**ARABIC CALLIGRAPHY**

**Kufic**
Considered to be the first attempt of Arabic calligraphy, Kufic takes its name from the Kufa city of Kufa. Kufic is distinguished by its square look, with each letter being able to be drawn within a right angle.

**Naskh**
The word naskh is from the verb “to copy”, due to this style’s clarity and legibility making it perfect to transcribe manuscripts. Naskh is distinguished by its thin vertical lines and thick horizontal lines. Today Naskh is used for most Arabic-language publishing.

**Maghribi**
Maghribi script was developed in North Africa and Spain. Influenced by the structure of Kufic, Maghribi features large sweeping curves and flat vowel marks over the letters.

**Diwani**
Originally created by the Ottomans for ministerial documents, the name Diwani is derived from the verb down, meaning “to record”. Diwani allows for more artistic interpretation and does not have set rules for each Arabic letter.

**Thuluth**
Developed in Baghdad during the tenth century, Thuluth is nicknamed “the mother of calligraphy”. The word thuluth means “a third” in Arabic and is used to describe how divisions are created by a third in the lines, dots, and movements of the script.

**Ruq‘ah**
Invented by the Turks, Ruq‘ah script is the most recent form of calligraphy. Ruq‘ah is known to be perfect for rapid writing, with its short strokes and a lack of sawed marks leading to a quick yet legible script for official documents.

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*Source: Abul Qasim, An Introduction to Arabic Calligraphy. Schiffer Publishing Ltd., 2018.*