

1.2 (a) The Night of Power (Lailat al-Qadr)

1. What is the Night of Power?

- **Definition:** The night when the first verses of the Qur'an were revealed to Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).
- **Timing:** It occurred during the last ten nights of Ramadan in the year 610 CE.
- **Location:** The Cave of Hira on Jabal al-Nur (the Mountain of Light), located about two miles from Makkah.

2. Chronology of Events (The "Night of Decree")

Students should be able to describe these events in sequence for 6-mark "Describe" questions:

- **The Retreat:** Muhammad (PBUH), aged 40, was in a state of *Tahannuth* (spiritual retreat/meditation), seeking answers to the social injustices and idol worship in Makkah.
- **The Appearance:** The Angel Jibrail appeared in human form, bringing the divine light and command from Allah.
- **The Struggle:** * Jibrail commanded: "Iqra!" (Read/Proclaim).
 - Muhammad (PBUH) replied: "Ma ana bi qari" (I cannot read/I am not a reader).
 - Jibrail embraced him so tightly that Muhammad (PBUH) thought he would die, then released him. This happened three times.
- **The Revelation:** After the third embrace, Jibrail recited the first five verses of Surah al-Alaq:

"Proclaim! In the name of thy Lord and Cherisher, Who created—Created man, out of a (mere) clot of congealed blood..."

- **The Aftermath:** The Prophet (PBUH) ran home trembling with fear. He asked his wife Khadijah (RA) to "Cover me! Cover me!" (Zammiluni). He feared he was possessed or losing his mind until Khadijah and her cousin Waraqa ibn Nawfal comforted him and confirmed his Prophethood.

3. Importance of the Night of Power

According to the Edexcel syllabus, you must understand *why* this night is significant for the establishment of Islam:

1. **Communication from Allah:** It marked the reopening of communication between the Divine (Allah) and the earthly world through revelation (*Wahyi*).
 2. **Start of Prophethood:** This night transformed Muhammad (PBUH) from an ordinary citizen into the Messenger of Allah (Rasulullah).
 3. **The "Better than a Thousand Months" Status:** Referenced in Surah al-Qadr (97), Muslims believe worship on this night is worth more than 83 years of worship.
 4. **A Turning Point for Humanity:** It signaled the end of the *Jahiliyyah* (Age of Ignorance) and provided the guidance (Qur'an) that would eventually change world history.
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4. Exam Focus: "Night of Power" Tips

Common Question Styles:

- Describe the Prophet's experience on the Night of Power. (6 marks)
 - *Focus on the facts: Jibrail, the embrace, the words "Iqra," and the fear he felt afterward.*
- Explain the significance of Lailat al-Qadr for Muslims today. (6 marks)
 - *Focus on the Qur'an being a guide, the mercy of Allah on this night, and the start of Islam.*

Key Terminology to include:

- **Wahyi:** Revelation.
- **Jibril/Jibrail:** The Archangel.
- **Iqra:** The first word revealed (Read/Proclaim).
- **Surah al-Alaq:** The specific chapter revealed.
- **Waraqah ibn Nawfal:** The Christian scholar who validated the experience.