

# Course Companion for GCSE AQA Short Course

Islam: Beliefs and Teachings

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# Teacher's Introduction

This resource has been designed to support the learning and teaching of AQA GCSE Religious Studies Short Course, Section A. Islam: Beliefs and Teachings is covered, and questions and activities are included to test students' knowledge and ability, and to help them engage with the topics.

The information is comprehensive, and images help to illustrate concepts. Keywords and quotes from the Qur'an are included to help students understand the material and to further their grasp of the subjects. A brief introduction to the course and answering exam questions is provided for students at the start, and answers and a mark scheme are included at the end.

## Remember!

Always check the exam board's website for new information, including changes to the specification and sample assessment material.

This course companion can be used in full as an alternative or complement to a textbook, as a class text or for independent learning or revision. Alternatively, teachers might use a section for a specific classroom activity or homework.

This specification covers a particularly broad range, comprising different aspects of Muslims' faith and Islam's impact on their lives. This should both inform students and develop their thinking, enabling them to approach issues from different points of view.

We have sought a balance between explaining relevant concepts in sufficient detail without oversimplification while not going beyond GCSE level and becoming too complicated. Throughout, we have tried to present all views in a neutral and informative way.

Hopefully, this resource will encourage students in their learning and help to prepare them for their exams. It should take the pressure away from teachers by providing the bulk of the content which they want to teach to their class.

*October 2017*

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\* resulting from minor specification changes, suggestions from teachers and peer reviews, or occasional errors reported by customers

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# Introduction to the course and how to answer

This course aims to cover many aspects of Islam and to assess your understanding. Be aware that Islam is one of many different beliefs and traditions in Great Britain. Other religions include Buddhism, Hinduism, Judaism and Sikhism. Remember, though, that Christianity is the majority religion in Great Britain and is closely linked with the culture.

The range of material covers what Muslims believe and why. There is reference to aspects of Islam to Muslims; to the influence of beliefs and teachings on Muslim life; and to the view from within Islam. These are referred to with reference to the Qur'an and the Hadith.

This course companion is designed to equip you with the information you need to gain the knowledge and ability to answer related questions. Not all the questions and answers are exam-style questions which should be answered in particular ways.

The exam board will ask you to give quick facts and statements, as well as asking you to 'explain' and 'evaluate' beliefs, opinions and practices.

When answering all questions, it is important to try to use technical terms, where possible, and to write well, using both a style that is easy to follow and correct spelling and grammar. More or less writing will be required, depending on the number of marks. Try to spend as little time as possible on the shorter questions, to allow yourself more time for the longer ones.

For this section (beliefs and teachings) you will get a 1-mark, 2-mark, 4-mark, 5-mark and 12-mark question in the exam. Five extra marks are given for spelling, punctuation and grammar on the 12-mark question. This also goes for the other religion you study, and you will keep the higher of these two SPaG marks.

Hopefully, this resource will be interesting and informative, and help you to achieve good results.

For the **1-mark question** you will be given a multiple-choice question and you need to choose the correct answer. Make sure you don't fall for trick answers!

For the **2-mark question** you need to give two examples or facts. You need to elaborate on these, and do not waste time giving extra examples as you can only get two marks however much you write!

The **4-mark question** will ask you to 'explain' two ways in which a belief or teaching influences Muslim life. You need to give two different points, and, to get full marks, you must develop or justify both – for example, by giving evidence. You can think of it as being a mark per point and a mark for developing each point. You must understand information as well as being able to recall it. Try to make each way or view as clear as possible so you get all possible marks.

The **5-mark questions** ask you to refer to the Qur'an or other Muslim holy book, or sacred writings. Make sure you do so. You can't get full marks if you don't. You will be asked about two teachings or practices. The 5-mark question is similar to the 4-mark question, but as well as making two points and developing them, you must refer to the Qur'an and/or holy books to support one of the points for the extra mark. Again, try to make each point as clear as possible so that the marking gives you credit for every point/development.

The **12-mark question** is the longest, and there is a little more to remember. You will need to evaluate a statement, giving arguments and justifications for and against the statement (so agreeing with it, and also disagreeing with it). Make sure you have good reasons for all the points you make and link them together well. Try to reach a conclusion, picking the more convincing side of the argument (based on the arguments you have given). Refer to Islamic teaching in your answer, and back up what you say by referring to holy books, the Hadith – or other religious writings such as the Torah or Bible.

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# Beliefs and Teachings

## Key Beliefs

### 1. Introduction to Islam

#### Keywords

- ♦ **Abu Bakr** – Muhammad's close friend and companion, who Sunni Muslims believe was the first Caliph.
- ♦ **Ali** – Muhammad's cousin and son-in-law, who Shi'a Muslims believe was Muhammad's successor.
- ♦ **Allah** – The name for God. Allah is Arabic for God.
- ♦ **Caliph** – The title given to leaders of Islam after Muhammad's death. It means 'leader'.
- ♦ **Islam** – The name of the religion followed by Muslims. It means 'submission or surrender'.
- ♦ **Muhammad** – The most important prophet in Islam. Muslims believe that he was the last prophet.
- ♦ **Muslim** – One who has submitted to the will of Allah and follows the religion of Islam.
- ♦ **Prophet** – A messenger of Allah.
- ♦ **Qur'an** – The most important holy book in Islam.
- ♦ **Shi'a** – One of the two main groups of Muslims. Shi'a Muslims believe in the succession of Ali.
- ♦ **Sunnah** – The practices, customs, teachings and traditions of Muhammad, which Muslims follow as an example of how to behave.
- ♦ **Sunni** – One of the two main groups of Muslims. Sunni Muslims believe in the succession of Abu Bakr. 'Sunni' means 'people of the Sunnah'.

Key to learning about a religion is understanding its beliefs and teachings. In **Islam**, the fact that there are two main groups or branches of the faith – **Sunni** and **Shi'a** – means that these beliefs and teachings sometimes differ. In order to understand the rest of the information in this book, it is very important to know what is meant by Sunni and Shi'a.

#### Sunni and Shi'a

The majority of **Muslims** in the world (probably around 80–85 per cent) are Sunni, and Shi'a Muslims form the next largest group. Sunni and Shi'a Muslims agree on the main points of the faith – such as the **Qur'an**, the Muslim holy book, being the word of **Allah** and **Muhammad** being Allah's most important **prophet**, or messenger – and much of their worship is the same, but they disagree about some aspects of Muslim beliefs, teachings and practices. These disagreements began shortly after Muhammad's death, in 632 CE, when there were arguments about who should succeed him as leader of early Islam.

The word 'Muslim' means 'one who submits'. The word 'will' is the same in Arabic as in English. 'Muslim' means 'one who submits to the will of Allah'.

Arabic words have a root letter. The root letter of 'Muslim' is 'M'. The root letter of 'will' is 'L'.



The Arabic word Allah in Islamic calligraphy.

#### Muhammad

Muhammad (c.570–632 CE) is the most important prophet (messenger) in Islam. He lived 1,400 years ago in the world that is now Saudi Arabia. We add 'peace be upon him' or 'pbu' to Muhammad's name out of respect.

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Sunnis believe that a man called **Abu Bakr**, who was Muhammad's closest friend and companion, was appointed by Muhammad as his successor before he died. Shi'as disagree and believe that **Ali**, Muhammad's cousin and son-in-law, and a blood relative, was proclaimed as his successor before Muhammad died. Abu Bakr did succeed Muhammad as **caliph**, or leader, and Ali was to become the fourth caliph.

### Sunni and Shi'a Muslims

Just as there are different branches or groups – sometimes called traditions or sects – in other religions, there are different traditions in Islam. The two main ones are Sunni and Shi'a.



#### Sunni Muslims

Sunnis are the largest group of Muslims in the world. Around 80–85 per cent of Muslims are Sunnis. Sunnis believe that Abu Bakr was appointed by Muhammad as his successor.

