

teens' crossroads

In Good Time

**TC'S DECLASSIFIED LIFE
SURVIVAL GUIDE - EXAMS**

MANAGING YOUR TIME WELL

**YOUTHS RAISED THE BAR FOR
DEBATES ON MUSLIM ISSUES**

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Abu Hurayrah (RA) narrated that
Prophet Muhammad (SAW) said:

"Each person's every
joint must perform a
charity every day the
sun comes up:

to act justly between
two people is a charity;

to help a man with his
mount, lifting him onto
it or hoisting up his
belongings onto it is a
charity;

a good word is a
charity;

every step you take to
prayers is a charity;

and removing a
harmful thing from the
road is charity."

(Sahih Bukhari and Muslim)

Imam Nawawi Forty Hadith
Hadith no 26



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EDITOR's NOTE In Good Time

"It is He who made the sun a shining light and the moon a derived light and determined for it phases - that you may know the number of years and account [of time]. Allah has not created this except in truth. He details the signs for a people who know." (Yunus, or Jonah, 10:05)

Time is of the essence for us. Towards the end of the year, students face their final exams and unfortunately, some would be lost in the panic and rush to revise everything they were taught since January. This edition of TC brings to the fore another Life Survival Guide by our volunteer Syeda Adiba Husain. Here, she shares her guide to studying for exams, with a special emphasis on the use of time. In addition to that, Dr Waffie Mohammed shares a reminder on how Islam gives us the opportunity to learn to manage our time accordingly for our purpose on earth.

A special feature on the Singapore Muslim Youth Debate (SMYD) 2014, organised by the Youths of Darul Arqam (YODA) presents an overview of the event that

highlights the versatility of Singapore's Muslim youths in discussing new and traditional challenges that their community explores. With better awareness of SMYD amongst its readers, TC hopes that more youths will register their interest and participation in the next SMYD, targeted in 2015.

Success is too crisp a word to represent the whole process behind its making. Thus, to achieve it, we should bear in mind that success happens in good time. It doesn't happen overnight. Achieve, in steps. No matter how small that one step may seem, it is crucial – and should not be considered to be a waste of time. May Allah (SWT) guide us to benefit from the bits and pieces of knowledge shared within these pages (if not for application immediately, for our use in the near future), *Insha'Allah*.

Aishah Hussein

COVER

TEXT BY SYEDA ADIBA HUSAIN

TC's Declassified Life Survival Guide - Exams

Useful tips to help you understand how to conquer your grades in school.

Way Before Exams

#1 Get closer to the Creator of knowledge

The bane of every student's education life: exams. Even though some of us genuinely enjoy learning, exams suck the fun out of our quest for knowledge. The sad truth is that it is unavoidable; our future teachers of higher institutes and even employers just have to see if we have fully understood what we learnt, or at least have the memory power to remember the facts and represent them on paper.

Here are a few tips to help you survive the dreaded end of each level of your education.

We all know that our goal should be to gain as much knowledge as we can, of both the *deen* (way of life) and the 'academic' subjects we are studying, so as to become useful members of the *ummah* (community), capable of helping the Muslims in different ways. The education system may not necessarily be the best way to do this, however, it is something we have to go through for now, *Insha'Allah*, because this is how our society is structured.

I personally prefer not to divide knowledge as 'Islamic' or 'academic' because all knowledge belongs to Allah (SWT); for the purpose of discussion in this paper, however, I have to make this arbitrary distinction.

The 'Islamic' knowledge referred here is what we need to learn in order to know how to live our life, while the 'academic' knowledge is what we need to learn in order to earn a living and survive in this world.

Consider this: what is the point in surviving, if we do not know how to live?

No matter what 'academic' field of study we are in, we cannot afford to neglect learning about the *deen*.

“Those truly fear Allah, among His servants, who have knowledge...”

(Fatir, or The Originator of Creation, 35:28)

These tips will be helpful, only if we put in the effort to get closer to Allah (SWT). Reading, learning and applying the Quran is of the utmost importance. (I don't want to sound like your mum, but think about this - if our relationship with Allah (SWT) and His book is solid, we can finally understand how awesome this *deen* is and why we are Muslims.)

