

WORKSHEET:
Judgments or Propositions (ḥukm)

A judgment or a proposition is a statement (or a truth claim) that can be either true or false.

There are three types of judgments:

- 1. **Revelatory Judgments:** these are statements that are only known from Allah (swt) and His Messenger (pbuh). For example, fasting during Ramadan is a *fard*/obligation. See also the previous example about Īsā (pbuh).
 - Source of knowledge = true report
- 2. **Revelatory Judgments:** these are statements we know that do not require our senses or revelation. For example, 1+1=2, 7 is not an even number.
 - Source of knowledge = ‘aql/intellect (we can think about it ourselves)
- 3. **Empirical Judgments:** these are statements we know only from our five senses. For example, fire burns, the speed of light is 299,792,458 m/s.
 - Source of knowledge = 5 senses

■ **Directions:** Determine if each of these statements is a rational, empirical, or revelatory judgment. Place a checkmark in the appropriate column.

Rational, Empirical, or Revelatory?			
Judgment	Rational	Empirical	Revelator
Water boils at 212°F			
God Exists			
Force is mass times acceleration			
Paradise exists			
Muhammad (pbuh) is the Messenger of God			
Tylenol relieves pain			
Humans will be resurrected			

Judgments can be further categorized by need or probability.
Both Rational and Empirical judgments can be further divided into three categories:

- 1. Necessary: that which cannot be negated.
- 2. Possible: that which can be affirmed or negated.
- 3. Impossible: that which cannot be affirmed.

■ **Directions:** Determine if each of these *rational* propositions is necessary, possible, or impossible. Place a checkmark in the appropriate column.

Necessary, Possible, or Impossible?			
Rational Proposition	Necessary	Possible	Impossible
The sum of the parts of a thing can be greater than the whole			
Extraterrestrial life exists			
Matter takes up space			
The creation of the cosmos			
My hand burns when I put it in fire			
The sun is 91.414 million miles away from the Earth			
A human can be 1 mile away from the sun and not burn			
A square circle			
God does not exist			

■ **Directions:** Determine if each of these *empirical* propositions is necessary, possible, or impossible. Place a checkmark in the appropriate column.

Necessary, Possible, or Impossible?			
Empirical Proposition	Necessary	Possible	Impossible
Sound travels four times faster in water than it does in air			
There are 118 elements on the periodic table			
Carbon can have 20 electrons			
On Earth, water boils at 20° Celsius			
The Sun is 91.414 million miles away from the Earth			
A human can be 1 mile away from the Sun and not burn			
Thick clothing conceals my body			

- The relationship between rational judgments and empirical judgments:
- ALL empirical judgments can only fall under possible rational judgments.
 - Impossible rational judgments can never be observed anyway; can never exist (because it is impossible).
 - Scientific judgments then fall under the category of possible empirical judgments.

Judgments Level of Certainty (Truth):

Both Rational and Empirical can be further divided into two categories:

- *qaṭʿ* - Conclusive a proposition that we are absolutely certain of or a text that does not admit to more than one meaning (can have only one meaning).
 - Conclusive or “certain” means 100 percent true.
- *ẓannī* - Probabilistic a proposition that we are not certain of or a text that does admit to more than one meaning.
 - There is some level of doubt in it. (not 100% true, but also not 100% false)