/ her life? What are the milestones for a student of knowledge?

- Why does Allah allow suffering?
- Harm of intoxicants on body and soul.
- Respect for non practising parents/siblings.
- Attraction to the same gender.

Course texts

- The great primer on Hanafī fiqh, al-Mukhtār by Imam al-Mawsulī. The Imam, who was considered the leading scholar of his time, collected within this short text the positions of Imam Abu Hanifa and alluded to opinions of others. The commentary on this work is the Ikhtitar which shows the differences between Imam Abu Hanifa and his students and gives the underlying reasoning. Both of the above texts are studied across the world for example in the Ma'had al-Fath.
- The Jawhara al-Tawheed, The Precious Jewel of Divine Oneness, by Imām_Ibrahīm_al-Laḡānī_al-Mālikī. This is a 144 line poem written by an expert in various Islamic sciences who condensed into it various topics. As such it is a text that students study and prepares them for higher studies.

Certification of completion

- For the modules stated below students will be able to take end of module examinations. Conditional upon their achieving pass marks the student will be awarded certificates stating they have successfully completed their fard al ain (personally obligatory) knowledge in those modules. The modules in this halaqa will be Aqida (al-Jawhara) and Fiqh (for Foundation 1; Salah and Tahara and for Foundation 2 marriage).

Arrival and Registration

Students should arrive at **5pm** on **Sunday 25th July** for registration. Once you enter please register at the registration desk.

Induction

Insha'Allah, Induction will take place at **7pm** in the Masjid. The timetable, student commitments and any other issues will be clarified. Please bring this information document with you. **Attendance to this session will result in a discount of £25 for residential students and £10 for non-residential students.**

Student Essentials

All participating students are required to bring the following the following items:

1. Printed copy of the Qur'an (English/Arabic if possible)
2. Note pads and stationery
3. Changes of clothes, towels and general toiletries (enough to last 8 days). The highest standards of personal hygiene must be maintained. Please bring some warm clothing, as weather conditions are variable.
4. Sleeping bag / blankets / pillows. No bedding will be provided by the organisers.

5. Any required medication (please inform organisers if you are currently on medication, in case of complications).
6. Alarm Clock

Accommodation

The accommodation is of a basic standard, and will be shared with other students. This should provide a good opportunity to fulfil many Sunnahs such as sacrifice, patience and compassion. If you would like private accommodation, the venue has many hotels in the vicinity.

We regret that we are unable to provide accommodation for families. However, if you wish to arrange your own accommodation, we will be more than happy to refer local hotels to you.

Brothers

Brothers will be sleeping on the floor in the Masjid. Wudu facilities will be close to hand. Access to showers will be available. No bedding will be provided, therefore please bring a suitable sleeping bag.

Sisters

The sisters will be sleeping in the onsite dormitories. Sisters are required to bring a suitable sleeping bag. Shower and wudu facilities are situated in the same building.

Please note that there are only 20 residential places available which will be allocated on a first come first serve basis. Students who are not guaranteed a place will be placed on an overflow list for whom we are trying to arrange accommodation. If this does not prove to be possible such sisters will have to make their own arrangements.

Special Facilities for Sisters

Sisters unable to enter the main mosque area will be able to continue their studies in the TV link room.

Student Commitments – What we need from you

- To take responsibility for your studies, including the completing of any set work to an exemplary standard and to the prescribed timescale.
- To attend all lessons punctually as indicated by the timetable provided.
- Once you have entered onto a programme (beginners/advanced) you must remain in that programme.
- To inform one of the members of the Traditional Halaqa team if you are genuinely unable to attend any of the timetabled lessons, using the procedures prescribed to you.
- To respect the individual rights of all the teachers, staff and other students.
- To act in a way that respects the environment and safeguards the health and safety of oneself and others, including abiding by the regulations and policies set by the Traditional Halaqa team and the host party.
- There must be no mobile phones taken into lessons.
- There is a no smoking policy which you must be adhered to.
- Students must not venture into those parts of the building that are off limit.
- Please ensure all the facilities you use are kept clean e.g. dining areas and sleeping areas.

- Strictly no food is to be taken into the sleeping areas
- Lesson times and meal times are to be strictly adhered to.
- Before distributing promotional material (of any nature), please ensure permission from the Halaqa team has been granted.
- To take part in a rota of serving your fellow students food.

