

Principles of an Islamic education

The liberal education approach

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Objectives

Demonstrate how

- Quran and Sunnah is the source of all knowledge
- The individual is educated
- A virtuous society is formed from this education

The Islamic Vision: The Good Life & Society

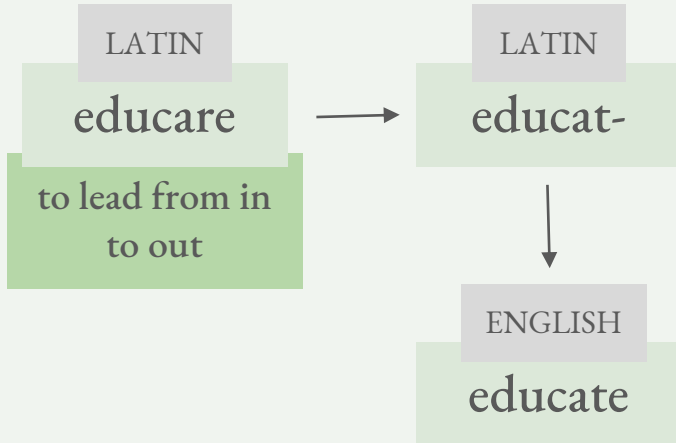
Din	Medina
Awareness of God's presence	Tawhid as Ethos of Society
Cultivation of Virtue	Policy & Legal Institutions
Actualized Intelligence	Utilitarian Arts
Expression of God awareness in action	Culture & Socialization

Etymology of Education

ed·u·cate

/ˈeɪ,kɑːt/

Origin



Connotations

- Being led by a guide, or signposts, out of danger
- To make what is implicit explicit
- ‘Say: It [Quran] is for the faithful guidance’

Sunnah as the Educational Framework

The Prophet Adam (عَلَيْهِ السَّلَام) as 'The Primordial Man'

- Created as steward for all creation
- Endowed with actualized fitrah

The Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) as 'The Knowledgeable Man *par excellence*'

- 'His character was the Quran'
- Sunnah as embodiment of Quran

Adamic Nature
(Primordial)



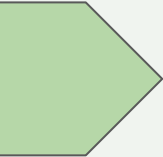
Human Nature
(Descent)



Prophetic Nature
(Ascent)

Comparison of Primordial and Prophetic Knowledge

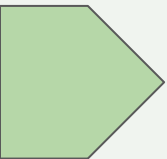
Implicit (Fitrah)		Explicit (Revelation)
Intuition	↔	Verses about God, Names & Attributes, Actions
Perception & Intelligence	↔	Verses of cosmos as Signs
Will	↔	Commands and Prohibitions
Knowledge of self	↔	Stories of the Prophets & verses about virtue and vice



So, the Quran actualizes the soul and makes it aware of its primordial nature. It makes what is implicitly known in the soul as explicit knowledge.

The two repositories that our intelligence should engage in:
And the foundational skills that allow one to engage

Ayat of Quran	Ayat of Cosmos
Grammar & Linguistics (Nahw)	Arithmetic
Logic (Mantiq)	Geometry
Rhetoric (Balagha)	'Modern Scientific' Application of Arithmetic
	'Modern Scientific' Application of Geometry



These were the sciences studied to be able to know both revelations.

Post-foundational disciplines

- Tajwid & Hifzh (Preservation)
- Usul (Principals)
- Hadith & Tafsir (Understanding)
- Fiqh (Islam)
- Kalam (Iman)
- Tasawwuf (Ihsan)



The learned man is virtuous, embodies God-consciousness, and exudes God's presence upon the world

