

The Muslim West | Science and Knowledge

Madrasas: centres of higher learning

The scientific knowledge developed by the Muslims was considered the most advanced in the world. The conquest of the Byzantine and Sassanid empires and access to their libraries allowed Muslims to make translations and take on all of the knowledge of classical and Eastern antiquity recorded in the literature, and from there to develop all areas of their own knowledge, including religious studies, the basis of all scientific learning.



Name:
Shamma'iya Madrasa

Dynasty:
Hegira 634–47 / AD 1236–49 Hafsid

Details:
Tunis, Tunisia

Justification:
Classes in religion, law, philology, literature, medicine, mathematics and astronomy were all undertaken in a mosque school in classrooms that adjoined a courtyard and from which the prayer room and the rooms accommodating the students and teachers were also reached.



Name:
Shamma'iya Madrasa

Dynasty:
Hegira 634–47 / AD 1236–49 Hafsid

Details:
Tunis, Tunisia

Justification:
Classes in religion, law, philology, literature, medicine, mathematics and astronomy were all undertaken in a mosque school in classrooms that adjoined a courtyard and from which the prayer room and the rooms accommodating the students and teachers were also reached.



Name:
Misbahiya Madrasa

Dynasty:
Hegira 8th / AD 14th century, completed in AH 747 / AD 1346 Marinid

Details:
Fez (Old Town / Medina), Morocco

Justification:
Classes in religion, law, philology, literature, medicine, mathematics and astronomy were all undertaken in a mosque school in classrooms that adjoined a courtyard and from which the prayer room and the rooms accommodating the students and teachers were also reached.



Name:
'Ubbad (mosque, madrasa and tomb of Abu Madyan or Sidi Bumadyan)

Dynasty:
Hegira 739 / AD 1339 Marinid

Details:
Al-'Ubbad, Tlemcen, Algeria

Justification:
Classes in religion, law, philology, literature, medicine, mathematics and astronomy were all undertaken in a mosque school in classrooms that adjoined a courtyard and from which the prayer room and the rooms accommodating the students and teachers were also reached.



Name:
'Ubbad (mosque, madrasa and tomb of Abu Madyan or Sidi Bumadyan)

Dynasty:
Hegira 739 / AD 1339 Marinid

Details:
Al-'Ubbad, Tlemcen, Algeria

Justification:
Classes in religion, law, philology, literature, medicine, mathematics and astronomy were all undertaken in a mosque school in classrooms that adjoined a courtyard and from which the prayer room and the rooms accommodating the students and teachers were also reached.



Name:
Madrasa Palace

Dynasty:
Founded in hegira 750 / AD 1349 Nasrid

Details:
Granada, Spain

Justification:
Classes in religion, law, philology, literature, medicine, mathematics and astronomy were all undertaken in a mosque school in classrooms that adjoined a courtyard and from which the prayer room and the rooms accommodating the students and teachers were also reached.



Name:
Madrasa Palace

Dynasty:
Founded in hegira 750 / AD 1349 Nasrid

Details:
Granada, Spain

Justification:
Classes in religion, law, philology, literature, medicine, mathematics and astronomy were all undertaken in a mosque school in classrooms that adjoined a courtyard and from which the prayer room and the rooms accommodating the students and teachers were also reached.



Name:
Ibn Yusuf Madrasa

Dynasty:
Hegira 972 / AD 1565 Sa'did

Details:
Marrakesh, Morocco

Justification:
Classes in religion, law, philology, literature, medicine, mathematics and astronomy were all undertaken in a mosque school in classrooms that adjoined a courtyard and from which the prayer room and the rooms accommodating the students and teachers were also reached.



Name:
Ibn Yusuf Madrasa

Dynasty:
Hegira 972 / AD 1565 Sa'did

Details:
Marrakesh, Morocco

Justification:
Classes in religion, law, philology, literature, medicine, mathematics and astronomy were all undertaken in a mosque school in classrooms that adjoined a courtyard and from which the prayer room and the rooms accommodating the students and teachers were also reached.
