

Thafseer — Tonight's Cram Pack

The 23 short surahs · word-by-word (lafzi) — the meaning of every word + verse translation · Exam: Sunday 11:30-13:30

☀ Glance sheet — the crib tables (skim these last)

The whole syllabus on one screen. المَدَنِيّ rows (Madani) are marked gold: only **Al-Bayyinah**, **Az-Zalzalah** and **An-Nasr** are Madani — everything else is Makki.

All 23 surahs — the complete crib

#	Surah	Means	Key word (lafzi)	Theme	M/M
1	الفاتحة	The Opening	الْحَمْدُ all praise	Essence of the Quran — praise, tawheed, the straight path	Makki
93	الضحى	Morning Brightness	مَا وَدَّعَكَ He has not forsaken you	Comfort: your Lord has not abandoned you	Makki
94	الشرح	The Expansion	الْعُسْرُ • يُسْرًا hardship • ease	“With hardship comes ease” — relief after difficulty	Makki
95	التين	The Fig	أَحْسَنَ تَفْوِيمٍ the best form	Man created in the best form; faith + deeds save him	Makki
96	العلق	The Clot	اقْرَأْ Read!	First revelation — “Read!”; knowledge vs tyranny	Makki
97	القدر	The Decree	لَيْلَةَ الْقَدْرِ the Night of Decree	Laylat al-Qadr — better than 1000 months	Makki
98	البينة	The Clear Proof	الْبَيِّنَةُ the clear proof	The clear evidence; best vs worst of creation	Madani
99	الزلزلة	The Earthquake	مِثْقَالَ ذَرَّةٍ an atom's weight	The earth testifies; atom's weight of good/evil seen	Madani
100	العاديات	The Chargers	الْعَادِيَاتِ the chargers	Man's ingratitude to his Lord	Makki
101	القارعة	The Striking Calamity	الْقَارِعَةُ the striking calamity	Judgement Day; the scales of deeds	Makki
102	التكاثر	Rivalry in Increase	التَّكَاثُرِ rivalry in increase	Distraction by worldly competition until death	Makki

103	العصر	Time	خُسْرٍ loss	All mankind is in loss — except 4 qualities	Makki
104	الهمزة	The Slanderer	هُمَزَةٌ لُّمَزَةٌ slanderer · backbiter	Woe to the backbiter who hoards wealth	Makki
105	الفيل	The Elephant	أَبَائِلٍ in flocks	Allah destroyed Abraha's army of the elephant	Makki
106	قريش	Quraysh	إِيْلَافٍ accustomed security	Gratitude for security & provision → worship	Makki
107	الماعون	Small Kindnesses	الْمَاعُونَ small kindnesses	Faith proven by deeds; no riyaa	Makki
108	الكوثر	Abundance	الْكَوْثَرَ abundance	Allah's gift; pray & sacrifice; hater is abtar	Makki
109	الكافرون	The Disbelievers	الْكَافِرُونَ the disbelievers	Disavowal of shirk — no compromise	Makki
110	النصر	The Help	أَفْوَاجًا in crowds	Victory → tasbih & istighfar; farewell	Madani
111	المسد	Palm Fibre	تَبَّتْ perish!	Abu Lahab's ruin — wealth can't save	Makki
112	الإخلاص	Sincerity	الصَّمَدُ the Eternal Refuge	Pure Tawheed — = 1/3 of the Quran	Makki
113	الفلق	Daybreak	الْفَلَقِ the daybreak	Refuge from external evils	Makki
114	الناس	Mankind	الْخَنَاسِ the retreating whisperer	Refuge from the internal whisperer	Makki

Memory hooks for the whole syllabus

1

Only 3 Madani surahs: النصر · الزلزلة · البينة (Bayyinah, Zalzalah, Nasr). Asked “Makki or Madani?” — if it isn't one of these three, answer **Makki**.

2

The “occasion of revelation” set examiners love: Al-Masad (Abu Lahab's insult at Safa) · Al-Ikhlās (the idolaters asked to “describe your Lord's lineage”) · Al-Kawthar (al-‘As called the Prophet ﷺ *abtar*) · Al-Kafirun (Quraysh's worship-swap offer) · An-Nasr (the Farewell Hajj / the Prophet's ﷺ approaching death).

