

The Islamic Etiquette of Clothing

It is common for teens all over the world to want to keep up with the latest fashions. The inappropriate styles are adopted that really are not islamically acceptable. Some teens strike the balance very well while others will unfortunately push thing too far by wearing , for example, black spandex body suits under the revealing and skimpy clothing that are in fashion right now.

They try to justify their clothing by claiming that because they aren't showing any skin this is good enough to comply with Islamic dress code.

Deep in their hearts they probably know that what they are wearing is not good. The fact is that they have become "fashion victims" which severely impairs their sense of reasons.

There is a common misconception that to dress islamically, women have to wear black robes with no style, and men are to wear white.

In this lesson, we will consider what the requirements of Islamic dress are. First, let's learn what the Qur'an says about clothing:

Clothes in the Qur'an

يَا بَنِي آدَمَ قَدْ أَنْزَلْنَا عَلَيْكُمْ لِبَاسًا يُؤَارِي سَوْآتِكُمْ وَرِيشًا وَلِبَاسُ النُّفُوسِ ذَلِكَ خَيْرٌ ذَلِكَ مِنْ آيَاتِ اللَّهِ لَعَلَّهُمْ يَذَّكُرُونَ

O children of Adam, We have bestowed upon you clothing to conceal your private parts and as adornment. But the clothing of righteousness - that is best. That is from the signs of Allah that perhaps they will remember.

يَا بَنِي آدَمَ لَا يَفْتِنَنَّكُمُ الشَّيْطَانُ كَمَا أَخْرَجَ أَبَوَيْكُم مِّنَ الْجَنَّةِ يَنْزِعُ عَنْهُمَا لِبَاسَهُمَا لِيُرِيَهُمَا سَوْآتِهِمَا إِنَّهُ يَرَاكُمْ هُوَ وَقَبِيلُهُ مِنْ حَيْثُ لَا تَرَوْنَهُمْ إِنَّا جَعَلْنَا الشَّيَاطِينَ أَوْلِيَاءَ لِلَّذِينَ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ

O children of Adam, let not Satan tempt you as he removed your parents from Paradise, stripping them of their clothing to show them their private parts. Indeed, he sees you, he and his tribe, from where you do not see them. Indeed, We have made the devils allies to those who do not believe.

الحمد لله الذي رزقني من الرياش ما أتجمل به في الناس وأواري به عورتي

Table: ‘Awrah for Males and Females

Person	In Public	With Same Sex Relatives	With Opposite Sex Relatives	Emergency and Extreme Situations ⁵
Man	Navel to knees	Navel to knees	Mahram ¹ : Navel to knees Non-Mahram ² : Neck to Knees	Open, As necessary
Woman	Head to toe Except hands And face	Neck to Knees	Mahram ³ : Neck to knees Non-Mahram ⁴ : Head to toe.	Open, As necessary

1. Mother, grandmother, daughter, granddaughter, sister, niece and aunt.
2. Cousin and sister in law.
3. Father, grandfather, son, grandson, brothers, nephew and uncle.
4. Cousin and brother in law.
5. Surgery, rescue, doctor visits (When same sex doctor is not available).

5. Mother, grandmother, daughter, granddaughter, sister, niece and aunt.
6. Cousin and sister in law.
7. Father, grandfather, son, grandson, brothers, nephew and uncle.
8. Cousin and brother in law.

عن عبد الله بن جعفر رضي الله عنه قال: قال رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم " ما بين السرة إلى الركبة عورة".

Abdullah Ibn Jaf'far once said to a group of men, "The Prophet said: 'Between the Navel and the knee is "Awrah" (for males)."

Showing Off!

It is common among teens and adults to show off in front of their peers when they wear "cool" clothes. Muslims must not boast and brag about their outfits. It is Haraam in Islam to feel and show arrogance in any way, including through the clothing one wears. In the past, some people would wear clothing with pride and arrogance. Prophet Muhammad prohibited acting in a boastful manner by donning clothing that indicated wealth and status.

When we consider evaluating fashion, we must first refer to the basic Islamic principles of modest clothing:

Men and women are allowed and even encouraged to wear neat, clean clothing in public. A man once asked Prophet Muhammad if wearing neat clothes and shoes can be Haram. He answered: "Allah is beautiful and loves beauty."

