

# ALI 677: Comparing Islamic and Secular worldviews Part II Session One

## Education

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What role does a mosque play in Islamic education?



# The Mosque

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A place for:

- Prayer
- Meditation
- Religious instruction
- Political discussion
- Literary meetings
- a Library
- a School


- Emergence of the mosque-hostel-college in the Islamic world in the 10<sup>th</sup> century



# Early Islamic Education

Children usually started school at five, one of the first lessons in writing was to learn how to write the ninety-nine most beautiful names of God and simple verses from the Qur'an. After the rudiments of reading and writing were mastered, the Qur'an was then studied thoroughly and arithmetic was added. For those who wanted to study further, the larger mosques, where education was more advanced, offered instruction in Arabic grammar and poetry, logic, algebra, biology, history, law, and theology.

<https://muslimheritage.com/education-in-islam-the-role-of-the-mosque/>




‘Ilm is one of those concepts that have dominated Islam and given Muslim civilization its distinctive shape and complexion. In fact, there is no other concept that has been operative as a determinant of Muslim civilization in all its aspects to the same extent as ‘ilm.’


**Franz Rosenthal, Knowledge Triumphant. The Concept of Knowledge in Medieval Islam.**

Taken from:

<https://dash.harvard.edu/bitstream/handle/1/34257916/35195635.pdf?sequence=2>



It was this great liberality which they [the Muslims] displayed in educating their people in the schools which was one of the most potent factors in the brilliant and rapid growth of their civilisation. Education was so universally diffused that it was said to be difficult to find a Muslim who could not read or write.



E.H. Wilds: *The Foundation of modern Education*, Rinehart & Co., 1959, p. 216



Taken from: [https://muslimheritage.com/education-in-islam-the-role-of-the-mosque/#\\_edn6](https://muslimheritage.com/education-in-islam-the-role-of-the-mosque/#_edn6)





# Domains of Islamic Learning

- The Halaqah
- The Madrasah
- The Hawzah
- Teacher-student interaction
- The Mosque



# The Shift to secular education

Factors that changed Islamic education

- Occupation and destruction of Islamic centers of learning
- Western influence
- Priority to modern sciences over Islamic education
- Negativity about the Mosque-Madrasah system

# Colonialism and Education

Each country sought to use education to provide the skilled manpower required for national development and to socialize its diverse population into feeling loyal to the new state. Educational expansion was pursued everywhere, but the particular pattern of change was profoundly affected by the nature of the political regime, particularly by colonial status.

Both colonial powers [Britain and France] shared similar goals: to preserve the status quo, train a limited number of mid-level bureaucrats, limit the growth of nationalism, and, especially in the case of France, impose its culture and language.

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/education/Colonialism-and-its-consequences>