3 **“First” superlatives:** Al-Alaq = the **first revelation** (“Iqra — Read!”) · Al-Fatiha = the **first complete surah** and the essence (Umm al-Kitab) · Laylat al-Qadr (Al-Qadr) = the night the Quran first descended, better than 1000 months.

4 **The protection set (Mu'awwidhat):** Al-Ikhlās + Al-Falaq + An-Nas — recited after every fard salah and before sleep. Falaq = **external** evils; Nas = the **internal** whisperer (al-khannās, who retreats when Allah is remembered).

5 **Judgement-Day scenes:** Az-Zalzalah (earth testifies, atom's weight seen) · Al-Qari'ah (the scales / mawazin) · At-Takathur (rivalry distracts “until you visit the graves”) · Al-Asr (all mankind in loss **except** faith, good deeds, advising truth & patience).

6 **Makkan history pair:** Al-Feel (Allah destroyed Abrahā's elephant army with the ababil birds) → Quraysh (so be grateful for the security and the winter/summer caravans → worship the Lord of this House). Cause → blessing.

7 **Consolation pair:** Ad-Duha (“your Lord has not forsaken you”) + Ash-Sharh (“with hardship comes ease”) — both reassure the Prophet ﷺ. At-Teen: man made in **the best form** (aḥsan taqwīm).

🌙 Self-test — every quiz question with its answer

Intro + Falaq · Ikhlas · Nas · Masad

Tafseer **linguistically** (في اللغة) means:

→ **Clarification and uncovering the meaning**

From قَسَّرَ — to make clear / uncover. Lafzi tafseer = giving the meaning of each word.

Which surah does this verse belong to?

وَمِنْ شَرِّ حَاسِدٍ إِذَا حَسَدَ

→ **الفلق**

Al-Falaq, last verse — “and from the evil of an envier when he envies.”

Which surah does this verse belong to?

الَّذِي يُوسِّسُ فِي صُدُورِ النَّاسِ

→ **الناس**

An-Nas, v5 — “who whispers into the hearts of mankind.”

Meaning of الصَّمَدُ :

→ **The Eternal Refuge — all depend on Him, He needs none**

As-Samad — the One every creature turns to, while He needs no one.

Meaning of غَاسِقٍ إِذَا وَقَبَ :

→ **Darkness of night when it settles**

ghasiq = the dark night; idha waqab = when it grows dark / settles.

Meaning of الخَنَّاسِ :

→ **The one who withdraws / retreats**

Al-khannas — the whisperer who retreats when Allah is remembered.

Meaning of حَمَّالَةَ الْحَطَبِ :

→ **Carrier of firewood**

Abu Lahab's wife — “carrier of firewood” (she carried thorns to harm the Prophet ﷺ).

Meaning of النَّفَّاثَاتِ فِي الْعُقَدِ :

→ **Those who blow on knots (sorcery)**

an-naffathat fil-'uqad — the women/sorcerers who blow on knots.

Meaning of كُفُوًا :

→ **Equal / comparable**

kufuwan — “none is comparable / equal to Him.”

Meaning of تَبَّتْ :

→ **May they perish / be ruined**

tabbat — “perish / be ruined” (the two hands of Abu Lahab).

Which Arabic word/phrase means “**did not avail / benefit him**”?

→ مَا أَغْنَى

مَا أَغْنَى عَنْهُ مَالُهُ — “his wealth did not avail him.”

Which surah here is **Madani**?

→ **None — all four are Makki**

Falaq, Ikhlas, Nas and Masad are all Makki. (Only Bayyinah, Zalzalah and An-Nasr are Madani.)

Al-Fatiha · Ad-Duha · Ash-Sharh · At-Teen

Meaning of مَالِكِ يَوْمِ الدِّينِ :

→ **Master of the Day of Recompense**

Al-Fatiha v4 — Allah is Master / Owner of the Day of Judgement.

Meaning of الصِّرَاطِ الْمُسْتَقِيمِ :

→ **The straight path**

Al-Fatiha v6 — اهْدِنَا الصِّرَاطَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ, “guide us to the straight path.”

Meaning of مَا وَدَّعَكَ رَبُّكَ وَمَا قَلَى :

→ **Your Lord has not forsaken you nor hated you**

Ad-Duha v3 — the direct reassurance to the Prophet ﷺ when revelation paused.