#2 Find Your Pace

I find it strange that some people ask me how they should study. You are the best person to judge your own capabilities and weaknesses, so you would know best what course of action to take during your preparation for the exams.

These are some things that can help you determine how to study.

Find your style:

Do you prefer learning every topic thoroughly before moving on, or do you prefer having a brief look at everything first then diving into the details?

If you are the kind that prefers mastering each topic before moving to the next one, do not be afraid of lagging behind your classmates if your school is pressing along quite fast with the syllabus. Remember, your goal is the final exam. If you fail a test or two, do not get demotivated - stay focused.

When you study best:

Is the morning or night more conducive for you? I would not recommend staying up at night unless it is the only time you are able to study without distractions as Allah (SWT) created the night for rest.

“It is Allah who has made the night for you, that you may rest therein...”

(Ghafir, or Forgiver or The Believer, 40:61)

Plus, sleeping at night would enable you to wake up at the last hours of the night to talk to Allah (SWT) during *Tahajjud* (night prayer), something that all Muslims should strive to do, no matter how few the units (*raka'at*) you wish to perform.

“Verily, the rising by night (for *Tahajjud*

prayer) is very hard and most effective and good for governing (the soul), and most suitable for (understanding) the Word (of Allah).”

(Al-Muzzammil, or Folded in Garments, 73:06)

Whichever study time suits you, stick to it. It can take some time for you to condition yourself, but *Insha'Allah* (Godwilling), you will get used to it.

How you study best:

Some people prefer studying alone in a quiet place without distractions while others prefer group study sessions, where there is a lot of interaction. If you are the kind that likes group-studying, make sure you find like-minded friends and do not drag friend/s, who can only study in a quiet place, along with you. Your friend may be too nice to say “no” to you, so have a heart for them; while you may benefit from the session, your poor friend could be worrying about when they are going to be able to catch up with their work!

#3 Print Your Syllabi

Many students, especially O-Level and A-Level students, do not realise the benefits of having your own copy of the syllabus. Teachers may slip up once in a while and forget to mention some details that you need to know, so it is always handy to double-check. For math subjects, formulas you need and do not need to memorise have been clearly stated. Also, some of the required definitions have been nicely typed out for you exactly the way your examiners want it. Go and print it right now if you have not already done so!

#4 Summary Notes

Personally I found that making summary notes of each chapter helps, especially during your exam period. The day before or on the day of your exam itself, you would have some time for revision, but there is definitely **no** time to be going through your textbooks or lecture notes.

You need to compile summary notes that highlight the most important things in the topic like specific formulas, diagrams and definitions that are needed, as well as the kinds of questions you **always** mess up.