Men and women should refrain from wearing any type of clothing that is provocative and may attract the forbidden looks of others. Allah says in Surat-un-Noor,

وَلَا يُبْدِينَ زِينَتَهُنَّ إِلَّا مَا ظَهَرَ مِنْهَا وَلْيَضْرِبْنَ بِخُمُرِهِنَّ عَلَىٰ جُيُوبِهِنَّ ۗ

"And they should not display their beauty except what appears thereof [rings, bracelets] and let them cover their bosoms with parts of khimars [scarves]"

3. Men should cover most of their bodies from the neck down. However, in certain situations, like during sports and physical labor, they must at least cover the area from the waist or the navel to the knees in front of men or women. It is also encouraged to wear a shirt around women so that one is not showing off the physique to the opposite sex

4. Women must cover everything except for the face and hands in public. When they are in private or just around women, they can uncover their hair, arms, legs to the knees and wear relaxed clothing. Allah says in Surat-ul-Ahزاب:

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّبِيُّ قُلْ لِأَزْوَاجِكَ وَبَنَاتِكَ وَنِسَاءِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ يُدْنِينَ عَلَيْهِنَّ مِنْ جَلَابِيبِهِنَّ ۚ ذَلِكَ أَدْنَىٰ أَنْ يُعْرَفْنَ فَلَا يُؤْذَيْنَ ۗ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ غَفُورًا رَحِيمًا

O Prophet! Tell your wives and your daughters and the women of the believers to draw their cloaks (veils) all over their bodies That will be better, that they should be known (as free respectable women) so as not to be annoyed. And Allah is Ever Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful

5. Covered areas must not be visible through transparent fabric nor can one's physical shape be observed through tight clothing

6. Men should not wear clothing that is directly or commonly associated with women, and women should not wear clothing that is directly and commonly associated with men.

Prophet Muhammad said, "Allah curses men who imitate women, and women who imitate men,"

Haram and Halal

Haram for Men

There are certain clothes, jewelry, and fashions that are haram for men to wear. They include the following:

1. Gold Jewelry and Silk-Based Clothes.

Any clothes made of silk are prohibited for men in Islam. Prophet Muhammad wore silk a few times, then Allah made it Haram for males. Prophet Muhammad once carried gold jewelry and silk clothes and said, "These are unlawful for men among my people in another Hadeeth, the Prophet said, "Whoever wears silk in this life will not wear it in the next life (in Jannah)." As for gold, Imam Muslim reported that Ali Ibn Abi Talib once said:

نهاني رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم عن التختم بالذهب

Rasoolullah prohibited me from wearing gold rings."

2. Imitating women:

Sometimes we see men wearing women's clothing, jewelry and even make-up. They adopt feminine hairstyles and fashion. Don't you think they look strange and unnatural? Prophet Muhammad prohibited men from dressing like women and vice versa. Imam Al-Bukhari reported that Ibn Abbas once said:

لعن رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم الرجال المتشبهين بالنساء والنساء المتشبهات بالرجال.

"Rasoolullah cursed men who imitate women and cursed women who imitate men as well."

3. Revealing clothes.

Any clothes that reveal men's 'awrah or private parts are Haram to wear. According to most scholars and imams, a Muslim male must cover the area from the navel to the knees.

Haram for Women

1. Revealing and Tight Clothing.

Any clothing that reveals the woman's awrah is obviously haram to wear.

According to most scholar and imams, a Muslim female must cover all her body except her face and hands. Once Asmaa' bint Abi Bakr, Aisha's sister, came to visit her sister. She wore some see-through and tight clothes. When Prophet Muhammad saw her he didn't like the way she dressed. So he said: "O Asmaa' When reaches the age of puberty she must properly cover all of her body except her face and hands."

The above Hadeeth and other confirm that uncovering the 'awrah is prohibited. Revealing the 'awrah by wearing tight or see through clothes is forbidden as well.

Wearing tight shirts, pants, dresses or skirts that cover the skin, but shape the body's figure make girls look attractive for males. Some girls even wear tight shirts or outfits that have wording or designs on the chest or other attractive parts of their bodies. This behavior obviously attracts men's attention and would lead to temptation. This behavior is prohibited in Islam according to all schools of fiqh.

2. Makeup and perfume

Wearing makeup and putting glittery lip gloss on is forbidden because it would be attracting boys to focus on the girl's facial features. Putting on perfume that could attract the attention of men is prohibited.

Some girls wear proper dress code but they also wear makeup. This defeats the very purpose of hijab, because cosmetics obviously make girls look even more attractive.