Which Arabic phrase means “**do not repel / scold (the beggar)**”?

→ فَلَا تَنْهَرْ

وَأَمَّا السَّائِلَ فَلَا تَنْهَرْ — “as for the one who asks, do not repel him.” (فَلَا تَنْهَرْ = do not oppress the orphan.)

Meaning of أَنْقَضَ ظَهْرَكَ :

→ **weighed down your back (Which)**

Ash-Sharh v3 — الَّذِي أَنْقَضَ ظَهْرَكَ, that weighed down the back.

Meaning of رَفَعْنَا لَكَ ذِكْرَكَ :

→ **We raised high your renown**

Ash-Sharh v4 — وَرَفَعْنَا لَكَ ذِكْرَكَ; the Prophet's ﷺ name is joined to Allah's in the shahadah and adhan.

Meaning of أَحْسَنَ تَقْوِيمٍ :

→ **The best of moulds / stature**

At-Teen v4 — فِي أَحْسَنِ تَقْوِيمٍ, in the best mould.

Meaning of أَسْفَلَ سَافِلِينَ :

→ **The lowest of the low**

At-Teen v5 — ثُمَّ رَدَدْنَاهُ أَسْفَلَ سَافِلِينَ, reduced to the lowest of the low (without faith).

Which surah does this verse belong to?

→ الضحى

“And the Hereafter is better for you than this first life” — Ad-Duha verse 4.

وَلِلْآخِرَةِ خَيْرٌ لَكَ مِنَ الْأُولَى

Which surah does this verse belong to?

إِيَّاكَ نَعْبُدُ وَإِيَّاكَ نَسْتَعِينُ

→ **الْفَاتِحَةُ**

“You alone we worship and You alone we ask for help” — Al-Fatiha verse 5.

Which surah here is **Madani**?

→ **None — all four are Makki**

Fatiha, Duha, Sharh and Teen are all Makki. In the whole syllabus only Al-Bayyinah, Az-Zalzalah and An-Nasr are Madani.

Surah Ad-Duha was revealed because:

→ **رَوِّدُكَ ﷺ Revelation paused and the idolaters mocked that Allah had forsaken the Prophet**

When wahy stopped for a time, the disbelievers taunted him; Allah revealed Ad-Duha to reassure him.

Al-Alaq · Al-Qadr · Al-Bayyinah · Az-Zalzalah

Meaning of **عَلَّمَ بِالْقَلَمِ** :

→ **Taught by the pen**

Al-Alaq v4 — Allah taught man through the pen; the honour of writing and knowledge.

Meaning of **اسْتَعْنَى** :

→ **Sees himself self-sufficient**

Al-Alaq v7 — أَنْ رَأَى اسْتَعْنَى: man transgresses when he thinks himself self-sufficient.

Meaning of **الرُّجْعَى** :

→ **The return (to Allah)**

Al-Alaq v8 — إِنَّ إِلَىٰ رَبِّكَ الرُّجْعَى: to your Lord is the return.

Meaning of **خَيْرٌ مِنْ أَلْفِ شَهْرٍ** :

→ **Better than a thousand months**

Al-Qadr v3 — Laylat al-Qadr is better than a thousand months (~83 years).

Meaning of **وَالرُّوحِ** in Al-Qadr (“the angels and ...”):

→ **The Spirit — Jibreel**

تَنْزِيلُ الْمَلَائِكَةِ وَالرُّوحِ — the angels and the Ruh (Jibreel) descend on Laylat al-Qadr.

Meaning of **خَيْرُ الْبَرِيَّةِ** :

→ **The best of creatures**

Al-Bayyinah v7 — believers who do good are **خَيْرُ الْبَرِيَّةِ**; the disbelievers are **شَرُّ الْبَرِيَّةِ**.

Meaning of **مُخْلِصِينَ لَهُ الدِّينَ** :

→ **Sincere to Him in religion**

Al-Bayyinah v5 — the upright religion: worship Allah **مُخْلِصِينَ** (sincere) to Him, with prayer and zakat.

Meaning of **مِثْقَالَ ذَرَّةٍ** :

→ **An atom's weight**

Az-Zalzalah vv7-8 — **مِثْقَالَ ذَرَّةٍ**: an atom's weight of good or evil, both seen.