The name 'Sunni' means 'people of the **Sunnah**' (in Arabic, 'Sunnah' means 'clear pathway'). The Sunnah is the practices, customs, teachings and traditions of Muhammad, which Muslims believe to be a perfect example of how to live.

#### Shi'a Muslims

'Shi'a' comes from the Arabic word 'Shi'a' meaning 'followers'. Shi'as believe that Ali was Muhammad's successor as leader.

### Sunni and Shi'a beliefs

#### Keywords

- ◆ **Angels** – Spiritual beings who gave Allah's messages to prophets but who have many other duties.
- ◆ **Day of Judgement** – The belief in a final day when Allah will judge people and send them to paradise or hell.
- ◆ **Imams** – Shi'a belief that Allah appointed 12 Imams, or leaders, after Muhammad.
- ◆ **Nubuwwah** – Belief in the prophets.
- ◆ **Predestination** – The belief that Allah knows everything that will happen.
- ◆ **Tawhid** – The belief that Allah is the one and only God.
- ◆ **Usul ad-Din** – The foundations of the faith or five main beliefs in Shi'a Islam. In Arabic, 'usul' means 'roots'.

One of the main points of difference between Sunni and Shi'a Muslims concerns key beliefs. In Sunni Islam there are six key beliefs (or articles of faith), and in Shi'a Islam there are five.

#### The main beliefs in Sunni Islam

1. Belief that Allah is the one and only God. This belief is called **tawhid** and is absolutely central in Islam.
2. Belief in **angels** – spiritual beings who gave Allah's messages to prophets but who have many other duties.
3. Belief in the holy books. In Islam, the most important holy book is the Qur'an, but there are other writings that are also considered holy.
4. Belief in the prophets, and that Muhammad was the final prophet sent by Allah. The belief in the prophets is called **nubuwwah**.
5. Belief in the **Day of Judgement** – the day when the life of every person will be judged and whether that person goes to paradise (heaven) or hell.
6. Belief in **predestination** – that Allah knows everything that will happen in the lives of human beings making choices, as people have what is called free will.

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## The main beliefs in Shi'a Islam

The five main beliefs in Shi'a Islam are known as **Usul ad-Din** – 'roots of religion'.

1. Belief that Allah is the one and only God – tawhid.
2. Belief in the prophets (nubuwwah) and that Muhammad was the final prophet.
3. Belief in the Day of Judgement.
4. Belief that Allah is just and fair – this is called *adalat*.
5. Belief in the successorship of the Prophet. After the issue of who became the successor after Muhammad died, Shi'as believe that Allah appointed 12 leaders, or Imams.

Remember that Sunni and Shi'as agree on the fundamental points of Islam: Allah; Muhammad is Allah's prophet. Much of their worship and practice is the same. Also bear in mind that just because something isn't an article of faith, it does not mean it is not a Sunni or Shi'a belief – for example, Shi'as don't list belief in holy books as one of their five main beliefs, but this doesn't mean that holy books aren't important.

However, there are differences between Sunni and Shi'a beliefs, and it is important that these are recognised. You will learn more about these similarities and differences in the next section.

## Similarities and differences between Sunni and Shi'a beliefs

The table below outlines the differences between the main Sunni and Shi'a beliefs.

Similarities	Differences
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Both agree that there is one God – tawhid</li> <li>Both believe in the prophets</li> <li>Both believe that Muhammad was the final prophet sent by Allah</li> <li>Both believe in the Day of Judgement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shi'a key beliefs include the Imamate and successorship after the Prophet</li> <li>Shi'as believe in the 12 Imams</li> <li>Shi'a key beliefs include the concept of <i>adalat</i></li> <li>Sunni key beliefs include the concept of <i>qadr</i></li> <li>Sunni key beliefs include the concept of <i>qadr</i></li> <li>Sunni key beliefs include the concept of <i>qadr</i></li> </ul>

### Activity

A. Match these articles of faith to their definitions, and note whether each is a Sunni or Shi'a belief.

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| 1. predestination   | a) belief that Allah is one   |
| 2. Imamate          | b) belief that Allah knows everything that will happen              |
| 3. <i>adalat</i>    | c) belief that there will be a final day when people will be judged |
| 4. tawhid           | d) belief that the Qur'an and other writings are the word of Allah  |
| 5. angels           | e) belief in the question of who should succeed the Prophet         |
| 6. nubuwwah         | f) belief in spiritual beings who relay Allah's messages            |
| 7. Day of Judgement | g) belief that Allah is just and fair                               |
| 8. holy books       | h) belief in the Imamate  |

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## Quick Questions

1. How many articles of faith are there in Shi'a Islam?
  - a) four
  - b) five
  - c) six
  - d) ten
2. Give two of the articles of faith in Sunni Islam.

## Now Try 1



3. Explain two ways in which the articles of faith influence Sunni *and* Shi'a Islam.
4. 'There is no real difference between Shi'a and Sunni key beliefs, so who Muhammad doesn't matter.' Evaluate this statement.

Argue for and against this statement. You must refer to Muslim teaching.  
Reach a conclusion that follows from your argument.

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## 2. The oneness of God (tawhid)

### Keywords

- ◆ **First Pillar** – In Sunni Islam, the Five Pillars guide Muslims in living their lives. The **First Pillar** is the belief in one God.
- ◆ **Hadith** – Collections of the words and deeds of Muhammad that Muslims use for guidance.
- ◆ **Monotheism** – Belief in one God. Islam is a monotheistic religion, which means the belief in one God.
- ◆ **Mosque** – The Muslim place of worship.
- ◆ **Shirk** – The sin of saying that Allah is not one.
- ◆ **Tawhid** – The oneness and unity of Allah.
- ◆ **Transcendence** – The belief that Allah's nature goes beyond human understanding.

### Tawhid

**Tawhid** is the belief in Islam that God – Allah – is one. The word comes from the root **W-H-D** meaning 'one'. Belief in one God is also called **monotheism**.

If you look back to the main articles of faith of Sunni and Shi'a Muslims, you will see that **tawhid** is a central belief. It is absolutely central to Islam. It is also incorporated into the **First Pillar** statement of faith called the Shahadah, which says 'There is no God but Allah and Muhammad is His messenger.' This statement is also important to Shi'a Muslims.



The Shahadah in Arabic.

### Taking it further...

Islam absolutely forbids saying that Allah is not one. This sin is called **shirk**. Shirk includes polytheism (worshipping false gods) and polytheism (worshipping more than one god). Shirk is the unforgivable if someone does not seek forgiveness for it. Most Muslims believe that there are different levels of shirk. Greater shirk is when a person openly says that Allah is not one. Lesser shirk is when a person says out loud that Allah is one but does not really believe this.

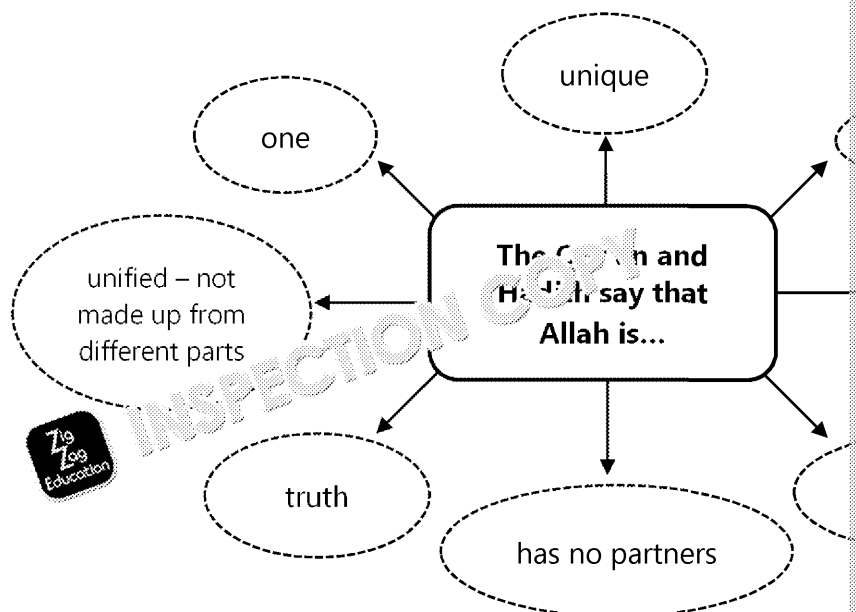
### Tawhid in the Qur'an

One of the chapters of the Qur'an is all about tawhid. Surah 112 says:  
 Say: He is Allah, the One and Only;  
 Allah, the Eternal, Absolute;  
 He begetteth not, nor is He begotten;  
 And there is none like unto Him.

