

Wudu and Prayer

These are the key points that must be considered for a Hanafi who is taking an opinion from the Shafa'i school (such as reading from a copy of the Quran during tarawih prayer).

Wudu

A minimum Wudu consists of the following:

1	Intention (To say in the heart "I intend to make Wudu")
2	To wash the face
3	To wash the hands up to and including the elbows
4	To wipe the head (a small amount of the head suffices)
5	To wash the feet up to and including the feet
6	To do the above in order.

Wudu is broken through the following:

1	Loss of consciousness (such as sleeping/ having a seizure/ fainting etc)
2	The passing of a substance from the front or back genitalia (such as urine, faeces, wind, discharge -sexual or none sexual).
3	Touching the private parts with the palm of one's hand. (If there is a veil between them such as clothing this does not break the wudu).
4	Skin to skin contact with the opposite gender (This does not include touching none marriageable kin (a mahram) – for a woman this is father, son, brother, uncles, nephews and for a man this is mother, daughter, sisters, aunts and nieces.) It does include skin to skin contact with one's husband or wife.

Note: Women need to be especially careful that they have not broken their wudu due to natural female discharge.

Prayer

A minimum prayer consists of the following:

1	Intention.
2	Takbīrat al -iḥrām (The opening statement: “ Allahu Akbar ”).
3	Standing in the farḍ ṣalāh for those who have the ability. (One can sit if the prayer is sunna).
4	Recitation of Sūrah al -Fātiḥah .
5	Ruku’ (bowing).
6	Remaining motionless for a moment therein.
7	I’tidāl (Straightening up after ruku ‘).
8	Remaining motionless for a moment therein.
9	Two Prostrations
10	Remaining motionless for a moment therein
11	Sitting between the two prostrations (sajdahs).
12	Remaining motionless for a moment therein.
13	Reciting tashahhud at the end of salāh .
14	Sitting therein (for the tashahhud).
15	Ṣalāh upon the Nabi (prayers upon the prophet, peace be upon him) therein.
16	Salām (Saying ‘ <i>Asalamu Alaikum</i> ’)
17	To follow the sequence (of the above integral parts of prayer).

The above 17 integrals must be done by the imam and the follower. Hence, the follower must recite Surah al-Fatiha behind the imam, the recitation should be loud enough for you to be able to hear yourself.

The main difference between the Hanafi and the Shafa'i school in prayer is as follows:

1. Bismillah al-Rahman al-Rahim is the first verse of sura Fatiha, if it is not recited the prayer is not valid.
2. Prayers upon the prophet in the second tashahud is obligatory if it is not recited the prayer is not valid.

Extra guidance for women

3. Women must cover their whole body except for hands and face. (The feet must be covered as well as under the chin which is not considered part of the face).
4. One's posterior must be elevated above the head and cannot be on the same level.
5. The tips of the toes of both feet must be touching the floor when in prostration.
6. If the 'awra (everything other than the hands and face) becomes uncovered during the prayer, it must be covered again within the time it takes to say "SubhanAllah" otherwise the prayer becomes invalid due to the exposure of the 'awra. This includes the uncovering of a single hair.

Although there appears to be other differences between the Hanafi and Shafa'i schools with regards to wudu and prayer these differences are sunnas that can be dropped or added to the prayer.

Note : The prayer becomes invalid if a person makes more than 2 consecutive movements (not including movement of fingers), so you must be careful with how you handle the Quran.

The optimal is to place it on a stand and turn the pages by raising an arm turning the page and bringing the arm straight back to your body, or if one does not have a stand to carry it and lay it down on a pillow when you go into prostration picking it up again whenever you stand up. If you forget to pick it up you must not bend down to pick it up.

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