Which Arabic phrase means “**prostrate and draw near**”?

→ **وَأَسْجُدْ وَاقْتَرِبْ**

Al-Alaq v19 — **وَأَسْجُدْ وَاقْتَرِبْ**, a verse of prostration; the cure for arrogance.

Which surah does this verse belong to?

اقْرَأْ بِاسْمِ رَبِّكَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ

→ **العلق**

“Read in the name of your Lord who created” — Al-Alaq verse 1, the first revelation.

Which surah does this verse belong to?

فَمَنْ يَعْمَلْ مِثْقَالَ ذَرَّةٍ خَيْرًا يَرَهُ

→ **الزلزلة**

The “atom’s weight of good” verse — Az-Zalzalah verse 7.

Which surah is **Madani**?

→ **Al-Bayyinah**

Al-Bayyinah (#98), Az-Zalzalah (#99) and An-Nasr (#110) are the three Madani surahs in the syllabus.

Al-Adiyat · Al-Qari'ah · At-Takathur · Al-Asr

Meaning of **كَنُودٌ** :

→ **Ungrateful**

Al-Adiyat v6 — **man** is **كَنُودٌ**, ungrateful, to the Lord who provides for him.

Which Arabic word means “**the charging horses / racers**”?

→ **الْعَادِيَاتِ**

وَالْعَادِيَاتِ صَبْحًا — the racers / charging warhorses, panting. (**الْمُغِيرَاتِ** = the raiders.)

Meaning of **تَقَلَّتْ مَوَازِينُهُ** :

→ **His scales (of deeds) are heavy**

Al-Qari'ah v6 — a heavy scale of good deeds leads to **عَيْشَةٍ رَاضِيَةٍ**, a pleasant life.

Meaning of **كَالْعِهْنِ الْمَنْفُوشِ** :

→ **Like fluffed-up wool**

Al-Qari'ah v5 — on that Day the mountains become **كَالْعِهْنِ الْمَنْفُوشِ**, like fluffed-up (carded) wool.

Meaning of **هَآوِيَةٌ** :

→ **The Abyss — a name of Hell**

Al-Qari'ah v9 — the one whose scales are light, his refuge is **هَآوِيَةٌ**, the Abyss (Hell).

Meaning of **النَّعِيمِ** in At-Takathur:

→ **The blessings / pleasures (you'll be asked about)**

نُؤْمِنُ لِنَسْأَلَنَّ بِيَوْمِذٍ عَنِ النَّعِيمِ — you will be questioned about every blessing enjoyed.

Meaning of **أَلْهَاكُمُ** :

→ **It distracted / diverted you**

At-Takathur v1 — **أَلْهَاكُمُ اللَّكَاكُمُ**, the rivalry for piling up distracted you from the Hereafter.

Which Arabic phrase means “they enjoin one another to patience”?

→ **تَوَاصَوْا بِالصَّبْرِ**

Al-Asr v3 — **وَتَوَاصَوْا بِالْحَقِّ**, counsel one another to patience (تَوَاصَوْا بِالْحَقِّ = to truth).

Which surah does this verse belong to?

يَوْمَ يَكُونُ النَّاسُ كَالْفَرَاشِ الْمَبْثُوثِ

→ **القارعة**

“The Day people will be like scattered moths” — Al-Qari'ah verse 4.

Which surah does this verse belong to?

إِنَّ الْإِنْسَانَ لِفِي خُسْرٍ

→ **العصر**

“Indeed mankind is in loss” — Al-Asr verse 2.

Which surah here is **Madani**?

→ **None — all four are Makki**

Adiyah, Qari'ah, Takathur and Asr are all Makki. Only Bayyinah, Zalzalah (lesson 3) and An-Nasr (lesson 6) are Madani.

Surah **Al-Asr** is:

→ **Makki, 3 verses**

Al-Asr is #103, Makki, just 3 verses — yet ash-Shafi'i said it alone could guide mankind.

Al-Feel · Quraysh · Al-Humazah

Which surah does this verse belong to?

أَلَمْ تَرَ كَيْفَ فَعَلَ رَبُّكَ بِأَصْحَابِ الْفِيلِ

→ **الفيل**

“Have you not seen how your Lord dealt with the people of the elephant?” — Al-Feel verse 1.

