Life of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) in Makkah

Complete short notes for exam revision. Dates are approximate CE years, as used in O Level / IGCSE syllabus books.

1. Early Life (570 - 610 CE)

- **Birth:** about 570 CE, **Year of the Elephant** (Abraha's failed attack on the Kaaba), 12 Rabi al-Awwal. Tribe: **Quraysh**, clan **Banu Hashim**.
- **Father Abdullah** died before his birth. **Mother Aminah** died at Abwa when he was 6. **Grandfather Abdul Muttalib** died when he was 8. **Uncle Abu Talib** then raised and protected him.
- **Halima Sadia** (Banu Saad) nursed him in the desert: pure Arabic, healthy upbringing.
- **Age 12:** trade journey to Syria with Abu Talib. The monk **Bahira** recognised signs of prophethood.
- Known as **Al-Amin** (the trustworthy) and **As-Sadiq** (the truthful) before prophethood.

2. Before Prophethood

- **Hilf al-Fudul (about age 20):** pact to protect the oppressed, travellers and the weak. He praised it even after Islam.
- **Marriage to Khadijah (RA):** he was 25, she was 40, a wealthy and respected businesswoman. He had managed her trade caravan honestly. Children: Qasim, Zainab, Ruqayyah, Umm Kulthum, Fatimah, Abdullah (Ibrahim was from Maria).
- **Black Stone (age 35):** Quraysh argued over who would place it during Kaaba rebuilding. He put it on a cloak, each clan lifted a corner, and he set it in place. A war was avoided. This showed wisdom and fairness.
- He loved solitude and often meditated in **Cave Hira** (Jabal an-Nur).

3. First Revelation (610 CE)

- **Age 40**, Cave Hira, Night of Power (Laylat al-Qadr, Ramadan). Angel **Jibreel** brought **Surah Al-Alaq (96:1-5)**: "Iqra" (Read).
- He returned trembling. **Khadijah (RA)** comforted him, saying Allah would never disgrace him because he was kind, truthful, helped the poor and supported the needy. Her cousin **Waraqa ibn Nawfal** confirmed he was a prophet.
- **Pause (fatrah):** revelation paused for a time, then **Surah Al-Muddaththir** came, ordering him to warn people.
- **First believers:** Khadijah (first woman), **Abu Bakr** (first free man), **Ali** (first child), **Zayd ibn Haritha** (freed slave). Abu Bakr then brought Uthman, Zubayr, Abdur Rahman ibn Awf, Sad ibn Abi Waqqas and Talha.

4. Preaching of Islam

- **3 years secret** preaching. **Dar al-Arqam** (house of Arqam ibn Abi Arqam) was the meeting place for learning Quran and worship.
- **Open preaching:** he invited relatives to a feast, then climbed **Mount Safa** and called all Quraysh. **Abu Lahab** rejected him harshly (**Surah Al-Masad** was revealed about him).
- **Main message:** Tawhid (oneness of Allah), rejection of idols, the Day of Judgement, honesty, justice, kindness to orphans and the poor, equality of all people, ending of female infanticide.
- **Why Quraysh opposed:** loss of idol-trade income from Kaaba pilgrims, loss of leadership and pride, attachment to ancestral religion, fear that equality would remove tribal privileges.

5. Persecution of Muslims

- **Leaders of opposition:** Abu Jahl, Abu Lahab, Utbah, Umayyah ibn Khalaf, Uqbah ibn Abi Muayt.
- **Bilal (RA):** dragged on hot sand with a stone on his chest by Umayyah; kept saying "Ahad, Ahad". Freed by Abu Bakr.
- **Sumayyah and Yasir (RA):** tortured; Sumayyah became the **first martyr of Islam** (killed by Abu Jahl). Their son **Ammar** also suffered.
- **Others:** Khabbab ibn al-Arat (burning coals), Zinnirah, Abu Fukayhah, Uthman (tied by his uncle).
- **Against the Prophet:** insults, thorns in his path, dirt thrown on him, labelled magician, poet and madman. Abu Talib protected him by clan honour.
- **Bribery offer:** Quraysh offered wealth, kingship and marriage if he stopped preaching. He replied that he would not stop even if they placed the sun in his right hand and the moon in his left.
- **Abu Bakr** bought and freed many slaves (Bilal, Amir ibn Fuhayrah and others).

6. Migration to Abyssinia (615 CE)

- **First group:** 11 men and 4 women, including **Uthman ibn Affan and Ruqayyah**. Later a larger group (about 80+) followed under **Jafar ibn Abi Talib**.
- King **Najashi (Negus)**, a just Christian ruler, gave them protection and refused to hand them to Quraysh envoys (Amr ibn al-As and Abdullah ibn Abi Rabiah).
- **Jafar** recited the opening of **Surah Maryam**; Najashi wept and said this and the teaching of Isa came from the same source.
- **Reasons:** escape persecution, freedom to worship, spread Islam, find a safe place. **Result:** Islam gained recognition outside Arabia.

7. Conversion of Hamza and Umar

- **Hamza (RA)**, uncle and strong warrior, accepted Islam (about 615-616 CE) after Abu Jahl insulted the Prophet. Muslims gained confidence and protection.
- **Umar ibn al-Khattab (RA)** set out to kill the Prophet, found his sister Fatimah and Said reading **Surah Taha**, was deeply moved and accepted Islam. The Prophet had prayed for either Umar or Abu Jahl to be guided.
- **Effect:** Muslims could now pray openly at the Kaaba; Umar was given the title **Al-Faruq** (one who separates truth from falsehood).