What do these four verses suggest about tawhid?

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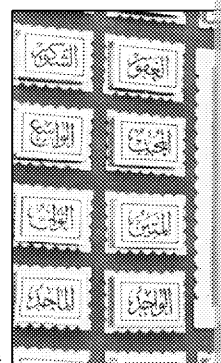
**Important to note...**  
Muslims believe that Allah has always existed and spoke to create the world and everything in it *ex nihilo* – from nothing. They also believe that Allah created the first human, Adam, and that the purpose of human beings is to worship Allah.

**Remember...**  
Hadith – sayings of Muhammad – are very important. They teach Muslims to live life according to the Qur'an and how to follow it.

## The 99 Names of Allah

However, this concept of *tawhid* – oneness – does not mean that Allah does not have a nature. Allah has 99 names, which come from the Qur'an and are called the '99 Beautiful Names'. Here are some of them, with their Arabic

- al-Rahman      mercy, compassion
- al-Rashid      guidance
- an-Nur          light
- al-Samad      eternity
- al-Qadir      power
- al-Hakim      wisdom
- al-Basir      all seeing
- al-Hasib      judicious
- al-Khaliq      creation
- al-Muqit      nourishment
- al-Ahad      oneness



Islamic art showing some of the 99 Names of Allah

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### Activity

Look again at the list above of some of the 99 names for Allah. What do these names tell you about the nature (what Allah is like)?

**Extension:** See if you can find out any more of the 99 Beautiful Names, and think about the nature of Allah.

## How do Muslims express tawhid?

In Islam and in the Muslim world, ideas about Allah and Islam are expressed in many ways, for example, Christian or Hindu ideas about God. In many Christian churches you will find pictures of Jesus, pictures of biblical figures and saints in stained-glass windows and statues of people such as Mary, Jesus's mother. In a Hindu place of worship, a mandir, you will find decorated statues of the god and goddesses that all represent aspects of the same god.

However, because Muslims believe that Allah is one and **transcendent** – which goes beyond limits of human understanding – most Muslims, including Sunni and Shia, forbid visual representations of Allah. Most will also forbid images of any of the prophets, and more likely, you will find images of Muhammad and other prophets, and they will always be very respectful.

This forbidding of any visual representation of Allah means that Muslims have developed other ways of expressing Allah's oneness, or the idea of tawhid. Muslims instead focus on what Allah is like and try to understand his spiritual nature and qualities. Calligraphy (beautiful handwriting) and geometric (complex and repeated) patterns are very important ways of expressing Muslim beliefs: these art forms convey ideas about Allah and Islam without the need for pictures of human beings.

Have  
seen  
and  
How



Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque in Abu Dhabi, UAE.

### Activity

Search online to find Islamic calligraphy or geometric patterns, and think about how they express ideas about Allah.

**Mosques**, especially in Islamic countries, are decorated with calligraphy and geometric patterns. Muslims believe that calligraphy helps to focus a worshipper's attention on Allah. A picture or image of Allah means that they focus on the deeper meaning of Allah. Calligraphy and geometry also help them to concentrate. Geometry also helps to focus on Allah, the universe and creation, and reminds Muslims that they should worship Allah without pictures of him.

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### Did you know?

The 114 chapters of the Quran are ordered according to how long they are. Chapter 114 is the shortest, and Chapter 2 is the longest, with 286 verses long.



## Activity

B. Choose the correct answer.

1. Denying that Allah is one is called:
  - a) tawhid
  - b) shirk
  - c) monotheism
  - d) transcendence
2. The first human being, who was created by Allah, was:
  - a) Muhammad
  - b) Abu Adam
  - c) Adam
  - d) Ibrahim
3. The idea that Allah is beyond human understanding is called:
  - a) shirk
  - b) tawhid
  - c) imminence
  - d) transcendence
4. The 99 names for Allah are sometimes called:
  - a) the Beautiful Names
  - b) the Holy Names
  - c) the Honourable Names
  - d) the Noble Names

## Quick Questions

5. Which term refers to the oneness of Allah?
  - a) transcendence
  - b) shirk
  - c) monotheism
  - d) tawhid
6. Give two of the 99 names of Allah and what they mean.

## Now Try These...

7. Explain two ways in which belief in tawhid influences mosque design.
8. What do Muslims teach about tawhid? Refer to Scripture.
9. 'Expressing tawhid is impossible with human beings.' Evaluate this statement. Argue for *and* against the statement. You must refer to Muslim teaching. Reach a conclusion that follows from your argument.

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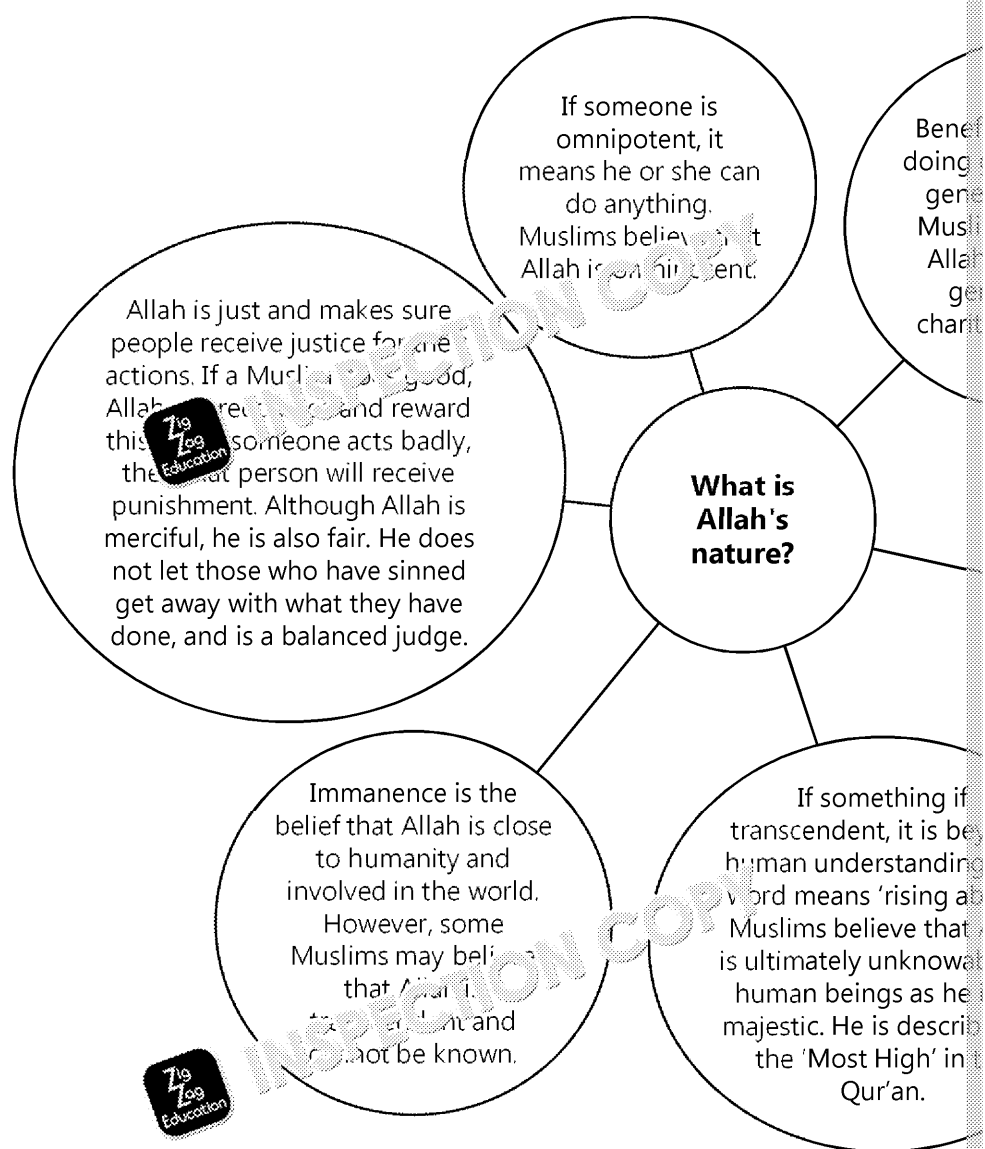


