THE STRIVING

MUSLIM ACADEMY

Islamic and Academic Education

YEARS 7 TO 9 · ART AND DESIGN

Art and design

Technique, analysis and the history of art and architecture, for Years 7 to 9. No answers at the back, because none of it has one.

WHAT IS INSIDE

- Recording in a sketchbook, at this level
- Handling a material until it does what you want
- Analysing a work, rather than liking it
- Periods, styles and movements: what to look at
- Structure as a style of its own
- Task 1: Thirty annotated pages
- Task 2: One subject, four materials
- Task 3: Construct a pattern from a circle
- Analyse one building properly
- Look at what you made

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No answers at the back. The work is the answer.

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

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Periods, styles and movements: what to look at

Read this, then use it on the task pages.



PERIODS, STYLES AND MOVEMENTS: WHAT TO LOOK AT

The history of art, craft, design and architecture is too large to learn as a list. It is learnable as a set of decisions, each one anchored to a building you can look up.

Proportion. UNESCO calls the Alhambra in Granada the best example of Nasrid art, and records that its whole building and decoration were planned on one proportional system, worked in plaster, wood and ceramic.

Geometry. A great deal of Islamic pattern is constructed with a compass and a ruler, starting from a circle, and set out on a grid of triangles or squares.

Harmony of a group. Sinan was the most famous Ottoman architect of the sixteenth century and thought the Selimiye complex at Edirne his best work; UNESCO calls it the most harmonious group of its kind ever built.

Symmetry, and its exception. The Taj Mahal is planned with bilateral symmetry about a central axis, and the one thing off that axis is Shah Jahan's memorial marker, added beside his wife's more than thirty years later.

Material and maintenance. The Great Mosque of Djenne is the largest earthen building in the world, replastered every year by a masons' guild, the barey ton, going back to the fifteenth century. It is not finished and then maintained; it is remade.

Structure as a style of its own

Read this, then use it on the task pages.



STRUCTURE AS A STYLE OF ITS OWN

Two bridges show what happens when a new material arrives and when engineers stop hiding the forces.

The bridge at Ironbridge in England was the world's first bridge built of iron, and UNESCO says it had a considerable influence on developments in technology and architecture. Nothing about it is a better stone bridge; it is a bridge made of something nobody had used that way.

The Forth Bridge in Scotland had the world's longest spans when it opened in 1890, each main span 521 metres, built of two cantilever arms of 207 metres reaching towards each other with a 107 metre span hung between their tips.

Look at where it is deepest. It is thickest over the supports, where the bending is worst, and thinnest where the two arms meet. The shape is a drawing of the forces in it, which is a style, and one worth recognising.

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Analyse one building properly

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



ANALYSE ONE BUILDING PROPERLY

Find one building you can stand in front of, or one you can look up in detail. Draw its front, then measure its proportions: is it taller than wide, what repeats, how many times.

Then answer the four analysis questions on it in writing. Those proportions were the architect's first decision, not the last, and they are the thing you can still read off it centuries later.

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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Islamic and Academic Education

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.