8. Social Boycott (616 - 619 CE)

- Quraysh wrote a pact against **Banu Hashim and Banu Muttalib**: no marriage, trade or contact until they handed over the Prophet. It was hung in the Kaaba.
- Families lived about **3 years** in **Shib Abi Talib** (a valley) in severe hunger; people ate leaves and dried leather. Abu Talib guarded the Prophet every night.
- **End:** some fair-minded Makkans (**Hisham ibn Amr, Mutim ibn Adi, Zuhayr** and others) objected. The pact was found eaten by termites except the name of Allah. The boycott ended.

9. Year of Sorrow (619 CE)

- **Abu Talib** died (protector), then **Khadijah (RA)** died (supporter), within days of each other. This year is called **Aam al-Huzn**.
- Without Abu Talib, Quraysh persecution increased sharply. **Abu Lahab** briefly gave protection but later withdrew it.
- Later the Prophet married **Sawdah (RA)** and **Aishah (RA)**.

10. Journey to Taif (619 CE)

- **Purpose:** seek new support and invite the tribe of **Thaqif** to Islam. He travelled on foot with **Zayd ibn Haritha**.
- **Result:** the three leaders rejected him rudely; the crowd and children threw stones until he was bleeding.
- He sheltered in a garden and made the famous **Dua of Taif**, trusting in Allah. **Addas**, a Christian slave from Nineveh, offered him grapes.
- **Angel of the mountains** offered to crush the town; the Prophet refused and hoped their children would become believers.
- **Lesson:** patience, forgiveness, mercy and trust in Allah.

11. Isra and Miraj (about 621 CE)

- **Isra:** night journey from **Masjid al-Haram** (Makkah) to **Masjid al-Aqsa** (Jerusalem) on the creature **Buraq**. He led the prophets in prayer.
- **Miraj:** ascent through the heavens, meeting prophets (Adam, Isa, Yahya, Yusuf, Idris, Harun, Musa, Ibrahim) up to **Sidrat al-Muntaha**.
- **Gift:** five daily prayers (first 50, reduced to 5 after advice of Musa).
- **Importance:** comfort after Year of Sorrow; established prayer; showed status of Masjid al-Aqsa. Quraysh mocked it; **Abu Bakr** believed at once and was named **As-Siddiq**.

12. Pledges of Aqabah and Madinah (620 - 622 CE)

- **Hajj season 620:** six men of Khazraj (Yathrib) accepted Islam. Yathrib was tired of war between **Aws and Khazraj**, and the Jews of Yathrib spoke of an awaited prophet.
- **First Pledge of Aqabah (621):** 12 men pledged to worship only Allah, avoid theft, adultery, killing infants and false accusations. **Musab ibn Umair** was sent as teacher; Islam spread widely in Yathrib.
- **Second Pledge of Aqabah (622):** 73 men and 2 women invited the Prophet and promised to protect him as they protect their families. Muslims were then told to migrate to Madinah.

13. Hijrah (622 CE)

- **Quraysh plot:** in **Dar an-Nadwa** they decided that men from every clan would strike together to kill him, so no single clan could be blamed.
- **Ali (RA)** slept in the Prophet's bed and returned the trusts (amanat) kept with him. The Prophet left with **Abu Bakr** at night.
- **Cave Thawr:** hid for **3 days**. Abdullah ibn Abu Bakr brought news, Asma (RA) brought food, Amir ibn Fuhayrah covered tracks with his sheep. Guide: **Abdullah ibn Uraiqit**.
- Suraqa ibn Malik chased them for the 100-camel reward but his horse sank in the sand; he turned back.
- **Arrival:** first at **Quba** (built the first mosque), then Yathrib, renamed **Madinat an-Nabi** (Madinah). **622 CE = start of the Islamic calendar**, fixed later under Umar.

Key Dates at a Glance

Year (CE)	Event
570	Birth, Year of the Elephant
595	Marriage to Khadijah (RA)
605	Black Stone incident
610	First revelation, Cave Hira
613	Open preaching from Mount Safa
615	Migration to Abyssinia
616 - 619	Boycott in Shib Abi Talib
619	Year of Sorrow; Taif journey
621	Isra and Miraj; First Pledge of Aqabah
622	Second Pledge of Aqabah; Hijrah

Exam Tips

- **Lessons to write in 'importance' answers:** patience (Taif), justice and wisdom (Black Stone), loyalty (Khadijah, Abu Talib), trust in Allah (Thawr), equality (Bilal), forgiveness (Taif).
- **Common question styles:** (a) Describe the events of ___ [8 marks]; (b) Why did Quraysh oppose the Prophet? (c) 'The Hijrah was the most important event in the Prophet's life.' How far do you agree? [Give both sides, then a conclusion.]
- **Part (a) tip:** state who, where, when, what happened, result. **Part (b) tip:** point + evidence + explanation, then a reasoned judgement.
- **Remember:** write (PBUH) or the proper salutation after the Prophet's name and (RA) after Companions, as per your board's expectations.
- *Check names and dates against your Islamiyat textbook (Cambridge syllabus 0493 / 2058) before the exam, as some books vary by a year.*