

**Module Title:** Arabic (Level Five)

**Module Code:** ARBFIV

**Course Duration:** 17 Weeks

**Teaching Method:** 6 units/week

**Credits:** 15

**Aim:**

At this stage, the students are at an intermediate to advanced level of proficiency in their Arabic language skills, and the objective now is to maintain that through practice. They will therefore be exposed to a wide variety of literary texts and styles complementing their seminary studies in order to further enrich their vocabulary, so that they are confident with any Islamic Studies text in the Arabic language, and fairly proficient with Arabic texts in general.

**Overview:**

**Arabic Language:** In Levels Five and Six, the students will aim to read and comprehend a selected number of short classical and modern texts, that will complement their Hawza studies, and equip them with a breadth of vocabulary and syntactic styles that they can act as springboards for further discussion in class. The list below offers suggestions of such texts that may be useful for the Hawza student to have read, and to be familiar with the terminology, so as to afford them an introduction to subject matters perhaps not covered by the Hawza syllabus, which they may well wish to pursue post-Hawza.

Since teaching time at this stage is limited, the student will be expected to prepare and decipher the text at home, and use dictionaries and lexicons to decode unknown vocabulary. Class time will be spent discussing the content, stylistic features, complex syntactic devices, synonyms of unknown words in Arabic, alternative ways of expressing the same constructions, and highlighting grammatical rules that feature in the text. They will also be expected to memorize new vocabulary and synonyms independently.

In order to expose the student to spoken Arabic, the class will be conducted primarily in Arabic, and students will be encouraged to speak and ask questions in Arabic.

**Arabic Grammar:** Continuing from Year Two, the grammar component of this module will continue to build on the grammatical principles and laws of *naḥw* (syntax) and *ṣarf* (morphology) acquired in Year 2, as well as introducing the student to more sophisticated and advanced grammatical styles, in order to equip them with the skills that they will need in their study and textual analysis of classical Arabic texts in other disciplines.

Both levels this year will focus on intensively covering all grammar topics learned thus far to a more advanced standard and in further detail using relevant sections from Shartouni's *Mabādī al-ʿArabiyya* (vol. 3 and 4), which incorporates both *naḥw* and *ṣarf*.

Students will be expected to already have a working memory of verb conjugation tables, and will also be expected to complete weekly written exercises to put grammatical rules into practice, which will count towards their final grade.

## Syllabus:

- Extracts from:
  - selected texts from the *al-Kitāb al-Asāsī* textbook series, Books 3 and 4
  - extract from *Nahj al-Balāgha* (as a literary text)
  - extract from Fayḍ al-Kāshānī's *al-Haqā'iq fī Maḥāsin al-Akhlāq*
  - comparison of 2/3 different *tafāsīr* for eg. Tabatabai v. Ayyashi (ma'thoor) v. Fakhr al-Razi or al-Ayyashi, for example, or *tafsir mawdu'i* versus *tartibi*.
  - extract from sociology text like Ibn Khaldun's *Muqaddima*
  - extract from *maqṭal* poetry
  - extract from *madḥ* poetry in praise of the Prophet (S) and his family, eg: Farazdaq
  - perusal of an Arabic website
  - extract from an *uṣūl al-fiqh* text such as Sistani's *al-Rāfīd fil Uṣūl*
  - one or two stories from *Kalileh wa Dimneh*
- Selected advanced grammar topics from *Mabādī al-'Arabiyya* (vol. 3 and 4)

## Learning outcomes:

On completion of this module, the successful student will:

- be confident at picking up any Arabic text related to the fields that he/she has been exposed to and be able to decipher and understand it
- be able to navigate an Arabic news or academic website successfully
- be very comfortable using lexicons and dictionaries and be able to identify root words of verbs and nouns on sight.
- have acquired advanced knowledge of grammatical laws and theories required from *Mabādī al-'Arabiyya* (vol. 3 and 4)
- have memorised the *qawā'id* (principles) in each lesson and how they work with examples.
- acquired the knowledge of how to apply grammatical theories in reading, writing, and textual analysis of Arabic texts.

### **Assessment Weighting:**

- 30% Assessment
- 70% end of semester examination

### **Learning Materials:**

#### Core texts:

- *al-Kitāb al-Asāsī: Ta'lim al-'Arabiyya li al-Nāṭiqīna bi Ghayrihā*, Books 3 and 4, (Jāmi'at Umm al-Qurā, Third Edition 2008)
- Sharṭūnī, R., (1996), *Mabādi al-'Arabiyyah*. vol. 3 and 4, Qom: Dar al-Zikr
- Hans Wehr, 2011 (1994) *Dictionary of Modern Written Arabic*, New York: Ithaca Press

#### Further Reading:

- Jones, Alan. (2005), *Arabic Through the Qur'an*, Cambridge: Islamic Texts Society