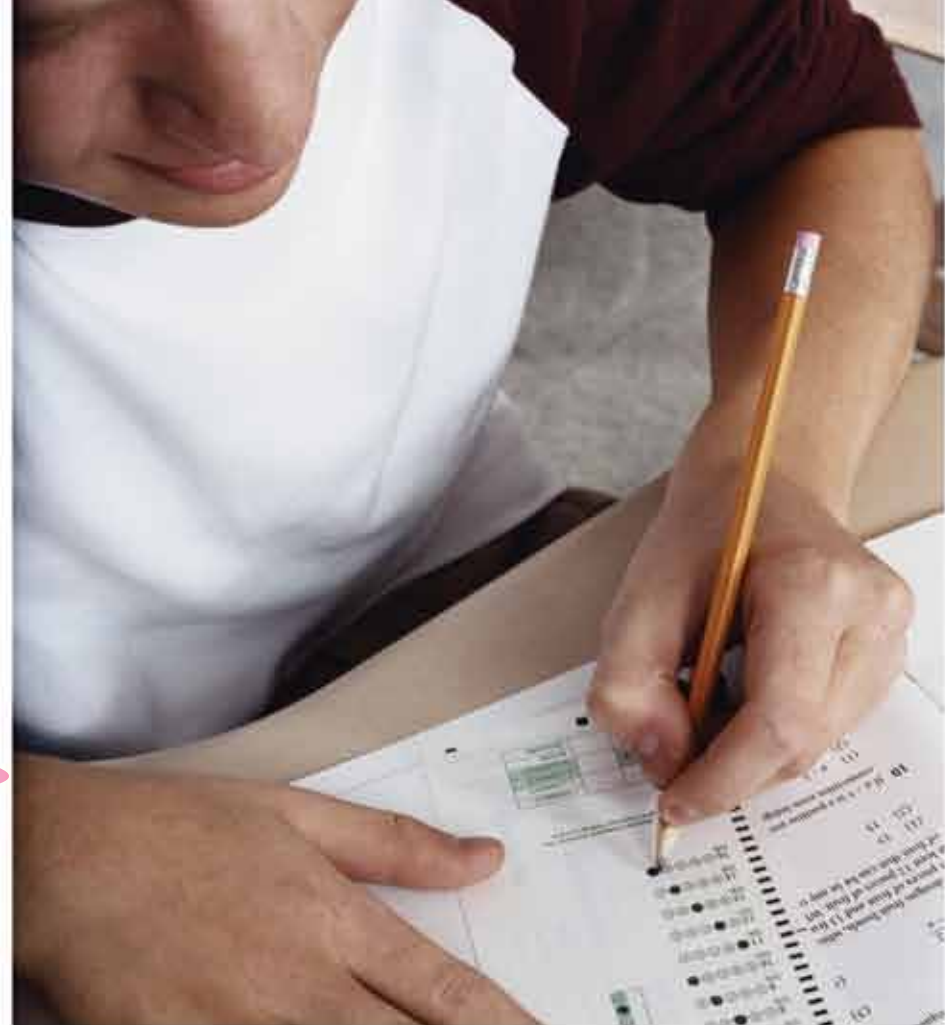
For me, I hated Physics as I could not understand many of the topics. I tried hard to understand at the beginning, but when I saw that it was of no use closer to the exams, I resorted to memorising the question types and their model answers. This was my **LAST** resort. Always try to find someone who can explain your confusion to you early.

#5 Topical TYS (Ten-Year Series)

The good thing about these exams is that the question types seldom change. It is as if there is a big library of past exam questions where the exam-‘setters’ go to and choose questions from there every year. This is where your Ten-Year Series books come in handy. As you complete each topic, make it a point to try out the exam standard questions from your TYS. It helps you get used to the kind of questions you will be facing *Insha'Allah*, as sometimes our schools supply us with practices that are either too easy or way too hard for our individual level.

#6 Face Your Fears

I made quite a big mistake by avoiding trying to understand my two worst subjects, Additional Mathematics and Physics, early back during O-Levels. Since I kept putting it off, I ended up having to really stress and spend hours upon hours in my last few weeks before the exams just trying to get the hang of it. I do not recommend you do the same. Save yourself the stress zits, the white hairs and the exhaustion. Whenever you run into some difficulty in any subject, do not be afraid to bombard your teachers with your questions, you have got to understand it before it is too late. Not only that, many of the topics to come are interrelated, so it is best you attack your problems early.



Just Before Exams:

#7 Do Not Freak Out

The stress is on, and it is highly likely that you feel as if your head is going to explode. It is normal to cry a number of times under the pressure. Just do not let the anxiety take over your whole life. When things get really tough, try to remember that Allah (SWT) may have set your return date back to Him on the day before your exams! No one knows when our expiry date in this world is, so we have got to try our best not to forget about our other duties and relationships, especially to our Creator. It would be of no use if we manage to pass these exams but end up failing this life's test.

Our prayers and family still have the same importance as in any other time. Never, ever skip your duties to Allah (SWT), and try not to skew down the acts of worship you normally do either. Who knows, through your extra effort, Allah (SWT) may grant you ease and success

from places you never expected.

“...They were afflicted by hardship and suffering and were so shaken down that the Prophet, and those who believed with him, began to say: ‘When the help of Allah (will come)’? Behold, the help of Allah is near.”

(Al-Baqarah, or The Heifer, 02:214)

Sometimes some students step up the *ibadah* (worship) as time gets closer to the exams, begging Allah (SWT) to help them get a good grade -.-“

“And if We give man a taste of mercy from Us and then We withdraw it from him, indeed, he is despairing and ungrateful.”

(Hud, 11:09)

Consistency is key. The best of deeds are those that are done consistently - no matter how small.

The Prophet (SAW) said: “... the most beloved of deeds to Allah are the most consistent of them, even if they are few.”