Allah says in Surat-un-Noor:

وَقُلْ لِلْمُؤْمِنَاتِ يَغْضُضْنَ مِنْ أَبْصَارِهِنَّ وَيَحْفَظْنَ فُرُوجَهُنَّ وَلَا يُبْدِينَ زِينَتَهُنَّ إِلَّا مَا ظَهَرَ مِنْهَا وَلَا يَضْرِبْنَ بِخُمُرِهِنَّ عَلَىٰ جُيُوبِهِنَّ وَلَا يُبْدِينَ زِينَتَهُنَّ إِلَّا لِبُعُولَتِهِنَّ أَوْ آبَائِهِنَّ أَوْ آبَاءِ بُعُولَتِهِنَّ أَوْ أَبْنَائِهِنَّ أَوْ أَبْنَاءِ بُعُولَتِهِنَّ أَوْ إِخْوَانِهِنَّ أَوْ بَنِي إِخْوَانِهِنَّ أَوْ أَخَوَاتِهِنَّ أَوْ نِسَائِهِنَّ أَوْ مَا مَلَكَتْ أَيْمَانُهُنَّ أَوِ التَّابِعِينَ غَيْرِ أُولِي الْإِرْبَةِ مِنَ الرِّجَالِ أَوِ الطِّفْلِ الَّذِينَ لَمْ يَظْهَرُوا عَلَىٰ غَوْرَاتِ النِّسَاءِ وَلَا يَضْرِبْنَ بِأَرْجُلِهِنَّ لِيُعْلَمَ مَا يُخْفِينَ ۗ وَتُوبُوا إِلَى اللَّهِ جَمِيعًا أَيُّهُ الْمُؤْمِنُونَ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُفْلِحُونَ.

And tell the believing women to lower their gaze (from looking at forbidden things), and protect their private parts (from illegal sexual acts) and not to show off their adornment except only that which is apparent (like both eyes for necessity to see the way or outer dress like veil, gloves, head-cover, apron, etc.), and to draw their veils all over Juyubihinna (i.e. their bodies, faces, necks and bosoms,) and not to reveal their adornment except to their husbands, or their fathers, or their husband's fathers, or their sons, or their husband's sons, or their brothers or their brother's sons, or their sister's sons, or their (Muslim) women (i.e. their sisters in Islam), or the (female) slaves whom their right hands possess, or old male servants who lack vigor, or small children who have no sense of the feminine sex. And let them not stamp their feet so as to reveal what they hide of their adornment. And all of you beg Allah to forgive you all,

O believers, that you may be successful.

Girls must also avoid plucking their eye brows like many do in current days.

Abdullah ibn Abbas narrated that Prophet Muhammad cursed the woman who plucks her eye brows and the one who does it for her.

Activity 1:

Consider the following for girls. Are they forbidden, discouraged or permissible?

- Text written on the back your pants.
- Flashy colored scarf.
- Text written on the front of your shirt.
- Shoes that make a clicking noise when you walk.
- Wearing pants instead of a skirt especially pants that are so tight and shape your figure.
- Wearing a loose sweat shirt and rolling up the sleeves.
- 7- Letting hair fallout from the front and/ or the back of a scarf.
- 8- Wearing a loose shirt that just covers the buttocks and tight pants.
- 9- A low cut neckline that your scarf does not cover.

Activity 2.

Consider the following for boys. Are they forbidden, discouraged or permissible?

- Wearing shorts that go above the knee.
- Changing in front of your friends.
- Changing in front of your brother.
- Playing sports without a shirt on in front of girls.
- Text written on the back of your pants.
- Wearing a tight shirt in front of girls.
- Looking at girl's fashion magazines.
- Wearing perfume in public.
- Text written on the back of your pants.

Activity 3.

Research the following issues using website like www.Islamonline.net, www.Islamicity.com, and others to learn what the Islamic stance on them:

- Body piercing
- Tattooing
- Plucking eyebrows
- Nail polish

Study Questions

1. What does Allah mean by “But the garment of piety is the best?” **ولباس التقوى ذلك خير** ”
2. Compare and contrast the ‘Awrah for men and women in Islam.
3. What is the purpose of clothing in Islam? Support your answer with an Ayah.
4. What is the du‘aa’ the Prophet used to say when he put on his clothes?
5. What are the standards of acceptable fashion in Islam?
6. What parts should men and women properly cover with clothing?
7. What is the hukm, or ruling, concerning hijab for Muslim women? Support your answer with ayaat and a hadeeth.
8. Describe three prohibited styles of clothing for men.
9. Describe three prohibited styles of clothing for women.