Hadrat Abu Hurayrah (radyi’Allahu anhu) reports that Nabi [sallallahu alayhi wasallam] said, “Allah Ta’ala says, ‘The reward of every good action is multiplied 10 to 700 times its amount, except the fast which is (only) for me, and I alone will reward it.’ The fast is a shield (protection) from the fire of Jahannam. The smell from the mouth of the fasting person is more fragrant to Almighty Allah than musk. If a rude person says bad words to any one of you who is fasting then say, ‘I am fasting (and don’t fight with him).’” (Tirmizi)

The blessed month of Ramadhaan is a special month for all Muslims as it brings us great reward and mercy from Allah Ta’ala. The reward for fasting is so great that for every good action a number of rewards are mentioned but for fasting Allah Ta’ala says He Himself will give as much reward as he wants. When a person fasts, then besides himself and Allah Ta’ala no one else will know whether he is fasting or not, unless he tells them. This is the reason why Allah Ta’ala Himself will give him the reward.

Jannah

Jannah is specially decorated and prepared for those who fast. A fasting person will enter Jannah through a special door called Rayyaan. Let us also enter through this special door by fasting only to please Allah Ta’ala, not to show people or just because it is the month of Ramadhaan and everybody else is fasting.

Increase good actions

The mercy and kindness of Allah Ta’ala in this beautiful month is so great that it rains and showers down upon us all the time. It is left to us to take as much as we can. In this beautiful month we should increase all good actions and deeds as the rewards are multiplied by Allah Ta’ala greatly. Allah Ta’ala multiplies the rewards for every fardh action by seventy and a nafal action is rewarded as a fardh action. Fasting is fardh and Salaaah is also fardh, so we should not miss any of the two in this blessed month. We should never leave out or miss the special salaaah of Ramadhaan, the twenty rakaats of Taraweeh salaaah after the Esha Salaaah. Make sure to perform all our sunnah and nafl salaah as well.

Recitation of Qur-aan

Ramadhaan is a month in which we must recite as much Qur-aan as possible, as this was the month in which the Qur-aan was revealed. For every letter we read of the Qur-aan we are rewarded with 10 rewards. In one line there are about 30 letters, 10 times 30 = 300, 300 times 13 lines in one page = +/- 3900 rewards just for reading one page. Some of the pious people read the whole Qur-aan from cover to cover every day in the month of Ramadhaan! Subhan Allah! We can also try to read at least one Para or some pages of the Qur-aan every day, Insha Allah.

Zikr

Ramadhaan is a month to make as much zikr as possible of the first kalimah and istighfaar, i.e. remembering Allah Ta’ala and asking Allah Ta’ala for forgiveness. We should keep our tasbeeh with us all the time so that every free moment we have, we can make zikr and remember Allah Ta’ala. Every moment in this month is special and must be used to gain maximum rewards from Allah Ta’ala.
Dua

Ramadhaan is the month when our duaas are accepted, as the angels say aameen to our duaas. The time before Iftaar and Sehri are special moments for the acceptance of our Duas. We should use this time and any other time to make duaas and ask Allah Ta’ala to make us pious, good, practical Muslims and to grant us and our families Jannatul Firdous (the highest stage in Jannah) and save us from the fire of Jahannam.

Staying away from sins

Ramadhaan is the month in which Allah Ta’ala cleans and purifies our hearts and souls by fasting and forgives all our past sins. We must stay away from all kinds of sins at all times especially in this beautiful month. In this month, food and drink has been made haram while we are fasting so how can we do any Haram action and displease our Kind and Merciful Allah Ta’ala. If we sin and displease Allah Ta’ala by watching TV, Movies, DVD’s or listening to MUSIC, speaking LIES or BACKBITING then our fasting will not benefit us.

May Allah Ta’ala accept all of us and give us the taufeeq (ability) to spend the month of Ramadhaan correctly. Aameen.

Sharing with the poor

Ramadhaan is a month of caring and sharing. By fasting and not eating, we feel the pain and hunger of the poor and needy. We should give food and money to the poor and needy Muslims so that they can also enjoy the month of Ramadhaan. We should also share our Iftaar meal with others for if we feed a fasting person by giving him something to break his fast then we will get the reward of his fast also.

Ramadhaan is to train us on how to live our lives as Allah Ta’ala wants us to live. We must CHANGE our lives not only for the month of Ramadhaan but for the rest of our lives till we die. If we live our lives like how we live in Ramadhaan then when death will come to us, we will be happy like how we become happy when we see the moon of Eid.

Fasting is a shield for a Muslim

HOLIDAYS

- Holy Days or Holey Days

Muslims should transform their holidays into holy-days by filling it with good and pious actions. Muslims must not allow their holidays to become holey-days, full of holes, by falling into bad and sinful actions.

During the holidays, we have lots of free-extra-time. We need to value and look after our time. To understand how valuable time is, think for a moment, if we have extra food, then we may keep it in the fridge and eat it tomorrow.

If we have extra money, then we may keep it in a safe / moneybox and use it tomorrow.