(Sahih Bukhari Hadith 6464, or Book 81, No 53)

Some helpful websites

If you are stuck, feel that your textbooks are not helping you understand better, or your teacher is not around, make use of the fact that you are in the 21st century.

Search on Google or YouTube. I know it is very general, but you would be surprised to learn that almost all the answers you seek could be found through these websites. If you are totally bored of reading your textbook, watch YouTube videos pertaining to the topic. Recently I have been watching videos by “mjmfoodie” for Economics (zzz...), quite easy to understand and entertaining because a lot of cartoon drawings are used.

Visit www.khanacademy.org. Also, videos from this website can be found on YouTube. Nevertheless, if you need some extra guidance on subjects like math, biology, chemistry, physics, humanities... or practically any subject from school, you can check out this virtual classroom.

During Exams:

#8 Prioritise

It is time to cut down on the activities that are not directly related to your exams; whether it is in school, with your friends, or maybe even with your family. If you can be excused from extracurricular activities that are not crucial for your final grade, then request to be excused.

Plan your revisions, and sort out the subjects that need your attention first. If you still need help from your teachers, alert them early and book consultation slots with them so you can get their undivided attention. Last minute Q&A sessions along the corridor are not helpful; it just adds to your and your teacher's high blood pressure.

#9 Yearly TYS

I can't stress the importance of this enough. By right, you should do the yearly TYS twice in order to be ready for the exams. If you are taking your O- or A-Levels in November this year, it is good to complete the topical TYS once by June. Then, from June onwards, you can start going through the yearly TYS, training your brain to get used to the exam formats and durations. Sometimes the model answers given are not accurate, so be sure to double check with your teachers.

#10 Remind Yourself of Your Goals

It helps calm the nerves when you remember why you were studying all this while when you are entering the exam hall. Recite *Bismillah* (In the name of God), put your trust in Allah (SWT), and give it your best shot. If you were sincerely seeking knowledge for His sake, then you have got no need to worry, no matter how hard the questions seem.

#11 Attack the Questions Strategically

As you begin the exam, time is of the essence. You need to be both fast and accurate. When you hit difficult questions, and you have tried to answer it once or twice but you still could not get the answer, skip it! Try to get as many questions that you *can* answer done first, so as to pocket as many marks as you can. If you have the time, you can come back to the earlier questions you were unsure of.

After Exams:

#12 Get Some Good Rest

Be warned, your brain will feel like it had been fried. I remember, after my last

exams, having a long list of things (that I wanted to do and also, had to do). I was unable to catch up on my sleep; thus I did not give both my body and mind enough rest. The end result was not good for the next three months or so because I felt terrible. Overall, I just did not want to do anything at all, and nothing was of interest to me anymore. It is different for everyone, but make sure you catch up on the sleep that you sacrificed earlier (and also to lose the zombie look you got) during the exam period.

#13 Get a Life, Do Something Productive :)

I know I said to rest, but I did not mean that you should become a dead weight at home. Help around the house, play some sports, learn a new skill, but most importantly, reconnect with Allah (SWT) again and again. Many of us may have put off seeking knowledge of the *deen* for ‘life's final exam’ to study for the exams in school, so it is time to get back into gear.

There are so many ways to learn about Islam and so many different things you can do to serve His *deen*. For the learning part, you can read eBooks or real books, watch YouTube videos from various Islamic channels, download some audio clips of talks by different speakers, or simply go for classes. Do something.

Prophet Muhammad (SAW) said, “Whoever follows a path to seek knowledge, Allah will make easy for him the path to Paradise. The angels beat their wings in approval of the seeker of knowledge, and those who are in the heavens and on earth pray for forgiveness for the scholar, even the fish in the water. The superiority of the scholar over the worshipper is like the superiority of the moon over all other heavenly bodies. The scholars are the heirs of the Prophets, for the Prophets did not leave behind dinars or dirhams, rather they left behind knowledge, so whoever gains knowledge has gained great good fortune.”

(Narrated by Al-Tirmidhi, 2606; classed as Sahih [Authentic] by Al-Albaani)

TEXT BY DR WAFFIE MOHAMMED

FEATURE

Allah (SWT) says in Surah Yasin, "If We grant long life to any, We cause him to be reversed in nature: will they not then understand?" (36:68)

Strength diminishes as we age

From time to time we see young, powerful people diminish in strength as they get older. And Allah (SWT) is asking in the verse above if we pay no heed to this. This verse teaches us that it is imperative that we manage our strength and youth properly because one day it is quite possible that we can revert back to earlier stage of our life, when we would be weaker and need assistance in completing the simplest of task.

