THE STRIVING

MUSLIM ACADEMY

Islamic and Academic Education

STAGE 4 · ART AND DESIGN · SKETCHBOOKS

Sketchbooks

Techniques to learn, things to make, and the questions to ask of your own work when it is finished.

WHAT IS INSIDE

- What a sketchbook is for
- How to use one
- Thumbnails
- Task 1: Thirty days
- Task 2: Look back
- Find a sketchbook page online or in a book
- Look at your own work

The Striving Muslim Academy

No answers at the back. There is nothing here to mark.

Written for a parent teaching at home. No training assumed, and nothing else to buy.

strivingmuslimacademy.com

What a sketchbook is for

Read this, then try it on the page underneath.



WHAT A SKETCHBOOK IS FOR

A sketchbook is not a book of finished pictures. It is where the thinking happens, and most of what is in it will not be good.

It holds four things: drawings from observation, notes about what you noticed, experiments with a material, and ideas you have not used yet.

Nothing in it is rubbed out and nothing is torn out. A page that went wrong is the most useful page in the book when you come back in six months and want to know why.

How to use one

Read this, then try it on the page underneath.



HOW TO USE ONE

Date every page. Without dates you cannot see yourself improving, and seeing that is most of what keeps a person drawing.

Draw something every day, even for two minutes. Five minutes a day beats two hours on Saturday, because drawing is a habit of looking rather than a thing you sit down to do.

Write beside the drawings. What was hard, what you would try next, what the light was doing. A drawing with a note is worth three without.

Find a sketchbook page online or in a book

Go and look at a real thing. This is the lesson, not the warm up.



FIND A SKETCHBOOK PAGE ONLINE OR IN A BOOK

Find a working sketchbook page by any artist, in a library book or online. Not a finished picture: a working page.

Write down three things on it that are not finished work: notes, measurements, crossings out, the same thing drawn twice. That is what a sketchbook actually looks like.

SAMPLE PAGES

You have read a few pages. The pack is longer.

What you are holding is a short sample, taken from different parts of the pack so that you can see how a week is planned and what a child is actually asked to do, before you decide.

The complete pack, and the rest of the academic materials, are on our website: schemes of work for a parent teaching at home, and practice packs for the skills children get stuck on.

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Members of the homeschool community do not buy these. If you have joined the community, the pack for the term you are working on is given to you at no cost.

Our Islamic Education classes are free. These packs are part of what pays the teachers who teach them.