1. Author and Book

Author: Imam Abu Abdullah Ubaydullah ibn Muhammad ibn Battah al-Ukbari.

Known as: Ibn Battah al-Ukbari.

Born: 304 AH.

Died: 387 AH.

Book: Al-Ibanah al-Sughra.

Main purpose: To call Muslims to the Sunnah, warn against Bid'ah and explain important beliefs and manners.

- He began seeking Hadith when he was young.
- He travelled for knowledge.
- Adh-Dhahabi described him as an Imam in the Sunnah.
- The edition also mentions criticism of his Hadith transmission. Students should know both praise and criticism were recorded.

Four Parts of the Book

Part	Remember This
1	Sunnah, Jama'ah, knowledge and warning against Bid'ah.
2	Belief: Iman, Qadar, Qur'an, Allah's Attributes, Hereafter and Companions.
3	Salah, worship, food, family life and Islamic manners.
4	Practices and innovations the author warns against.

2. Part One – Sunnah and Jama'ah

Sunnah: The way and guidance of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.

Jama'ah: Unity upon the truth, Qur'an, Sunnah and way of the Companions. It does not simply mean the biggest crowd.

Bid'ah: Adding a religious belief, rule or act of worship without evidence.

Hawa: Desire that pulls a person away from the truth.

Qur'an evidence: Allah commands believers to hold firmly together to His rope and not divide.

Reference: Surah Aal Imran, 3:103.

Explanation: Unity must be based on Allah's guidance.

Qur'an evidence: Allah sent the Messenger ﷺ to explain what was revealed.

Reference: Surah an-Nahl, 16:44.

Explanation: The authentic Sunnah explains the Qur'an and must be followed.

Hadith evidence: The Prophet ﷺ told Muslims to hold firmly to his Sunnah and the Sunnah of the rightly guided Caliphs.

Reference: Sunan Abi Dawud, 4607; Jami at-Tirmidhi, 2676. Hasan Sahih.

Explanation: When disagreements appear, return to Prophetic guidance.

Hadith evidence: An invented religious matter that does not belong to Islam is rejected.

Reference: Sahih al-Bukhari, 2697; Sahih Muslim, 1718.

Explanation: A good intention does not make invented worship correct.

Exam Points

- Ask questions to learn but do not argue just to win.
- Do not speak about religion without knowledge.
- Do not place personal opinion above clear revelation.
- Choose trustworthy teachers and good friends.
- Do not make Qur'an verses fight against each other.
- Love and respect the Companions.

Hadith evidence: Knowledge is taken away through the death of scholars until ignorant people answer without knowledge.

Reference: Sahih al-Bukhari, 100; Sahih Muslim, 2673.

Explanation: Learn before speaking or giving religious rulings.

3. Part Two – Iman and Tawheed

Iman: Belief of the heart, speech of the tongue and actions.

Six foundations of Iman: Allah, His angels, His Books, His Messengers, the Last Day and Qadar.

Hadith evidence: Iman has many branches. The Shahadah is a branch and removing harm from the road is also a branch.

Reference: Sahih Muslim, 35.

Explanation: Iman includes belief, speech and action.

Qur'an evidence: When Allah's verses are recited, the believers increase in faith.

Reference: Surah al-Anfal, 8:2.

Explanation: Iman can increase.

Major sins: A major sin does not automatically make every Muslim a disbeliever.

Qur'an evidence: Allah does not forgive Shirk for the person who dies upon it but may forgive what is less than that.

Reference: Surah an-Nisa, 4:48.

Explanation: Shirk is different from sins below it.

Tawheed: Worship Allah alone.

Qur'an evidence: Worship Allah and associate nothing with Him.

Reference: Surah an-Nisa, 4:36.

Explanation: All worship belongs to Allah alone.

4. Qur'an and Allah's Attributes

Qur'an: The Qur'an is the Speech of Allah and is not created.

Qur'an evidence: Allah calls the Qur'an the Speech of Allah.

Reference: Surah at-Tawbah, 9:6.

Explanation: The Qur'an is directly described as Allah's Speech.

Qur'an evidence: Allah spoke directly to Musa عليه السلام.

Reference: Surah an-Nisa, 4:164.

Explanation: Speaking is affirmed for Allah in a way that suits His Majesty.

Names and Attributes: Accept what is found in the Qur'an and authentic Sunnah without denying it, changing it or comparing Allah to creation.

Qur'an evidence: Nothing is like Allah and He is the All-Hearing, All-Seeing.

Reference: Surah ash-Shura, 42:11.

Explanation: Allah has real Attributes but nothing resembles Him.

Qur'an evidence: The Most Merciful rose over the Throne.

Reference: Surah Ta-Ha, 20:5.

Explanation: Accept the wording in a way that suits Allah's Majesty.

Hadith evidence: Allah descends to the lowest heaven during the last third of the night and calls His servants to ask and seek forgiveness.