### 3. The nature of Allah

#### Keywords

- ♦ **Adalat** – The belief that Allah is just and fair and treats people equally, emphasised in the Qur'an.
- ♦ **Beneficence** – 'Doing good': this refers to the generosity that Allah shows to humans. It is one of the Beautiful Names of Allah.
- ♦ **Fairness** – Part of Allah's nature: he treats humans equally and as they deserve.
- ♦ **Immanence** – The belief that Allah is close to humanity and involved in the world.
- ♦ **Justice** – Part of Allah's nature: for thinking about what is right or fair according to the Qur'an.
- ♦ **Omnipotence** – One of the Beautiful Names of Allah. It refers to Allah's ability to do anything.
- ♦ **Transcendence** – The belief that Allah is beyond human understanding.

Remember that in Islam belief in the oneness of Allah, tawhid, is central. He has many different characteristics and qualities. So, what do Muslims believe Allah is like? The spider diagram below explores what Muslims believe about Allah's **omnipotence**, **fairness** and **justice (adalat)**, including different ideas about Allah's relationship with humans as **immanence** and **transcendence**.



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### Important to note...

Adalat is the belief that Allah is just – that he is fair and treats people equally. This is a key belief in Islam. Muslims believe that human beings were created by Allah to worship Allah and that humans can become spiritually perfect. This does not mean that people do not make their own decisions and choices. However, the correct pathway, or the straight path, is to follow Allah's and doing his will.

### Activity

C. Choose the correct answer.

1. The belief that Allah is all-powerful is called:
  - a) omnipresence
  - b) omnipotence
  - c) beneficence
  - d) imminence
2. The belief that Allah is generous and kind is called:
  - a) imminence
  - b) omnipotence
  - c) beneficence
  - d) omnipresent
3. The belief that Allah is just is also called:
  - a) tawhid
  - b) shirk
  - c) adalat
  - d) rahman
4. The beliefs that Allah is in the unseen but also unknowable and beyond human understanding are:
  - a) transcendence and immanence
  - b) imminence and omnipotence
  - c) beneficence and omnipotence
  - d) omnipresence and imminence

### Taking it further...

The Sufis, whose branch of Islam is called Sufism, are a group of Muslims who believe that they have a direct connection with Allah through their ancestry back to Muhammad. They also stress spirituality and mysticism and try to become closer to Allah through their practices. They call this 'dhikr Allah' – 'remembrance of Allah'. Sufi worship is very different from other forms of Islam as they aim to work themselves into a trance-like state by spinning round fast in circles.



Members of Turkey's Mevlevi Sufi order are sometimes called 'whirling dervishes'. They believe that Allah can be immanent and that it is possible for Muslims to experience him and his will.

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Read these verses from the Qur'an about Allah's nature. What do they tell you about Allah? Use the spider diagram to help you.

- He is with you wheresoever ye may be. And Allah sees well all that ye do. (5:72)
- (Allah) Most Gracious is firmly established on the throne (of authority). (20:5)
- Allah commands justice, the doing of good, and liberality to kith and kin, and He forbids all shameful deeds, and injustice and rebellion: He instructs you, that ye may receive admonition. (16:90)
- 'With My punishment I visit whom I will: but My mercy extendeth to all things for those who do right, and who give regular charity, and those who believe in the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, Most Merciful. Praise be to Allah, the Cherisher and Sustainer of the worlds... Most Gracious, Most Merciful. Show us the straight way. (1:1-6)
- This is so, because Allah is the Reality: it is He Who gives life to the dead, and He is the Lord of all things. (22:6)

## Quick Questions

- Which of these terms means 'beyond human understanding'?
  - imminence
  - transcendence
  - tawhid
  - omnipotence
- Give two other terms that describe the nature of Allah in Islam.

## Now Try

- Explain two ways in which Muslim belief about Allah's nature influences how Muslims behave.
- What do Muslims believe and/or teach about the nature of Allah? Refer to Scripture.
- 'Muslims do not have clear beliefs about the nature of Allah.' Evaluate this statement.

Argue for *and* against this statement. You must refer to Muslim teaching. Reach a conclusion that follows from your argument.

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## 4. Angels

### Keywords

- ◆ **Iblis** – The Devil in Islam. He is also called Shaytan.
- ◆ **Jibril** – Gabriel in Christianity and Judaism, the most important angel, who delivers – to prophets, and revealed the Qur'an to Muhammad.
- ◆ **Jahannam** – Hell in Islam.
- ◆ **Jannah** – Heaven in Islam, which is usually called paradise rather than heaven.
- ◆ **Jinn** – Evil spirits created from smoke.
- ◆ **Makkah** – The city where Muhammad was born, also spelled Mecca. Makkah is the now in Saudi Arabia.
- ◆ **Mala'ikah** – Belief in angels in Islam.
- ◆ **Mika'il** – One of the most important angels. He gives spiritual and material help to will assist with the weighing of a person's deeds.
- ◆ **Revelation** – The act of making something that was a secret known.
- ◆ **Shaytan** – The Devil in Islam. He is also called Iblis.

In Islam, angels play a very important role. Belief in angels is one of the six. If you read the Qur'an and Hadith you will find many mentions of them. Be mala'kah.

### Activity

#### Small group/pairs task

Before you continue with this chapter, make a spider diagram with a partner or a ideas about what you think an angel is, including their nature (this could include what human beings ever see them, etc.) and role (what they do). If you are a Muslim, you different from a non-Muslim's. Compare your thoughts as a whole class. Keep you them again.

### The nature of angels

Read this description of what Muslims believe about angels.

*In Islam, angels are heavenly beings created by Allah, and they have different roles. They don't know all of their names and duties, but some are more important than others. They're absolutely nothing like human beings. They're also nothing like jinn, which are evil. Angels don't have the needs we have: they don't need things like food and water, or and faithful to Allah – they do all that he asks of them. Like Allah, they aren't male or shape like ours, but they can appear in different forms. In Islam, angels can't do Shaytan, and they worship Allah all the time.*

### Activity

Make a list of what Muslims believe about the nature of angels.

Now return to your own ideas about angels. How do your ideas differ from belief?

**Extension:** also think about why your ideas may have been very different, or why

### Important to note...

Muslims believe that Allah made angels from light and other supernatural beings, demons and, unlike angels, have free choice to disobey Allah. Human beings also

In Islam, the devil, who is called **Iblis** or **Shaytan**, is a jinn and his activity is to incite to commit evil through **deception**, which is referred to in the Qur'an as 'whispering'.