Which surah does this verse belong to?

الَّذِي أَطْعَمَهُمْ مِنْ جُوعٍ وَآمَنَهُمْ مِنْ خَوْفٍ

→ **قريش**

“Who fed them against hunger and secured them from fear” — Quraysh verse 4.

Which surah does this verse belong to?

وَيْلٌ لِّكُلِّ هُمَزَةٍ لُّمَزَةٍ

→ **الهمزة**

“Woe to every slanderer and backbiter” — Al-Humazah verse 1.

Meaning of **طَيْرًا أَبَابِيلَ** :

→ **Birds in flocks**

Al-Feel v3 — Allah sent against Abraha's army birds in successive flocks (ababil).

Meaning of **كَعْصَفٍ مَّاكُولٍ** :

→ **Like chewed-up / eaten straw**

Al-Feel v5 — Abraha's army was left like straw that has been eaten and chewed up.

Meaning of كَيْدُهُمْ :

→ **Their plot / scheme**

Al-Feel v2 — Allah made their كَيْدٍ (plot) go astray (فِي تَضَلُّيلٍ).

Meaning of رِحْلَةَ الشِّتَاءِ وَالصَّيْفِ :

→ **The journey of winter and summer**

Quraysh v2 — their safe trade caravans of winter (to Yemen) and summer (to Syria).

Which Arabic phrase means “**secured them from fear**”?

→ **أَمْنُهُمْ مِنْ خَوْفٍ**

Quraysh v4 — وَأَمْتُهُمْ مِنْ خَوْفٍ, the blessing of security (paired with provision against hunger).

Meaning of الْحُطَمَةِ :

→ **The Crusher (a blazing fire)**

Al-Humazah v4 — the slanderer-hoarder is cast into al-Hutamah, the Crushing Fire of Allah.

Meaning of أَخْلَدَهُ :

→ **Will make him immortal / live forever**

Al-Humazah v3 — the hoarder imagines مَالَهُ أَخْلَدَهُ, that his wealth made him immortal.

Meaning of هُمَزَةٍ :

→ **A slanderer who insults to the face**

هُمَزَةٌ insults openly to the face; لُمَزَةٌ backbites in one's absence.

Meaning of الصَّمَدِ :

→ **The Eternal Refuge — all depend on Him, He needs none**

Al-Ikhlâs v2 — As-Samad, the One every creature turns to while He needs no one (lesson 1).

Meaning of الْخَنَاسِ :

→ **The one who withdraws / retreats**

An-Nas — the whisperer who retreats the moment Allah is remembered (lesson 1).

Surah Al-Feel was revealed about which historical event?

→ **Abraha's elephant army marching to destroy the Ka'bah (Year of the Elephant)**

In the Year of the Elephant (~570 CE), Abraha attacked Makkah; Allah destroyed his army with birds and stones.

Al-Humazah condemns a person who:

→ **Slanders/backbites and hoards wealth thinking it makes him immortal**

هُمَزَةٌ (insult to face) + لُمَزَةٌ (backbite) who مَالًا وَعَدَدَهُ thinking أَخْلَدَهُ.

Which THREE surahs in the whole syllabus are **Madani**?

→ **Al-Bayyinah, Az-Zalzalah and An-Nasr**

Al-Bayyinah (#98), Az-Zalzalah (#99) and An-Nasr (#110) are Madani; everything else is Makki.

Al-Ma'un · Al-Kawthar · Al-Kafirun · An-Nasr

Meaning of الْمَاعُونِ :

→ **Small kindnesses / everyday assistance**

Al-Ma'un = small acts of help (and basic items people lend each other) — withholding them is condemned.

Meaning of **يَدْعُ الْيَتِيمَ** :

→ **Drives away the orphan**

yadu‘u al-yatim — he repels the orphan harshly, the mark of one who denies the Judgement.

Which Arabic word means **“the poor / needy”**?

→ **الْمِسْكِينِ**

al-miskin — the poor/needy; Al-Ma‘un condemns not urging that he be fed.

Meaning of **سَاهُونَ** :

→ **Heedless / neglectful of their prayer**

“...those who are heedless of their prayer” — sahun = careless / neglectful of it.