Reference: Sahih al-Bukhari, 1145; Sahih Muslim, 758.

Explanation: This teaches the virtue of night prayer, Du'a and seeking forgiveness.

Qur'an evidence: Faces on the Day of Resurrection will look toward their Lord.

Reference: Surah al-Qiyamah, 75:22-23.

Explanation: The believers will see Allah in the Hereafter.

5. Qadar and the Hereafter

Qadar: Allah knew everything before it happened and everything happens within His knowledge and decree.

Hadith evidence: Belief in Qadar is one of the foundations of Iman.

Reference: Sahih Muslim, 8.

Explanation: Belief in Allah's decree is part of Iman.

Qur'an evidence: Allah created everything according to a decree.

Reference: Surah al-Qamar, 54:49.

Explanation: Nothing is outside Allah's knowledge and decree.

Order to Remember

Topic	Simple Meaning
Grave	Questioning and punishment or comfort.
Trumpet	Israfil blows the Trumpet.
Resurrection	People are raised from the graves.
Judgement	Allah judges with perfect justice.
Scale	Deeds are weighed.
Sirat	The bridge is crossed.
Hawd	The Prophet ﷺ has a Hawd.
Intercession	Only with Allah's permission.
Final Home	Paradise or Hell.

Key Evidence

Hadith evidence: The Prophet ﷺ sought Allah's protection from the punishment of the grave.

Reference: Sahih al-Bukhari, 1377; Sahih Muslim, 588.

Explanation: The punishment of the grave is real.

Qur'an evidence: People die and then will be raised on the Day of Resurrection.

Reference: Surah al-Mu'minun, 23:15-16.

Explanation: Death is not the end.

Qur'an evidence: Allah will set up just scales and no one will be wronged.

Reference: Surah al-Anbiya, 21:47.

Explanation: Allah's judgement is perfectly fair.

Qur'an evidence: No one can intercede except with Allah's permission.

Reference: Surah al-Baqarah, 2:255.

Explanation: Intercession is real but completely under Allah's authority.

Paradise and Hell: Both are real and already created.

6. Angels, Jinn and Signs of the Hour

- Jibril عليه السلام brings revelation.
- Israfil blows the Trumpet.
- The angel of death takes souls.
- The dead are questioned in the grave.

Jinn: Real created beings. Some believe and some disbelieve.

Qur'an evidence: A group of jinn listened to the Qur'an and believed.

Reference: Surah al-Jinn, 72:1-2.

Explanation: Jinn are real and are responsible for belief and disbelief.

Dajjal: A real future trial.

Isa عليه السلام: Will return near the end of time.

Hadith evidence: The Prophet ﷺ warned his Ummah about the Dajjal.

Reference: Sahih Muslim, 2937.

Explanation: Learn about the Dajjal from authentic evidence, not rumours.

Hadith evidence: Isa ibn Maryam عليه السلام will descend near the end of time.

Reference: Sahih al-Bukhari, 3448; Sahih Muslim, 155.

Explanation: The return of Isa عليه السلام is a sign of the Last Day.

7. Companions and Leadership

Best generations: The Prophet's generation, then the next, then the next.

Hadith evidence: The Prophet ﷺ said the best people are his generation, then those after them, then those after them.

Reference: Sahih al-Bukhari, 2652; Sahih Muslim, 2533.

Explanation: The earliest generations have a special rank.

Order presented in the book: Abu Bakr, Umar, Uthman, then Ali, may Allah be pleased with them all.

- Love and respect all the Companions.
- Do not insult them.
- Recognize the virtues of Ali without exaggerating about him.

Qur'an evidence: Allah revealed verses clearing Aishah from the false accusation.

Reference: Surah an-Nur, 24:11-26.

Explanation: The Qur'an established her innocence.

Leadership: Obey in what is right. Do not obey anyone in a command to disobey Allah.

Hadith evidence: Obedience is only in what is right.

Reference: Sahih al-Bukhari, 7257; Sahih Muslim, 1840.

Explanation: No human being is obeyed in a command to commit a sin.

8. Part Three – Salah and Masjid

- Pray calmly and do not rush.
- Follow the Imam and do not race ahead.
- Avoid unnecessary movement in Salah.
- Raise the hands at the opening Takbir, before Ruku‘ and after rising from Ruku‘.

Hadith evidence: The Prophet ﷺ told the man who prayed badly to repeat his prayer and become calm in each position.

Reference: Sahih al-Bukhari, 757; Sahih Muslim, 397.

Explanation: Salah should be performed with calmness.

Jumu‘ah and Masjid

- Leave ordinary trade and go to Jumu‘ah when the call is made.
- Listen quietly to the Khutbah.
- Walk to the Masjid calmly.
- Do not turn the Masjid into a marketplace.
- Do not compete in decorating Masjids.

Qur’an evidence: When the call for Jumu‘ah is made, leave trade and go to the remembrance of Allah.