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## The role of angels

Angels in Islam have many different roles. Many are named in the Qur'an and their duties outlined. There is also an order of importance of angels – a hierarchy.

- **Jibril** (Gabriel in Christianity and Judaism), who delivered Allah's messages to the prophets, and revealed the Qur'an to Muhammad.
- **Mika'il** (Michael), who is in charge of rainfall and sustenance (the nourishment of the earth).
- **Israfeel** (Raphael), who will blow the trumpet at the start of the Day of Judgement.
- **Malak al Mawt** (this means Angel of Death) and, unlike Jibril, is not a messenger; he takes the souls after death and part of the soul from the body.
- **Munkar and Nakir**, who test the faith of people in their graves.
- **Malik**, guardian of hell (**jahannam**); another angel, possibly, came from the heaven (**paradise**).
- There are angels who protect people from death until it is their time to die.
- In Islamic tradition there are two angels, **Raqib** and **Atid**, who sit on people's shoulders; Raqib sits on the right and records good deeds; Atid sits on the left and records sins.

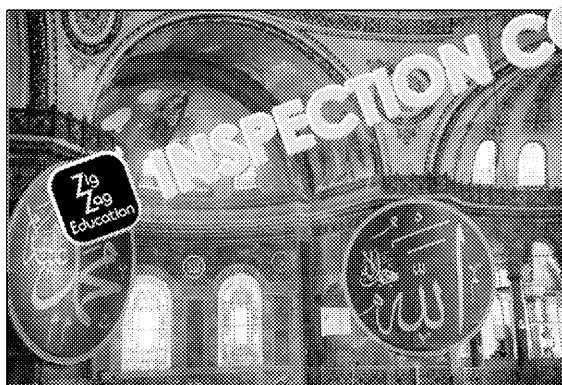
## Jibril and Mika'il

Two of the most important angels in Islam are Jibril and Mika'il – in Christianity and Judaism, Gabriel and Michael. They are archangels (angels of high ranking). Jibril acts as an intermediary, like a bridge, between Allah and humans, and conveys to people Allah's message through the prophets. Jibril's revelations to Muhammad were written down as the Qur'an. **Mika'il** is responsible for rewarding those who live good lives and for humankind's needs such as ensuring they have enough water and that crops grow. He is only mentioned once in the Qur'an.

Mika'il and Jibril made Muhammad's heart pure during an event called the Night of Power when he was given instructions for Islamic prayer by Allah.

Other Islamic tradition says that Jibril and Mika'il were present when Muhammad fought the Battle of Badr, a battle in 624 CE between Muhammad and his supporters and those who were against him.

Muhammad's wife Aisha said that Muhammad saw Jibril in human form. There are many traditions about Jibril in Islamic tradition, including that he has 600 wings and a wingspan that reaches from the eastern to the western horizons. Other traditions speak of Jibril helping the prophets and of Jibril and Mika'il bowing down before Adam.



This image shows the interior of the Hagia Sophia in Istanbul, Turkey, which is used to be a Christian church. It contains many images of angels, which you can see in the mosaics and frescoes. There is a mosaic of the angel Gabriel in the dome. The text 'INSPECTION COPY' is overlaid diagonally across the image.

Muhammad was shown the first prayer, in which he was shown how to pray. It was during this time, in the year 610 CE, that Muhammad received the first revelation from Allah (Gabriel) which was the command to 'recite' which would later become the Qur'an.

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### Activity

D. Match the terms and their definitions.

- |                  |                                       |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. jinn          | a) heaven or paradise in Islam        |
| 2. angels        | b) responsible for rewarding the good |
| 3. Jibril        | c) the Arabic term for hell in Islam  |
| 4. Iblis/Shaytan | d) he's made from fire                |
| 5. Mika'il       | e) spiritual beings made from light   |
| 6. jahannam      | f) the devil in Islam                 |
| 7. mala'kah      | g) the angel who revealed the Qur'an  |
| 8. jannah        | h) belief in angels                   |



### Angels in the Qur'an

Jibril appeared to Maryam (Mary), the prophet Isa's (Jesus's) mother: 'We sent him and he appeared before her as a man in all respects.' (19:17)

The Qur'an says about angels: 'In the presence of thy Lord are those who celebrate by day. And they never flag (nor feel themselves above it).' (41:38)

The Qur'an also says: 'Ye who believe! Save yourselves and your families from a town the Stones, over which are (appointed) angels stern (and) severe, who flinch not (from what they receive from Allah, but do (precisely) what they are commanded.' (66:6)

And: 'Praise be to Allah, Who created (out of nothing) the heavens and the earth and sent messengers with wings – two, or three, or four (pairs).' (35:1)

Jibril and Mika'il are both mentioned in the second chapter of the Qur'an: 'Say: O Gabriel – for he brings down the (revelation) to this heart by Allah's will, a confirmation and guidance and glad tidings for those who believe. Whoever is an enemy to Allah and His apostles, to Gabriel and Mika'il – Allah is an enemy to those who reject Faith.'



### Quick Questions

15. In Islam, which angel delivered the Qur'an to Muhammad?

- Jibril
- Mika'il
- Israfeel
- Iblis

16. Give the names of two angels in Islam, other than Jibril.

### Now Try These...

17. Explain two ways in which Muslim beliefs about the role of angels influence their lives.

18. What do Muslim teachers teach about angels and other supernatural beings? Refer to the text.

19. 'Angels aren't one of the main Shi'a beliefs, so they can't be important.' Discuss this statement. Evaluate this statement.

Argue for *and* against this statement. You must refer to Muslim teachings. Reach a conclusion that follows from your argument.

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## 5. Predestination and human freedom

### Keywords

- ◆ **Day of Judgement** – The day when Allah will weigh up people's deeds, good and bad, and give them punishment. The Arabic name for this day varies, but it is usually Yawm ad-Din (judgement day) or Yawm al-Qiyamah (resurrection).
- ◆ **Free will** – Humans' ability or freedom to choose for themselves how to act.
- ◆ **Human freedom** – Humans' control over their thoughts, feelings and actions.
- ◆ **Predestination** – The idea that everything that happens has been decided already by Allah.
- ◆ **Qadar** – The Arabic word for predestination.
- ◆ **Shariah** – The Islamic law. In Arabic, Shariah refers to Islamic law that covers all aspects of life.
- ◆ **Yawm al-Qiyamah** – Day of Judgement in Arabic.
- ◆ **Yawm al-Din** – Term used for the Day of Judgement, meaning 'Day of Resurrection'.

Sunni Muslims believe in **predestination** – the idea that everything that happens is known by Allah. In Arabic, this belief is called **qadar**, and is one of the six pillars of Islam.

Sunni Muslims have a belief that Allah writes down their destinies on what is called the 'Preserved Tablet'. This is a record of everything that has and will happen. However, predestination does not mean that Muslims do not have **free will**, or **human freedom** – the ability to choose whether to do good or bad. The difference is that Allah is not bound by time in the same way as human beings are. He knows what will ultimately happen in a person's life, but that person, while he or she is alive, still has the ability to choose how to act and behave.

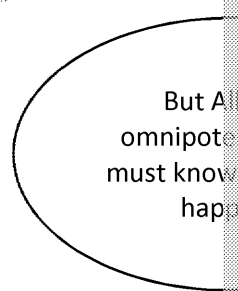
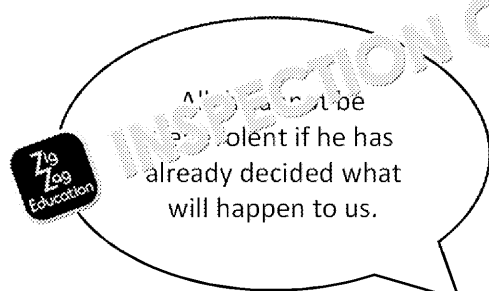
However, Shi'a Muslims usually reject predestination. They do not believe that Allah has written down the course that people's lives will take. In Shi'a Islam, this idea – that Allah has predestined the path for everyone – is called **bada**. Allah can still change people's lives or destinies, but by giving people free will he can guide Muslims in the right direction to make the right choices by themselves.

