

REVISION NOTES: Section 1.4 - The Hijrah and the Early Community

A. The Boycott and the Mi'raj

1. The Boycott (617–619 CE)

- **The Reason:** The Quraysh failed to stop Islam through torture and persuasion, so they imposed a total social and economic boycott on the **Banu Hashim** clan.
- **The Conditions:** No one was allowed to marry them, trade with them, or sell them food.
- **The Suffering:** The Muslims were forced into the **Valley of Abu Talib**. They suffered extreme hunger, often eating leaves and bark.
- **The End:** The boycott ended after three years when some Makkans felt pity and found that the boycott document inside the Ka'bah had been eaten by insects (except the name of Allah).

2. The Mi'raj (The Night Journey and Ascension)

- **Context:** Occurred during the "Year of Sorrow" after the deaths of Khadijah and Abu Talib.
 - **Al-Isra:** The Prophet (PBUH) was taken by Jibrail on the **Buraq** from Makkah to Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem.
 - **Al-Mi'raj:** He ascended through the seven heavens, meeting previous prophets (like Musa and Isa) and finally approaching the Divine Presence of Allah.
 - **Outcome:** The gift of the **Five Daily Prayers (Salah)** was established.
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B. The Hijrah: The Flight to Madinah (622 CE)

1. The Assassination Plot

- The Quraysh planned to kill the Prophet (PBUH) by having one man from every tribe strike him simultaneously, so no single tribe could be blamed.
- **Ali's Role:** Ali (RA) slept in the Prophet's bed to trick the assassins, risking his life while the Prophet escaped.

2. The Journey (The Flight)

- **Companion:** The Prophet (PBUH) fled with **Abu Bakr (RA)**.

- **The Cave of Thawr:** They hid for three days. To protect them, a spider wove a web and a pigeon laid eggs at the entrance, making the Quraysh think no one was inside.
 - **Suraqa ibn Malik:** A bounty hunter who tried to catch them but his horse repeatedly sank into the sand. He eventually asked for forgiveness.
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C. Arrival in Madinah and Building of Mosques

- **The Welcome:** The people of Madinah (the **Ansar**) welcomed him with joy and songs (Tala' al-Badru 'Alayna).
 - **The Choice of House:** The Prophet let his camel, **Qaswa**, choose the landing spot. It stopped at a plot of land belonging to two orphans.
 - **Masjid an-Nabawi:** The first major task was building the Prophet's Mosque. The Prophet himself worked alongside his companions to build it.
 - **Masjid Quba:** Before entering Madinah, the Prophet built Masjid Quba, the first mosque in Islamic history.
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D. Significance and Importance of the Hijrah

1. **Beginning of the Islamic Calendar:** Hijrah marks Year 1 (1 AH).
 2. **From Persecution to Power:** It transformed Muslims from a small, persecuted minority in Makkah into a political and military state in Madinah.
 3. **The Ummah:** It established the **Bonds of Brotherhood** between the *Muhajirun* (Makkans) and the *Ansar* (Madinans), placing faith above tribal bloodlines.
 4. **Freedom of Worship:** Muslims could finally pray and implement Islamic law openly.
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E. Support from the Four Rightly Guided Caliphs

The Edexcel syllabus requires you to know how these individuals supported the Prophet:

- **Abu Bakr:** Known as *As-Siddiq*. He gave all his wealth for the Tabuk expedition and was the Prophet's companion during the Hijrah.
- **Ali ibn Abi Talib:** The Prophet's cousin. He risked his life during the assassination plot and was a champion warrior in battles.

- **Uthman ibn Affan:** Known for his generosity. He bought the **Well of Rummah** for the Muslims and financed many early missions with his business wealth.
 - **Umar ibn al-Khattab:** His conversion gave Muslims the courage to pray publicly at the Ka'bah. He was a key advisor and military leader.
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F. Contribution of the Helpers (Ansar)

- **The Ansar:** The residents of Madinah who accepted Islam.
 - **Sacrifice:** They shared their homes, money, and businesses with the *Muhajirun* who arrived with nothing.
 - **Military Support:** They pledged to protect the Prophet (PBUH) with their lives in the **Pledges of Aqaba**.
 - **Establishment of Islam:** Without their hospitality and protection, the early Muslim community could have been wiped out by the Quraysh.
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PRACTICE EXAM QUESTIONS

1. Describe Question (6 Marks)

"Describe the events that took place in the Cave of Thawr during the Hijrah."

- *Tip:* Mention Abu Bakr, the three days of hiding, the spider web, and the pigeon eggs.

2. Explain Question (6 Marks)

"Explain the importance of the building of Masjid an-Nabawi upon arrival in Madinah."

- *Tip:* Focus on it being a center for prayer, a community hub, a school, and a place for political/military planning.

3. Assessment Question (12 Marks)

"The support of the Ansar was the most important factor in the successful establishment of Islam in Madinah. Assess this statement."

- **Agree:** Highlight their sharing of wealth, providing a safe base, and military protection.
- **Disagree:** Argue that the **Prophet's leadership**, the **loyalty of the Muhajirun** (like Abu Bakr/Ali), or the **Constitution of Madinah** were equally or more important.

- **Conclusion:** Both the Prophet's guidance and the Ansar's sacrifice were necessary for success.