But, if we have extra time, we cannot keep it somewhere and then use it when we are very busy. The time that is gone, is gone. No one can bring it back. The whole world can get together to bring back one second, they will all fail.

Hadhrat Sirri (Rahmatullah alayh) says that he saw Jurjaani (Rahmatullah alayh) swallowing roasted barley flour. So he asked, “You are swallowing dry roasted barley flour?” Jurjaani (Rahmatullah alayh) replied, “When I checked the time that it takes to chew bread and the time it takes to swallow the flour, I found that a person can recite Subhaanallah seventy times in the extra time that it takes to chew bread. For this reason, I have left out eating bread altogether for the last forty years.” These people knew the value of time.

Today we say, “I am bored. What must I do?” If a person says he is bored, it means that he has forgotten why is he in this world? Where is he going? What is it that he supposed to be doing? We need to remind ourselves that Allah Ta’ala has sent us into this world, and we are travelling towards the hereafter, and we need to prepare for our Jannah (Paradise). Daily, we should at least hold onto our Salah and Qur-aan. May Allah Ta’ala guide us all.
Allah Ta’ala loves us and He has blessed us with special occasions where we can be forgiven such as the month of Ramadaan, Laylatul Qadr - the night of power, the night of Bara’ah etc.

Many Ahaadith explain the greatness of this blessed night. It is called the night of Bara’ah which means the night in which many people will be saved from Jahannum or hell fire by being forgiven.

The greatness of this night is that from the very beginning of the night i.e. after Maghrib till Fajr, Allah Ta’ala showers His special mercy and attention towards the creation and forgives those who seek forgiveness. Every Muslim should value this great night. We should turn to Allah Ta’ala with sincere regret and shame over our past sins and make a promise never to return to sin again.

Hadhurat Aaisha (radhiyallahu anha) has reported Rasulullah (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) to have said, ‘This is the middle night (of the month) of Sha’baan. Allah Ta’ala sets free in it a large number of people from the fire of Jahannum, more than the number of the hair growing on the sheep of the tribe of Kalb. The tribe of Kalb was a large tribe who owned many sheep. Therefore, the Hadith shows the large number of people who will be forgiven on this night by Allah Ta’ala.

Unfortunate people

It is understood from the Ahaadith that even on this great night, some unfortunate people will not be forgiven.

They are:

1. Idolaters- those who join partners with Allah Ta’ala.
2. Those who have hatred for one another.
3. Those who drink alcohol or take drugs.
4. Those who disobey their parents.
5. Those males who wear their trousers, pants, kurtas etc. below their ankles.
6. Those who commit murder.
7. Those who break family ties.

We should stay away from all sins, especially the abovementioned sins at all times and beg Allah Ta’ala forgiveness and promise never to return to sins forever.

The blessings of the night of Bara’ah can be obtained by staying awake the whole night in the worship of Allah Ta’ala. However, if one cannot do so then at least some part or at least the last part of the night should be spent in Ibaadat. One should perform Nafl Salaah, recite Qur-aan, make Zikr, send Durood on Nabi [sallallahu alayhi wasallam] and make dua as much as possible on this great night.

The following Duaa has been reported from Nabi [sallallahu alayhi wasallam] on this night:

أَعُوذُ بِعَفْوِكَ مِنْ عِقَابٍ لَّكَ
وَأَعُوذُ بِضُرُّ عَذَابِكَ مِنْ سَحَاطٍ لَّكَ
وَأَعُوذُ بِعِجَالٍ مَّلِكَ جَلَّ وَحَمَّلَ
لاَ أُحْصِنَ نَيْنَاءَ عَلَيْكَ أَنَّمَا
أَنْتَ عَلَى نَفسِكَ

Translation:
O Allah! I seek protection in Your forgiveness from Your punishment and I seek protection in Your pleasure from Your anger and I seek protection in Yourself from Yourself. Glory be to You. I am cannot fully praise you. You are as you have praised yourself.
1. If a person speaks badly to us when fasting, what should we say?
2. Those who fast will enter Jannah through a special door. What is the name of that door?
3. How many Rakaats are there in Taraweeh Salleh?
4. What did Nabi ﷺ say regarding the smell that comes out of the fasting person’s mouth?
5. What is the reward for doing a Fardh act in Ramadhaan?
6. Complete the sentence: ‘Fasting is a …….. for a Muslim’.
7. How many people does Allah Ta’ala set free on the Night of Bara’at?
8. Mention 3 people who are not forgiven on the Night of Bara’at?
9. At which time in the day is the duas of a fasting person accepted?
10. What is the special zikr that has been prescribed for the month of Ramadhaan?

Do a project on any of the following.
1. The Virtues of Ramadhaan
2. The Auspiciousness of Laylatul Bara’at

Grades 1-2 (1 Page). Grades 3-7 (3-5 Pages).
All entries must be handed in before the 16 August 2013. Winners in each grade will receive a R100.00 cash prize.

N.B. Please write your name, the name of your Madrasah, the area you live in and your grade on your project in big bold writing.