'From Allah, verily nothing is hidden on earth or in the heavens.' (3:5)

'Knowest thou not that Allah knows all that is in heaven and on earth? Indeed it is

### Taking it further...

The idea that people have free will but that Allah knows what will happen is a tricky one. What problems does it cause, especially if all people are to be judged by their actions? It's up to you to get you thinking.



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## Predestination and the Day of Judgement

As you have seen, Sunni and Shi'a Muslims disagree about whether people have free will or whether Allah already knows what will happen during people's lives (the idea of predestination). However, all Muslims believe there will be a Day of Judgement. This is one of the six Sunni articles of faith.

On this day, it is believed, Allah will resurrect (bring back to life) all people who have ever lived. They will be judged according to his or her actions. Those who are good will go to Paradise (Jannah) and those who have lived bad lives to Hell (Jahannam). Because Muslims believe in predestination, they believe that he will not judge them for things that would not have been possible for them to do.

In Arabic, the Day of Judgement is called **Yawm ad-Din** (judgement) or **Yawm al-Qiyamah** (resurrection). It is also known as the Last Day, or the Hour or Day of Reckoning.

Muslim beliefs about this day are found in the Qur'an and Hadith. They say that the Day of Judgement will come and that no one, not even Muhammad, can prevent it. They believe that those who have been dead for a long time will have no weight and will be blown away by a strong wind. What is left of their human body is also not important. There will be no resurrection for those who have worshipped false gods will suffer.

## Shariah law

**Shariah**, which means 'pathway' in Arabic, refers to Islamic law that covers all aspects of life. It is based on the Qur'an and Hadith, was given by Allah and tells Muslims how to live.

The term Shariah is often heard on British news and is usually spoken of in a negative way, often referring to harsh punishment. However, these ideas about Shariah are usually based on a misunderstanding of what it really is or on extreme interpretations. Most Muslims regard Shariah as a guide to how to live, and believe that following it will help them to be saved on the Day of Judgement because it guides them to what is good, or halal, and avoid what is forbidden, or haram.



Copies of the Qur'an for study.

### Important

Part of the Hajj pilgrimage that Sunnis believe every Muslim must take – is a taste of what the Day of Judgement is expected to be like. Pilgrims stand in the Valley of Arafat and stand for hours. The temperature can be up to 50°C, a very hard test of faith. It is a reminder of death, and, the Day of Judgement.

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### Activity

**What does the Qur'an say about the Day of Judgement?**

E. Look up these verses in the Qur'an and match them to what they say will about the Day of Judgement.

- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| 1. 10:45 | a) People who are resurrected will have no concept of time. |
| 2. 6:86  | b) Allah knows when this day will happen.                   |
| 3. 10:45 | c) Everyone will be resurrected.                            |
| 4. 28:88 | d) Anyone who has worshipped false gods will be punished.   |
| 5. 17:49 | e) Even Muhammad cannot change this.                        |
| 6. 11:17 | f) At the final day nothing but Allah will remain.          |

## Quick Questions

---

20. What is the name given to the idea that everything that happens has been already by Allah?
- a) predestination
  - b) judgement
  - c) human freedom
  - d) justice
21. Name two sources of Muslim beliefs about the Day of Judgement.



## Now Try These...

---

22. Explain two ways in which belief in predestination may influence a Muslim's behaviour.
23. What do Muslims believe and/or teach about predestination? Refer to Muslim teachings.
24. 'Sunni and Shi'a Muslims differ widely in their beliefs about the Day of Judgement.' Evaluate this statement.

Argue for *and* against this statement. You must refer to Muslim teachings. Reach a conclusion that follows from your arguments.



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## 6. Life after death

### Keywords

- ◆ **Accountability/Responsibility** – The belief that humans are responsible for (in control) because they have free will and so will be accountable (must answer for / accept or be rewarded) on the Day of Judgement.
- ◆ **Akhirah** – Belief in life after death in Islam.
- ◆ **Heaven** – Paradise: Allah's reward after death for those who have been faithful to Allah.
- ◆ **Hell** – A place of suffering after death for punishment of those who have rejected Allah or led a wicked life. It may be eternal.
- ◆ **Mahdi** – A figure that Shia Muslims – and some Sunni – believe will come to spread Islam at the end of time.
- ◆ **Qiyam** – This means 'resurrection' and is the name given to the time when everyone is resurrected.
- ◆ **Resurrection** – After death, all humans will be physically raised from death to face judgement.

Muslims have a firm belief in an afterlife, or life after death, and that humans will be judged for their actions in life on the Day of Judgement. After all, if there were nothing to follow, striving to live good lives according to Allah's will would be rather pointless. The Islamic belief that the afterlife will be eternal. The Islamic term for this eternal afterlife is **akhirah**.

### What do Muslims believe about life after death?

- Life is like a test.
- It would be pointless if nothing followed it.
- How you behave in life determines what happens when you die.
- Muslims also believe in **heaven** and **hell**. Heaven is called jannah or paradise.
- However, because Allah is merciful, people can be spared hell.
- Muslims do not usually believe that those who have already died have already reached heaven or hell: all those who have died will be resurrected from their graves for the final judgement.
- However, some believe that 'enemies of Islam', such as those who deny Islam, will go straight to hell on death, and others may believe that those who have lived a good life go straight to paradise.
- It is Muslims' souls that are judged by Allah.

### Human responsibility and accountability

In Sunni Islam, the fact that Allah has given human beings free will, or human freedom – the ability to make choices in life – means that humans are **accountable** and **responsible** for their own actions and whether they choose to live good or bad lives.

### Heaven and hell

**Did you know?**  
Muslims believe that the soul – 'ruh' – is immortal. Many Muslims believe that the soul is breathed into babies before they are born.

**Pause for thought**  
What do Islamic beliefs about the afterlife and human freedom suggest about Sunni attitudes towards human accountability?  
(You may need to look back at the keywords.)

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The previous section said that Muslims also believe in heaven and hell – here, paradise and hell is called jahannam. What do they believe these places will be like?

Heaven, or paradise – in Arabic, jannah – is mentioned often in the Qur'an. It is described as overflowing with delicious food and there being four flowing rivers, including the Nile. The Qur'an also says that people in paradise will live in a state of joy, and that time there will pass the same as a thousand years on earth. There are descriptions of everything being made of gold and precious stones, and assurances people will be rewarded with everything they desire. Above all this, though, the greatest joy for those who go to heaven is to be reunited with their loved ones.

These verses from the Qur'an say that in heaven people will be reunited with their loved ones. They will be taken to their 'final home' by angels.

'Gardens of perpetual bliss: they shall enter there, as well as the righteous among their spouses and their offspring; and angels shall enter unto them from every gate (with the salam).

"Peace unto you for that ye persevered in patience! Now how excellent is the final home for the patient!"

Hell, on the other hand, is a place where those who do not believe in Allah are sent. It is a place of suffering, where torment is both physical and spiritual. In Islam, hell is a place of burning fire and boiling waters. There is, though, disagreement about whether those who are sent to hell can be forgiven by Allah and allowed to enter heaven or whether punishment in hell is forever. Some parts of the Qur'an talk of there being seven levels of hell, depending on the severity of a person's sins.

Some people predict that the world will end in a great fire, and that the dead will be resurrected and judged.

## Q What happens to non-Muslims on the Day of Judgement?

A Different Muslims will have different views about whether people of other faiths will be sent to hell. Those who lived before Muhammad and the full revelation of Islam will be sent to hell. Some Muslims believe that Christians and Jews, and sometimes other faiths, will also be sent to hell.