Allah (SWT) makes mention of this in many other places in the Quran. For example, in Surah Hajj (22:05), Allah (SWT) says, "...then do we bring you out as babes, then (foster you) that you may reach your age of full strength; and some of you are called to die, and some are sent back to the feeblest old age, so that they know nothing after having known (much), and (further)".

We need to understand the importance of managing our time properly. A lot of the inhabitants of hell will be those who did not manage their youth and strength. A day will come where there will be much regret. You can have all the time and wealth in your life and still you may not be able to use it to your benefit because of ill health, because of weakness in health, etc.

We will return or be returned to God

Always remember that one day we will have to leave this world and return to our Lord. What we have to keep in mind and be conscious about is what exactly we are doing in order to earn the Garden. Don't let the distractions of this world divert you and take you off-course. Allah (SWT) gives us a beautiful

Managing Your Time Well

Look again at our lifespan - the speed of time slows for no one.

parable of how we should live our lives in this world in Surah Ibrahim, "Have you not seen how Allah sets forth a parable? - A goodly word like a goodly tree, whose root is firmly fixed, and its branches (reach) to the heavens,- of its Lord. So Allah sets forth parables for men, in order that they may receive admonition." (14:24)

Are you a "goodly tree" that is bringing benefit to yourself and others? Or are you going about your life like an animal? Are you only thinking of yourself and causing distress to others? One act that can help us become a *goodly* tree and bring about great benefit in both

worlds is the servitude of humanity. Helping others sincerely and only for the pleasure of Allah (SWT).

And Allah has given a great consolation for the believers. For example, Allah (SWT) says in Surah Nahl, "What is with you must vanish: what is with Allah will endure. And We will certainly bestow, on those who patiently persevere, their reward to the best of their actions. Whoever works righteousness, man or woman, and has faith, to him will We give a new life, a life that is good and pure and we will bestow on their reward according to the best of their actions." (16:96-97)


“Are you a “goodly tree” that is bringing benefit to yourself and others? Or are you going about your life like an animal?”

Elevation of all good deeds

Allah (SWT) will elevate all the good deeds of a believer to the level of the highest or best deed performed. This means that if you receive immense reward for one particular deed, all your other good deeds will be upgraded to that level. And as mentioned in the verse, this blessing is applicable to both the believing men and women. How generous is our Lord.

Benefit from this beautiful life because one day you will have to go. Prophet Muhammad (SAW) is reported to have said that 'health is wealth' so we should all manage it and use it wisely. Stick to your focus, which is the *straight* path, because it will eventually bring you to the blessed ones.

Make your vein, your mind and your blood say "*Allahu*". Forget the doubters and you will have no regrets. The time to get serious is now; don't wait when your health diminishes. Live your life only for the pleasure of Allah (SWT) and you'll have no regrets.

Sometimes you will be frustrated, sometimes you may feel down and out, but always remember that Allah (SWT) loves you and if you have faith and trust in Him, He will take care of you. And that day you have your meeting with Him will be a most blessed one. We are not getting any younger, so manage your time wisely. Don't wait because there may come a time when you may want to act but it would be too late. May Allah (SWT) give us the understanding of managing our time, our health and our wealth properly and in a manner pleasing to Him, *Insha'Allah*. 



**“Raise your
words, not
voice.**

**It is rain that
grows flowers,
not thunder.”**

Rumi

IMPRESSION

POEM BY DR YAMIN CHENG

Zen Question
Muslim Reflection

There was this Zen
Who asked
Why didn't I talk

I said
You shouldn't ask

If you ask
You're not a Zen

There was this Zen
Who asked
What I was thinking

I said, 'Nothing'

He said
Then, you're not thinking

I said
By thinking nothing
We're thinking many things

There was this Zen
Who asked
If we know reality

I said
We know reality

We don't know
That we know

There was this Zen
Who asked
How reality can be said
In a few words

I said
When we know reality
We do not need the words

Congratulations



Khairul Ikhwan Ridzwan



Noor Aqilah Noor Azlan



Muhd Shahrum Sahid



Sakina Banu



YODA TEAM 1
Champion
SMYD 2014

SPOTLIGHT

TEXT BY AMANEY HANIFF
PHOTOGRAPHS BY MUHD IRFAN MASLAN

Youths raised the bar for debates on Muslim issues

Finalists, YODA Team 1 and Pergas Student Body, put forth well-researched and persuasive expositions at the grand final of the Singapore Muslim Youth Debate.