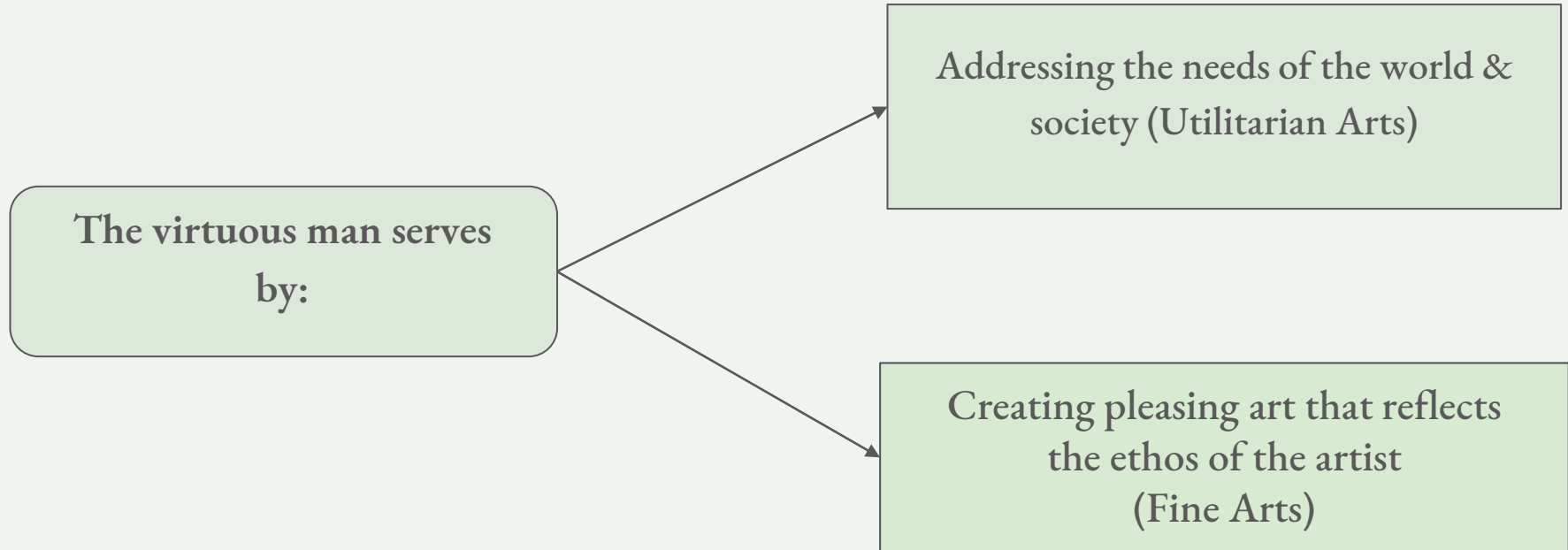
Example Curriculum in the Islamic World (Alghazali)

- Ilmu Tawhid
 - Prophethood (spiritual states; Tasawuf Theory)
 - Ilmu Akhira (Application of Tasawuf)
- Muqadimat (Trivium)
- Mutamimat (Islamic Sciences)
 - Sirah
 - Ulum Hadith
 - Ulum Quran
 - Usul
- Furu (Islamic sciences dealing with practices)
 - Fiqh Ibadat
 - Fiqh Muamalat
 - Ilmu Akhlaq
- Intellectual Sciences
 - Trivium
 - Metaphysics
 - Quadrivium
 - Physics and Natural Sciences

Example Curriculum in the Islamic World (Qutb Din Shirazi)

- Hikmat
 - God & soul
- Trivium
- Math
- Natural Science
 - Simple & Composite bodies, Generation & corruption, Botony, Meterology, Minerology, Zoology, Psychology
- Religious Sciences
 - Quran, Hadith, Usul, Fiqh

The Impact of The Virtuous Man on Society



Examples

Culture - The Fine Arts

- Architecture
- Music
- Sculpture
- Painting
- Literature
- Drama
- Dance

Institutions - Utilitarian Arts

- Urban planning & Economics (Fiqh)
- Law & Governance (Fiqh)
- Public Policy (Fiqh)
- Medicine (Hikmat)
- Banking (Fiqh)
- Business (Fiqh)
- Engineering (Quadrivium)
- Carpentry (Quadrivium)
- Teaching (Trivium)
- Psychology & Therapy (Tasawuf)

Where do we stand in the english speaking world?

Status Quo

- Institutions of Higher Education
- Think Tanks/Journals
- Community centers/Masajid
- Zawiyas
- Conventions
- Legal representation

Opportunities of Growth

- K-12 Education
- Outreach
- Growing community centers
- Continuing Legacy
- Increasing Cultural presence
- Increasing Institutional presence



References