These two quotations from the Qur'an are about judgement. What do they tell you about the Day of Judgement?

'Of the good that they do, nothing will be rejected of them; for Allah knoweth well what they do.'

'And to every soul will be paid in full (the fruit) of its Deeds; and (Allah) knoweth well what they do.'

The Qur'an is clear that it is not known when the Day of Judgement will happen. Muslims believe that there will be a number of major and minor signs. These are described in the Qur'an. They suggest that at first there will be corruption and chaos, but then people will turn to Allah and follow Muslim values.

In Shi'a Islam there is the belief that the return of the **Mahdi** will be the main sign. The Mahdi is a Muslim – and some Sunni – believe that this figure will come to spread justice and that he is currently alive but hidden from human sight and will appear near the end of the world. This coming of the Mahdi will bring about the **Qiyamah** (resurrection) and the dead will be resurrected.

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## Activity

F. Match the terms and meanings.

- |                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| 1. Mahdi            | a) the time when Allah will raise all people                   |
| 2. akhirah          | b) heaven in Islam   |
| 3. Day of Judgement | c) hell in Islam   |
| 4. jannah           | d) the Islamic word for resurrection – bring back to life      |
| 5. ruh'             | e) belief in the afterlife in Islam                            |
| 6. jahannam         | f) in Shi'a Islam, a figure who will appear at the end of time |
| 7. Qiyamah          | g) the soul  |

## Quick Questions

25. What is the name of the figure that Shi'a Muslims believe will return at the end time?
- akhirah
  - Qiyamah
  - Mahdi
  - jannah
26. Give two Muslim beliefs about hell.

## Now Try These...

27. Explain two ways in which belief about akhirah may influence a Muslim's life.
28. What do Muslims believe and/or teach about heaven and hell? Refer to your research.
29. 'The fact that Allah already knows what will happen means that Muslims do not really have any accountability.' Evaluate this statement.

Argue for *and* against this statement. You must refer to Muslim teaching. Reach a conclusion that follows from your argument.

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# Authority

## 1. Prophethood

### Keywords

- ♦ **Adam** – One of the prophets of Allah and the first man, or rather of humankind.
- ♦ **Authority** – The power or right to tell people how to behave or what to do. In Islam, the direct word of Allah is the absolute authority.
- ♦ **Ibrahim** – One of the prophets of Allah. He rebuilt the Ka'aba.
- ♦ **Ismail** – "Ismail" is the name of the son who he was willing to sacrifice on Allah's command.
- ♦ **Polytheism** – Worshipping many different gods.
- ♦ **Prophethood** – The channel of communication between Allah and humanity.
- ♦ **Risalah** – Prophethood in Arabic. Prophethood is the channel of communication between Allah and his creation.

### Risalah

It is important to remember that for Muslims the one absolute **authority** is Allah. However, there are other sources of authority in Islam – **prophethood**, which you will learn about in this section, is one of them. First, what is meant by the term prophethood, or, in Arabic, **risalah**? Risalah means 'message'. Within Islam, this term refers to the way in which Allah communicates his message to people. This message was given to Muslims by Allah's representatives on earth – the prophets, or *nubuwwah*. Muslims believe that there were thousands of others, including **Ibrahim** (Abraham), Musa (Moses), and Muhammad was the 'seal' of the prophets, the final messenger from Allah.

Muslims believe that Muhammad was the final one.

There are many prophets, but you need to know about the roles and messages of Ibrahim and Muhammad.

### Adam

- Adam – the same Adam of Christianity and Judaism – is important in Islam.
- Muslims believe he was the first human being, which makes him the father of humanity. In Hadith, Eve (Hawa in Arabic), is the mother of humanity.
  - Adam is believed to have been the first Muslim: in the Qur'an, Adam is the first to accept Islam.
  - Adam is also considered to be the first prophet.
  - Adam is also important because he was created to live on earth as Allah's representative. For Muslims, this creation story shows the relationship that people have with Allah and his love for his creation.
  - Allah taught Adam and Eve how to live on earth. In turn, Adam taught his children how to look after the earth.
  - In Islamic tradition, Adam is also believed to have built the original Ka'aba, which was destroyed during Noah's flood. It was rebuilt by Ibrahim.
  - According to Islam, he has passed on a great deal more from Allah, including the names of things, what should and should not be eaten.

### Did you know?

Unlike in Christianity, Muslims do not believe that Adam's children and all humans are born sinful. In Islam, Adam and his partner are both blamed for their sin, but Allah often takes more blame.

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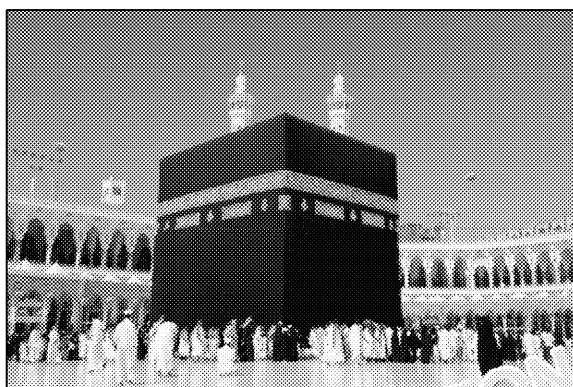
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## Ibrahim

Ibrahim is important in Islam because:

- He is considered to be the father of the Arab people through his son Isaac, the father of the Jewish and Christian people through his other son, Isaac.
- Ibrahim is also a prophet of Allah.
- Muhammad's ancestry can, according to Islam, be traced back to Adam.
- Ibrahim lived over 2,000 years before Muhammad, when many people worshipped many gods. He saved his people from worshipping many false gods, and practised monotheism – believing in one God. He believed that God was more about him.
- In Islam, Ibrahim rebuilt the Ka'aba.
- Allah tested Ibrahim's devotion by asking him to sacrifice his son, Ismail, because he was so devoted in this faith. Allah did not stop him having Ismail because before Ibrahim has proved his submission to Allah. Ibrahim's faith and example to Muslims.



Pilgrims on Hajj around the Ka'aba in Mecca.

### Important

Many aspects of the Hajj – the pilgrimage to Makkah, Muhammad's birthplace – are linked to Ibrahim. There are stories in the Qur'an about Ibrahim's jealousy causing Ibrahim to take his son Ismail away from home. This was enacted on Hajj. Ibrahim was honoured by Allah. This became



### Activity

Read about the sacrifice of Ibrahim's son in the Qur'an (37:100 onwards).

**Extension:** What differences are there between the Christian and Jewish accounts of the sacrifice of Isaac (you can find this in the Bible, in Genesis 22:1–18) and the Islamic account?

## Muhammad

Muhammad is central to Islamic belief. He is important because:

- He was the final prophet sent by Allah. In Islam, it is obligatory to believe in the final prophet or messenger of Allah.
- The Qur'an was given to humankind via Muhammad.
- As well as being a religious leader, Muhammad also brought about social change. He began in Madinah, where he formed the first Muslim community.
- The Sunnah, which concerns the actions and sayings of Muhammad, is a guide to how to act and behave. Muhammad was also a man of very high morals and a good role model.
- Muhammad stopped the worship of many gods that was common in some parts of the Arabian Peninsula.



### Did you know?

Christians and Jews believe that Ibrahim – Abraham – was commanded to sacrifice his son Isaac. Muslims believe that he was asked to sacrifice Ismail, his son with Hagar.

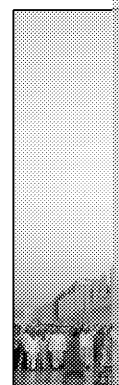
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## More about Muhammad

Muhammad lived 1,400 years ago in the region of the world that is now Saudi Arabia. He was born in the city of Makkah (Mecca) in c.570 CE. His parents died and he was brought up by his grandfather. At this time, people were divided into tribes. Muhammad's was the Quraysh, which was the most important and wealthy, but its influence was not so great by the time he was born. His lineage, in Muslim tradition, can be traced back to Ibrahim through his son Ismael.