The grand final of the Singapore Muslim Youth Debate (SMYD) echoed through the Theatre of the Singapore Post Centre, on 21 June 2014, from 2.30pm to 6.00pm. Organised by the Youths of Darul Arqam (YODA), the showdown between YODA Team 1 and Pergas Student Body (Majlis Pelajar Pergas/MPP) triggered excitement and cheers from about 70 members of audience, from both sides.

YODA Team 1 was the proposition, while MPP was the opposition, for the motion of "Muslim community issues are better tackled at state level than community level".

With creative previews by both teams entertaining the audience, the debate started with the finalists making statements confidently at the start of the event. YODA Team 1 presented their arguments just as strongly as MPP. However, YODA Team 1's rebuttals managed to shake MPP's claims, thus giving them the advantage over the Opposition team.

Bringing home the prize consisting of \$4,500 cash and the SM Jaleel Challenge



Trophy, YODA Team 1 debaters were made up of Muhammad Shahrum Sahid, Noor Aqilah Noor Azlan, Khairul Ikhwan Ridzwan, Sakina Banu Mohamed Yusoff and Nadiah Md Isa (reserve). Sakina Banu also brought home the Best Speaker Award with \$1,000 cash for the Grand Final round.

"YODA Team 1 performed well as they presented their arguments with crisp statements and reasons. This debate final was entirely engaging with the arguments presented from both sides complementing the scale and further

continued on page 14

SPOTLIGHT

continued from page 13

inviting deeper exploration of the subject matter," said a member of the audience at the event.

MPP brought home the prize for First Runner-up, which is \$2,000 cash. The youths representing MPP were Nadhirah Mohamad Fadil, Nurul Ayu Nafisah Hussain, Nur Humira Sajat, Husain Abdul Rahim, and Wan Muhammad Alif Rahmat (reserve).


"One of the most enjoyable moments of this debate was the preview. Although they are finalists in a national debate, the youths seemed to have rehearsed their acting for the preview performance. Both acts were presented with humour and their own unique style, but I especially enjoyed the funny bits in MPP's preview," said another audience.

The SMYD 2014 attracted 13 teams representing various tertiary institutions, mosques and organisations from

Singapore. This year featured its best line-up of youth debaters yet, in its fifth season. Helping them develop their public speaking skills and creativity, this English-debate competition had seen improvements every year in the quality of debaters. The competition - held between May and June recently - received about 65 participants, including its first non-Muslim Chinese participant.

Khoo Yi Feng, 24-years-old, is a student under the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at National University of Singapore (NUS). His interest in debating led him to join his Muslim friends in this year's SMYD, organised by The Muslim Converts' Association of Singapore (Darul Arqam Singapore). Although the NUS team lost during the preliminary rounds, Yi Feng, who is also a Christian, said that participating in SMYD has

helped him get closer to issues faced by Muslim youths. Besides making more friends through SMYD, Yi Feng also gained experience useful for his interest in debating and public speaking.

The Champion of SMYD 2014, the team representing YODA (Youths of Darul Arqam) Team 1 was made up of a tertiary student, a tertiary graduate, a staff of a local mosque and a National Serviceman. The First Runner-up, the team representing Pergas Student Body (Majlis Pelajar Pergas, MPP), consisted of a student in Biotechnology, one in Banking & Finance, another in Communication Studies, and the fourth is serving National Service, while waiting for admission to Nanyang Technological University (NTU). The organisers hope that the next instalment of SMYD in 2015 will be enlivened further with more of such talents, regardless of whether they are new or seasoned debaters. 

Motions in the Singapore Muslim Youth Debate 2014

Centred on issues about Muslim youths, as well as current local and global challenges, the motions are geared to drive the participating youths to research and to be highly aware of their environment.