Reference: Surah al-Jumu‘ah, 62:9.

Explanation: Jumu‘ah takes priority over ordinary business.

9. Daily Manners

Food

- Mention Allah’s Name.
- Eat and drink with the right hand.
- Eat from what is near you.
- Do not waste food.
- Do not breathe into the drinking vessel.

Hadith evidence: The Prophet ﷺ told a young boy to mention Allah’s Name, eat with his right hand and eat from what was near him.

Reference: Sahih al-Bukhari, 5376; Sahih Muslim, 2022.

Explanation: Islam teaches good manners even in ordinary actions.

Family and Character

- Treat spouses with kindness.
- Protect family privacy.
- Be fair.
- Treat neighbours well.
- Avoid waste and stinginess.
- Treat workers and dependants kindly.
- Do not declare something halal or haram without evidence.

Qur'an evidence: Live with wives in kindness.

Reference: Surah an-Nisa, 4:19.

Explanation: Marriage requires good treatment.

Knowledge

- Learn before speaking.
- Do not guess religious rulings.
- Return disagreements to the Qur'an and Sunnah.
- Take knowledge from trustworthy teachers.

10. Part Four – Main Warnings

Warning	Remember
Fortune-telling	No one knows the unseen independently except Allah.
Astrology	Do not claim stars reveal destiny. Practical astronomy for direction is different.
Charms and amulets	Do not give objects hidden powers without evidence.
Graves	Respect the dead but do not turn graves into places of worship.
Wailing	Sadness is natural but extreme mourning is forbidden.
Qur'an and Adhan	Do not turn them into theatrical performance.
Masjid decoration	The Masjid is for worship, not showing wealth.
Historical sects	Learn the beliefs. Do not throw labels at people without knowledge.

Qur'an evidence: No one in the heavens and earth knows the unseen except Allah.

Reference: Surah an-Naml, 27:65.

Explanation: Fortune-tellers and astrologers do not have independent knowledge of the unseen.

Hadith evidence: The Prophet ﷺ warned against taking graves as places of worship.

Reference: Sahih al-Bukhari, 435; Sahih Muslim, 531-532.

Explanation: Respect for righteous people must not become worship at their graves.

Hadith evidence: The Prophet ﷺ warned about people competing in decorating Masjids.

Reference: Sunan Abi Dawud, 449; Sunan an-Nasa'i, 689.

Explanation: The purpose of a Masjid is worship, not display.

11. Do Not Mix These Up

Do Not Confuse	Correct Revision
Jama'ah / biggest crowd	Jama'ah is unity upon truth and Sunnah.
Questioning / arguing	Ask to learn. Do not argue just to win.
Reasoning / personal opinion	Reason from evidence. Do not overrule revelation.
Major sin / disbelief	A major sin does not automatically make every Muslim a disbeliever.
Attributes / comparison	Affirm Allah's Attributes without comparing Him to creation.
Seeing Allah / comparing Allah to moon	The Hadith compares clarity of seeing, not Allah to the moon.
Astronomy / astrology	Directions and navigation are different from claims about destiny.
Pleasant voice / performance	A good voice is different from theatrical recitation.
Respecting graves / worship at graves	Respect the dead but direct worship to Allah alone.

12. Final Exam Checklist

- Author's name, birth and death.
- Why the book was written.
- The four parts of the book.
- Meaning of Sunnah, Jama'ah, Bid'ah and Hawa.
- Why Qur'an and Sunnah are followed together.
- Why knowledge comes before speaking.
- Meaning of Iman and its six foundations.
- Iman increases and decreases.
- Difference between a major sin and disbelief.
- Meaning of Tawheed.
- The Qur'an is the Speech of Allah.
- Rule for Allah's Names and Attributes.
- Allah rose over the Throne in a way that suits His Majesty.
- Believers will see Allah in the Hereafter.

- Meaning of Qadar.
- Main events of the Hereafter in order.
- Main angels named in the notes.
- Jinn, Dajjal and return of Isa عليه السلام.
- Respect for the Companions.
- Order of Abu Bakr, Umar, Uthman and Ali as presented in the book.
- Aishah's innocence in Surah an-Nur.
- Obedience to leaders is only in what is right.
- Main Salah and Jumu'ah manners.
- Main food and family manners.
- Warnings about fortune-telling, astrology, charms and graves.
- Difference between astronomy and astrology.
- Difference between Sunnah and Bid'ah.
- Difference between sincere learning and useless argument.

13. One-Minute Review

Part One: Follow Sunnah. Stay with Jama'ah. Avoid Bid'ah, Hawa and speaking without knowledge.

Part Two: Know Iman, Tawheed, Qadar, Qur'an, Allah's Attributes, the Hereafter and the Companions.

Part Three: Follow Sunnah in Salah, Masjid manners, food, family life and daily behaviour.

Part Four: Avoid fortune-telling, charms, invented grave practices, theatrical religious performance and other practices the author warns against.