

Introduction

A university student planning a career in Qur'anic Sciences and Tradition must develop an efficient communication technique which will combine clarity with full understanding of Islamic texts and conciseness. To achieve this, the student needs constant practice in expressing ideas clearly, in interpreting and summarizing written material, getting more familiar with terms frequently used in Islamic sourcebooks, textbooks and journals. What this book sets out to do is consolidate and revise the knowledge gained in such a course, wherever possible, presents information, exercises and guidance that the students of the Qur'anic Sciences and Tradition will find them useful in oral and / or written communication.

This book is an integrated course for students whose need can be described as **ESP (English for Specific Purposes)**. It is based on the belief that a special kind of course is required for Iranian university students whose main need is to gain access to information and / or convey messages through English. It is intended to help students read and comprehend Islamic textbooks, source-books and periodicals in English. The primary aim of this book is to help university students who passed **GE (General English)** to understand reference-books on religious (Islamic) topics in English language. At the same time, it tries to improve verbal communication in the field of Islamic beliefs where accurate communication is essential. It develops basic reading skills which in turn helps the students extract information from Islamic texts.

The secondary aim of this book is to acquaint university students with the discipline of religion and some theoretical procedures of fundamental Islamic principles. It has been intended to provide a broad and effective coverage of the field of theology, jurisprudence, Qur'anic Sciences and the Tradition, and the like. Furthermore, this book has been designed to engage the students in Islamic issues and expose them to the content and promise of Qur'anic Sciences and the Tradition. Here the pedagogical emphasis is on linguistic / socio-cultural contexts, structural and technical terminology. However, students still need help in receiving and / or conveying information.

In this volume, we attempted to provide a relatively complete coverage of words, phrases, and structures frequently used in Islamic texts, specifically in jurisprudence, Qur'anic Sciences and the Tradition. The underlying principle is that students should be able to comprehend and produce language forms. At the same time they would be capable of receiving and / or conveying Islamic information.

This book contains 18 units, which in turn are made up of 9 to 13 parts. Presenting its material in 18 units, together with variety of exercises on recognition, inference, production, contextualized vocabulary, word formation, contextual clues, synonyms, antonyms, idioms, translation and Persian equivalents, we try to help the students to

increase and enhance reading strategies. All of the exercises are designed to develop reading strategies (grasping the main idea of the paragraph, making inferences, predicting the content of the text) which enable the students apply them to many other passages.

This book can be used by university students whose major field is Qur'anic Sciences and Tradition. This volume is to be covered in two academic terms. Also, this book, I hope, leads the students on to authentic texts so that they can practice how to apply the reading strategies to other similar texts. It requires the students' participation, regular practice and feeling of responsibility for their own learning. By applying such strategies, reading ability in English as part of the communication process can be meaningfully developed.

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