

REVISION NOTES: Section 1.3 - The Prophethood of Muhammad (PBUH)

A. The 'Seal of the Prophets' (Khatam an-Nabiyyin)

The title "Seal of the Prophets" is derived from **Surah Al-Ahzab (33:40)**.

1. Meaning of the Title:

- **Finality:** It means Muhammad (PBUH) is the last in the long line of prophets sent by Allah (starting from Adam). No prophet or new divine revelation will come after him.
- **Completion:** Like a seal that closes a letter, he "sealed" the religion. Islam is seen as the final, perfected version of the message previously sent to Ibrahim, Musa, and Isa.
- **Universal Message:** Unlike previous prophets sent to specific tribes or nations, Muhammad (PBUH) was sent for all of humanity for all time.

2. Significance for Muslims:

- It ensures the **purity of the message**. Since he is the last, the Qur'an must be preserved perfectly as there will be no future correction.
- It unites the Ummah (community) under one final law and one final example (Sunnah).

B. Importance of his Role in the Establishment of Islam

Muhammad (PBUH) was not just a messenger; his role was multi-dimensional:

1. **The Receiver of Revelation:** He was the vessel for the Qur'an. Without his honesty and dedication, the Word of Allah would not have reached humanity.
2. **The Living Qur'an (Uswatun Hasanah):** He provided the "Perfect Example." While the Qur'an gives the command (e.g., "Establish Prayer"), the Prophet showed the *method* (how to pray).
3. **Social Reformer:** He challenged the tribal system of Makkah, replacing it with a system based on **Tawhid** (Oneness of God) and social justice (rights for women, orphans, and the poor).
4. **Teacher and Guide:** He nurtured the first generation of Muslims (the Sahaba), teaching them the character and discipline needed to spread Islam beyond Arabia.

C. Opposition Faced in Makkah

As soon as the Prophet (PBUH) began preaching publicly (after 3 years of secret preaching), the Quraysh began a campaign of opposition.

1. Reasons for Opposition:

- **Religious:** The Quraysh were polytheists who profited from pilgrims coming to the Ka'bah to worship idols. Islam's message of "One God" threatened their ancestral beliefs.
- **Economic:** They feared losing the trade revenue generated by the idols.
- **Social/Political:** Islam taught that all humans are equal. This threatened the power of the wealthy tribal leaders who sat at the top of the social hierarchy.

2. Forms of Persecution:

- **Verbal Abuse:** He was mocked, called a "poet," a "madman," and a "magician."
- **Physical Torture:**
 - **Bilal ibn Rabah:** A slave who was placed under heavy rocks in the scorching heat for refusing to renounce Islam.
 - **The Family of Yasir:** Sumayya (the first martyr) and her husband Yasir were killed for their faith.
 - **The Prophet (PBUH):** Thorny branches and camel intestines were thrown on him while he prayed.
- **The Social/Economic Boycott:** For three years, the Banu Hashim were forced into the **Valley of Abu Talib**. They were cut off from trade and food supplies, leading to extreme hunger and the eventual deaths of Khadijah and Abu Talib (The Year of Sorrow).
- **The Assassination Plot:** Eventually, the Quraysh plotted to kill him in his sleep, leading to the **Hijrah** (migration) to Madinah.

PRACTICE EXAM QUESTIONS

1. Describe Question (6 Marks)

"Describe the meaning of the title 'Seal of the Prophets'."

- *Key Points:* Finality, completion of divine law, reference to Surah 33:40, and the concept that no one can change the religion after him.

2. Explain Question (6 Marks)

"Explain why the leaders of the Quraysh opposed the Prophet's message."

- *Key Points:* Economic loss (idolatry trade), social equality (threat to their status), and the challenge to their ancestors' traditions.

3. Assessment Question (12 Marks)

"The physical persecution was the most difficult challenge the Prophet faced in Makkah.

Assess this statement."

- **Agree:** Mention the deaths of companions, the torture of slaves, and the attempt on his life.
- **Disagree:** Argue that the **Emotional/Psychological** pain (death of his wife and uncle, being called a liar by his own people) or the **Economic Boycott** (watching children starve) was actually more difficult.
- **Conclusion:** State that all forms of opposition served to prove his patience (*Sabr*) and the truth of his mission.