Students will be expected to follow a code of practice that will be conducive to creating and maintaining a healthy and vibrant learning environment, showing consideration and patience towards all other participants.

General Advice

- On arrival be sure to provide your family with the emergency contact number (07813875745), the address of the venue and be sure to call them to notify them of your safe arrival.
- Try not to break ones daily routine.
- Remember Allah (Subhana Wa Ta'alla) often and hold your tongue in humility.
- Keep the company of those above you in the Deen and Knowledge.
- Try not to waste time - the course is for a short period of time and there is a lot of work involved.
- Respect all teachers, organisers,, the host party and all students.
- Try to revise the day's work before you go to sleep.
- Remember - ask people who know if you do not.
- Report any concerns, criticisms and comments to any member of the Traditional Halaqa team.
- Be in class early, at least by 5 minutes.
- If the class starts late, revise previous notes - use your time productively.
- Use the night to rest and recover.
- The privacy of Shayukh and organisers of the event must be respected at all times.
- Park your cars in the assigned areas (these will be pointed out to you on arrival).
- Overlook any perceived shortcomings.

Course Contribution

Unfortunately the cost of arranging the course is substantial; therefore we have to ask for a contribution. We have endeavoured to keep this contribution as minimal as possible. The contributions are as follows:

Full Course:

Non-Residential Student - £65 (this includes meals and course materials)

Residential Student - £150 (this includes accommodation, meals, and course materials)

To exact full benefit from the course we advise students to attend the whole course. However, we understand this won't be possible for everybody. Hence we have arranged for daily contributions as follows:

Daily:

Non-Residential Student - £15 (this includes meals and relevant course materials)

Residential Student - £30 (this includes accommodation, meals, and relevant course materials)

Some concessions are available for those who genuinely cannot afford the contribution.

Queries

Telephone: Brothers 07813 875 745 | Sisters 07888 688 994
Email: info@traditionalhalqa.org
Website: www.traditionalhalqa.org
Emergency contact number: **07813 875 745**

Please let us know if you have any further questions or concerns at this very moment in time. We can be contacted via the above means.

We ask Allah, Exalted is He, to give us success in this life and the next. May He bless the effort of all the believers and unite their hearts in love of Him.

Wa ma tawfiqi illa billah!

And there is no success but from Allah!

Childrens Policy

1. Purpose:

1.1 This document outlines the regulations for children attending the Halaqa. The regulations have been put in place in order to keep children safe, to ensure disturbance is kept to a minimum, and to maintain a conducive learning environment.

2. Definitions:

In this document:-

2.1 Child(ren) means under 16 years old.

2.2 Adult means over 18 years old.

2.3 Guardian means the adult responsible for a child.

3. Facilities:

3.3 We would like to stress that the venue of the Halaqa, lacks the facilities to cater for children adequately. However we will endeavour to make the facilities as comfortable as possible.

4. General regulations:

4.1 Children will only be allowed to attend the Halaqa, if they are accompanied by an adult.

4.2 Children aged above 9 years old must be accompanied by an adult of the same gender.

4.3 If the adult is not the parent of the child, then the parent(s) should be informed by the adult that he/she will be responsible for the child at the Halaqa (not the Halaqa staff).

5. Regulations for 11-15 year olds:

5.1 11-15 year olds will be treated as normal students and be expected to participate in lessons.

5.2 They must not walk in and out of lessons.

5.3 They must adhere to the code of conduct outlined in the student information pack.

5.4 If they find the course tiring, they may miss lessons, but this must be discussed with the Halaqa staff.

5.5 They have to be accompanied by their guardian at all times.

5.6 The guardian is responsible for the above being adhered to.

6. Regulations for under 11 year olds:

6.1 Under 11 year olds must be accompanied by guardians at all times.

6.2 If they become noisy, we would request that the parents kindly take them outside the classroom, so as not to disturb other students.

6.3 Children may not play outside unaccompanied.

6.4 All efforts should be made in order to reduce disturbance.

6.5 The guardian is responsible for the above being adhered to.

7. Course Contribution:

7.1 11-15 year olds are required to pay the full contribution outlined in the student information pack.

7.2 5-10 year olds are required to pay half of the contribution outlined in the student information pack.

7.3 Under 5 year olds are free.

Official Sponsor



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