Meaning of **الْأَبْتَرُ** :

→ **The one cut off (no good, no legacy)**

Al-abtar = cut off from all good — said of the Prophet's ﷺ enemy, not of him.

The command in Al-Kawthar means:

فَصَلِّ لِرَبِّكَ وَأَنْحَرْ

→ **Pray to your Lord and sacrifice**

“So pray to your Lord and sacrifice” — worship and sacrifice for Allah alone, vs idolaters' sacrifice.

Meaning of **شَانِئَكَ** :

→ **The one who hates you**

shani'aka — the one who hates you; he is the abtar, the truly cut off.

Meaning of **أَفْوَاجًا** :

→ **In multitudes / crowds**

People entered the religion of Allah أفوَاجًا — in great crowds — after the conquest of Makkah.

Which surah does this verse belong to?

وَيَمْنَعُونَ الْمَاعُونَ

→ **الماعون**

“...and withhold small kindnesses” — the last verse of Al-Ma‘un.

Which surah ends with **لَكُمْ دِينُكُمْ وَلِيَ دِينِ** ?

→ **الكافرون**

Al-Kafirun — the declaration of disassociation (baraa'ah) from shirk.

Which surah in this lesson is **Madani**?

→ **(النصر) An-Nasr**

An-Nasr is Madani (revealed at the Farewell Hajj); the other three are Makki. Only Bayyinah, Zalzalah and An-Nasr are Madani in this syllabus.

Complete review — all-23 crib + battery test

Meaning of **الصَّمَدُ** :

→ **The Eternal Refuge — all depend on Him**

As-Samad (Al-Ikhlās) — the One every creature turns to, needing none.

Meaning of الْخَنَّاسِ :

→ **The retreating whisperer**

Al-Khannas (An-Nas) — withdraws when Allah is remembered.

Meaning of الْقَارِعَةُ :

→ **The striking calamity (Judgement Day)**

Al-Qari'ah — the sudden striking calamity.

Meaning of مِثْقَالَ ذَرَّةٍ :

→ **An atom's weight**

Az-Zalzalah — “whoever does an atom's weight of good will see it.”

Meaning of اِفْرَأْ :

→ **!Read! / Recite**

Al-Alaq, v1 — the first word revealed: “Read in the name of your Lord.”

Meaning of أَفْوَاجًا :

→ **In multitudes / crowds**

An-Nasr — people entered Allah's religion in crowds.

Meaning of الْمَاعُونَ :

→ **Small kindnesses / everyday aid**

Al-Ma'un — withholding even small assistance is condemned.

Meaning of الْكَوْثَرَ :

→ **Abundance (a river in Paradise)**

Al-Kawthar — abundant good granted to the Prophet ﷺ.

Meaning of تَبَّتْ :

→ **May they perish / be ruined**

Al-Masad — “Perish the two hands of Abu Lahab.”

Meaning of أَحْسَنَ تَقْوِيمٍ :

→ **The best of moulds / stature**

At-Teen — “We created man in the best of forms.”

Which Arabic phrase means “**the Night of Decree**”?

→ **لَيْلَةُ الْقَدْرِ**

Laylat al-Qadr (Al-Qadr) — better than a thousand months.

Which surah does this verse belong to?

→ **الشرح**

Ash-Sharh — “Did We not expand for you your breast?”

أَلَمْ نَشْرَحْ لَكَ صَدْرَكَ

Which surah does this verse belong to?

لَكُمْ دِينُكُمْ وَلِيَ دِينِ

→ الكافرون

Al-Kafirun — “to you your religion, and to me mine.”

Which surah does this verse belong to?

فَمَنْ يَعْمَلْ مِثْقَالَ ذَرَّةٍ خَيْرًا يَرَهُ

→ الزلزلة

Az-Zalzalah — the atom's-weight verse.

Which THREE surahs in the syllabus are **Madani**?

→ **Al-Bayyinah, Az-Zalzalah, An-Nasr**

Everything is Makki except Al-Bayyinah (#98), Az-Zalzalah (#99) and An-Nasr (#110).

Which surah equals **one-third of the Quran** in reward?

→ الإخلاص

Al-Ikhlās — pure Tawheed is a third of the Quran's message.