

Module Title: Arabic (Level One)

Module Code: ARBONE

Course Duration: 17 Weeks

Teaching Method: 12 units/week

Credits: 20

Aims:

The language course at AMI aims to equip new student of Arabic* with a solid foundation in Arabic language and grammar to facilitate their Hawza studies. The unique feature of this particular course is its focused and goal-oriented approach to Arabic, honing in specifically on vocabulary and texts necessary and useful for the student of Islamic Studies. The course is essentially an amalgamation of the useful features of the traditional texts of *naḥw* (syntax) and *ṣarf* (morphology) with the modern approach to learning a language, and applying grammar rules to everyday contexts and short texts. There is a lot of focus on independent learning, and being able to extract grammar rules through a process of understanding and actually comprehending the language through a very text-based approach, necessary for the further pursuit of Hawza studies.

Overview:

Arabic Level One will be divided equally into two parts. Part One will focus on Arabic Language and Part Two on Arabic grammar, though both parts will run concurrently and are designed to complement each other seamlessly.

Arabic Language at Level One will introduce the student to the language through various simple contexts of everyday life, providing a substantial repertoire of vocabulary by the end of the first year. Thereat the students will be able to decipher the various components of a sentence from a given text. At this initial stage, the students are exposed to a wide range of vocabulary, not limited to Qur'anic or Islamic to fully immerse them into the workings of it, and to this end, we will use the textbook *al-Kitāb al-Asāsī: Ta'lim al-'Arabiyya li al-Nāṭiqīna bi Ghayrihā*, Book 1, aiming to complete half of it in Level One, and the second half in Level Two.

Students will be taught how to use dictionaries and lexicons, how to decipher new vocabulary and deconstruct unfamiliar texts and how to form sentences independently. They will be expected to prepare for the language lessons before class by reading through new vocabulary and familiarizing themselves with the pronunciation beforehand. They will also be tested regularly on vocabulary and be expected to formulate sentences in Arabic and translate both to and from Arabic for homework.

Arabic Grammar at Level One has been designed to provide students a comprehensive foundation in *ṣarf* (morphology) and *naḥw* (syntax). A large part of the module aims to introduce students to the different scales (*awzān*) of Arabic verbs, their meanings, and their varying grammatical morphologies (in terms of gender, number, form, structure, etc). Students will also learn the syntactic aspects of forming sentences, deciphering a word's position within a sentence, and all the different components of being able to read, understand and write Arabic sentences.

To this end, we will be studying Shartouni's *Mabādī' al-'Arabiyya* (vol.1) as the core grammar text throughout Level One and Two.

In addition to full attendance, students will be expected to learn grammar rules and *ṣarf* (conjugation) tables and complete all class exercises and homework, in order to derive maximum benefit from the course.

Syllabus:

- Reading comprehension, completion of exercises, memorizing vocabulary, and writing words and sentences from Units 1-19 of *al-Kitāb al-Asāsī*, Book 1.
- Learning about the components of different types of sentences in Arabic and their individual components (*naḥw*) from *Mabādi al-‘Arabiyyah*. vol. 1.
- Learning about the morphology of words and their roots, patterns of nouns and verbs in Arabic (*ṣarf*) *Mabādi al-‘Arabiyyah*. vol. 1.
- Conjugating common verbs in the past and present tenses for all persons, with introduction to all Form 1 verb scales and most verb Forms, from *Mabādi al-‘Arabiyyah*. vol. 1.

Learning outcomes:

On completion of this module, the successful student will:

- Be able to fluently read, write, and pronounce all the vocabulary from the first half of *al-Kitāb al-Asāsī*, Book 1.
- Have memorised all the vocabulary learned thus far.
- Be able to answer written questions in grammatically correct and full Arabic sentences.
- Have completed the exercises in the textbook competently, with the exception of audio sections, which are currently unsupported, but supplemented otherwise.
- Have memorised all the Arabic verb scales and patterns and be able identify roots of new verbs and conjugate them successfully.
- Memorise and apply basic grammatical rules from part 1 (*ṣarf*) & 2 (*naḥw*) of *Mabādi al-‘Arabiyya* vol.1

Assessment Weighting:

- 30% compulsory weekly exercises/tests set by the module instructor
- 70% end of semester examination

(Both language and grammar components will account for half each of the final Arabic grade).

Learning Materials:

Core texts:

- *al-Kitāb al-Asāsī: Ta'lim al-'Arabiyya li al-Nāṭiqīna bi Ghayrihā*, Book 1, (Jāmi'at Umm al-Qurā, Third Edition 2008)
- Shartūnī, R., (1996), *Mabādi al-'Arabiyyah*. vol. 1, 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

*When the student starts the first semester, it is assumed that he/she knows how to read and write Arabic, through prior knowledge of reading the Qur'an. However, if no such prior knowledge of reading Arabic letters is there, which may perhaps be the case with a minority of students, then the Textbook+DVD program called: *Alif Baa: and Introduction to Arabic Letters and Sounds* is highly recommended. It really does not need a teacher if accompanied by the DVD. All students will have been sent the pdf and mp3 files of this book, and will have been advised to go through the book by themselves over the summer preceding the new course, in preparation for the Arabic, to get their writing and pronunciation skills up to scratch.