Motion for Grand Final Debate

Muslim community issues are better tackled at the state level than at the community level

Youths of Darul Arqam (YODA) 1 versus Pergas Student Body (Majlis Pelajar Pergas/MPP)

Motion for Debate Semi-Finals

Foreign da'is are more effective than local da'is

Madrasah Al-Maarif versus Youths of Darul Arqam (YODA) 1

Islamic activism among youths today does not extend beyond the virtual world

Creative Muslim Youth Kakis (CMYK) versus Pergas Student Body (Majlis Pelajar Pergas/MPP)

Motion for Debate Quarter-Finals

The actions of Muslims are the main cause of Islamophobia

Youths of Darul Arqam (YODA) 1 versus Association of Singapore Students International Islamic University Malaysia (ASSIUM)

Censorship is necessary to preserve religious harmony in Singapore

Creative Muslim Youth Kakis (CMYK) versus Madrasah Al-Irsyad Alumni

Law enforcement is the most effective means to control Islamophobic content in social media

Madrasah Al-Ma'arif versus Madrasah Alsagoff

Interfaith education should be introduced in Singapore public schools

Pergas Student Body (Majlis Pelajar Pergas/MPP) versus Kampung Siglap Mosque (MKS)

Motions for preliminary matches

Creativity is a key ingredient in imparting religious knowledge

Madrasah Al-Ma'arif versus Youths of Darul Arqam (YODA) 2

Facebook is the most effective tool in spreading religious knowledge

Swing Team versus Madrasah Al-Irsyad Alumni

Travelling is a necessity to enhance one's Islamic worldview

Nanyang Technological University (NTU) versus Youths of Darul Arqam (YODA) 1

Muslim youths in Singapore lack platforms to participate in Muslim intellectual discourse

PRAXIS (Young AMP + Mendaki Club) versus Creative Muslim Youth Kakis (CMYK)

It is the responsibility of Muslim youths to increase Muslim representation in fields permissible within Shariah

National University of Singapore (NUS) versus Association of Singapore Students International Islamic University Malaysia (ASSIUM)

Islamic schools in Singapore lack avenues to encourage national cohesion

Ngee Ann Polytechnic versus Kampung Siglap Mosque (MKS)

A heavier focus on secular education than a religious one leads to a society that lacks morality

Madrasah Alsagoff versus Pergas Student Body (Majlis Pelajar Pergas/MPP)



IMPRESSION

In a letter to Oprah Winfrey, Lee wrote about her love of books as a child and her dedication to the written-word:

"Now, 75 years later in an abundant society where people have laptops, cell phones, iPods, and minds like empty rooms, I still plod along with books. Instant information is not for me. I prefer to search library stacks because when I work to learn something, I remember it." (7 May 2006)

"As you grow up, always tell the truth, do no harm to others, and don't think you are the most important being on earth. Rich or poor, you then can look anyone in the eye and say, 'I'm probably no better than you, but I'm certainly your equal.'"

**"Everybody's gotta learn,
nobody's born knowing."**

About this author

Nelle Harper Lee is an American novelist known for her 1961 Pulitzer-Prize-winning novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*, which deals with the issues of racism that she observed as a child in her hometown. Despite being Lee's only published book, it led to her being awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom for her contribution to literature.

Lee is the youngest of four children of Frances Cunningham Finch Lee and Amasa Coleman Lee, who was a former newspaper editor, proprietor, and a lawyer.

Published on 11 July 1960, *To Kill a Mockingbird* was an immediate bestseller and won great critical acclaim, including the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 1961. It remains a bestseller with more than 30 million copies in print. In 1999, it was voted "Best Novel of the Century" in a poll by the Library Journal.



Harper Lee

born
in Monroeville, Alabama, USA
28 April 1926

(age 88 as of 2014)

Lee has remained one of the most enigmatic and shy authors, declining to speak when presented with awards and honours.

Who is he that
will loan to God
a beautiful loan,
which God will
double unto his
credit and
multiple many
times?

It is God that
gives (you) want
or plenty, and to
Him shall be
your return.

02:45
Al-Baqarah
The Heifer



teens' crossroads

1 3 . 1 2 . 1 4

CROSSROADS

TWO SOULS | ONE PATH



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