It is important to remember that Muslims do not believe that Muhammad was Allah's son or that he was himself divine in any way, unlike Christians believe about Jesus. Muslims do not believe that any one person was chosen by Allah to be prophets, to convey his message, with the exception of Muhammad. They were all human beings. However, Muslims believe that Muhammad was the most important of Allah's chosen messengers. He was the final one, and for this reason is often called 'the seal of the prophets' – he brought to people Allah's final message, which had begun with Adam.



This mosque is in Medina, known as an-Nabawi.

Muslims do, though, follow Muhammad's example in life, as he is believed to be the best role model of how to live under Allah and the best example of how to combine Muslim faith and action.

Muhammad grew up to be very spiritual and would spend a great deal of time in his prayer times on Mount Hira, in 610 CE, he was visited by Jibril, who told him that he was Allah's messenger. These revelations continued for the next two decades, and were written down in the Qur'an not long after Muhammad died in 632 CE.

Muhammad taught what Allah had revealed to him through Jibril, and many people followed him. However, some found his popularity threatening, and did not like them that he was saying that there was only one God to worship many different gods. Threats against Muhammad increased, and in 622 CE he and his followers fled to the city of Madinah (Medina) in Arabia, which means 'migration'. He returned to Makkah 10 years later and continued to spread Islam. After his death in 632, Islam continued to spread. The divisions between different groups of Muslims began shortly after Muhammad's death.

### Activity

- G. Look at the list below. The names are all of prophets in Islam. They are also found in Christianity and Judaism. Match the Arabic and English names (the first one has been done for you).

<b>Arabic</b>	Nuh	Ismail	Yaqub	Yusuf	Musa	Ayyub	Dawood
<b>English</b>	Jacob	David	Noah	Jesus	John	Solomon	Joseph

Now, copy and extend the table below. There are nine more rows, one for each prophet. Write the Arabic and English name for each in the first two columns. Then, write a short paragraph about each prophet. Write a short paragraph about each prophet. Write a short paragraph about each prophet.

Arabic name	English name	Paragraph about this prophet
Ismail	Ishmael	

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## Quick Questions

30. Which word means 'prophethood' in Islam?
- a) Ibrahim
  - b) risalah
  - c) Hijra
  - d) caliph
31. Give two reasons why *any* one *is* important in Islam.

### Now Try 1



32. Explain two ways in which two prophets *apart from Muhammad* influenced Islam.
33. What do Muslims believe and/or teach about why Ibrahim is important? Refer to Scripture.
34. 'All prophets are equally important in Islam.' Evaluate this statement. Argue for *and* against this statement. You must refer to Muslim teaching. Reach a conclusion that follows from your argument.

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## 2. The holy books

### Keywords

- ◆ **Ayah** – A verse of the Qur'an. The plural is ayat.
- ◆ **Gospel** – The 'good news' of Isa (Jesus), one of the prophets of Islam. The Gospels are part of the Christian Bible.
- ◆ **Psalms** – Sacred prayers/poems written by King David (David), who was himself a prophet. They are part of the Jewish and Christian holy books. Muslims call them Zabur.
- ◆ **Recitations** – Acts of saying the Qur'an from memory. The word 'Qur'an' is derived from this.
- ◆ **Surah** – A division of the Qur'an. There are 114 in all. The plural is surat.
- ◆ **Torah** – A holy book given by Allah to Musa (Moses), who was a prophet of Allah, one of the prophets of Islam. Muslims call it Tawrat.
- ◆ **Umma** – The worldwide community of Muslims.
- ◆ **Wudu** – Ritual washing before praying or touching the Qur'an.

Before you begin to work through this section, consider this question as a class:

### Activity

#### Class discussion

Why do you think holy books are so important in religion?

### The Qur'an: Revelation and Authority

One of the main beliefs of Islam is the importance of the holy books. This is true in both Sunni Islam, and holy books are also very important in Shi'a Islam. The authority for Muslims is the Qur'an, and they believe that it contains the words revealed to Muhammad by the Angel Jibril over a period of around 23 years. This means that Muslims believe the Qur'an is divinely inspired and contains truths about Allah. The Qur'an also teaches right and wrong, how to behave and how to be just and fair, so it can be used as a guide to life. Because it is used by all Muslims, it can be said to strengthen the community of Muslims. The name 'Qur'an' is Arabic, and means '**recitation**'.

Muslims also believe that Allah revealed the Qur'an to Muhammad to correct errors in previous holy books, including the Jewish holy books and Christian Old and New Testaments (which make up the Bible). The Qur'an is the absolute completion of these other books.

Many Muslims believe that the Qur'an is the 'People of the Book' common to all religions.

The Qur'an was originally written in Arabic and has been translated into many languages for non-Muslims and those who do not know Arabic can read it, but Muslims believe it should be read in its original language. They believe that its true meaning and beauty can only be understood this way. If a Muslim does not speak Arabic as a first language, he or she will learn Arabic in mosques. The Qur'an has 114 chapters, or **surat**, which are divided into parts, or **juz'**, which allows it to be read in a shorter time.

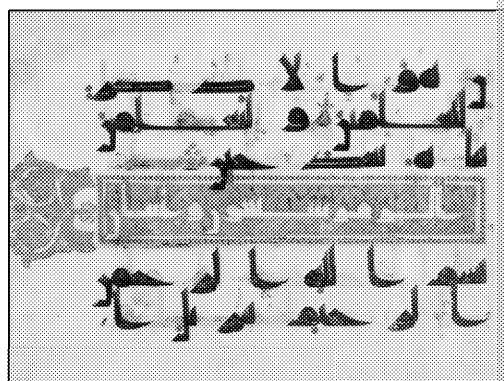
### Pause for thought:

What does 'recitation' mean, and why do you think that the Qur'an is so important?

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Originally, passages of the Qur'an that were revealed to Muhammad were passed around by word of mouth. Even though the chapters of the Qur'an were not written down straight away, Muslims believe that the Qur'an contains the words of Allah as they were originally revealed to Muhammad. People memorised them, and they were probably written on stones, palm leaves or pieces of parchment (paper made from animal skin) before being collected together. Until recently, the oldest complete Qur'an was probably about 1,200 years old, but far older pages of a Qur'an were found in Birmingham in 2015. They were in a collection of ancient manuscripts that had belonged to a dating, a scientific way of testing an object to estimate how old it is, suggests from around 1000 CE.



A page, made from parchment, from a copy of the Qur'an from the eighth century. At this time, books were rare, and people were used to learning by heart. People still learn the Qur'an by heart today. A person who has done this is called a hafiz (male) or hafiza (female).

Because they believe it is the sacred word of Allah, Muslims treat the Qur'an with the greatest respect. They keep it clean and safe when it is not being used. They will wash, or perform **wudu**, before touching the Qur'an, and it will be wrapped in cloth when not being read. If Muslims have a copy at home they will always keep it on a top shelf, higher than any other books, because it is the most important. A copy of the Qur'an would not be placed on the floor – if a Muslim were to be sitting on the floor reading, the Qur'an would be on a small stand in front of him or her. When the Qur'an is being read aloud, other Muslims try to remain silent.



A Qur'an

## Did you know?

The first translation of the Qur'an into English was made in 1734, but it was full of mistakes.



## Think about it

When can Muslims read the whole Qur'an in a month?



When did you last tell you about Birmingham?

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**Did you know?****Extension: Hadith and Sunnah**

Sunni and Shi'a Muslims both believe that the Qur'an is the most important source of authority, but they do consult other books if they need further guidance. Hadith are collections of writings about the life of the Prophet Muhammad and contain his sayings and teachings. Like the Qur'an, these were not written down immediately, but were memorised. They teach Muslims about how to live life according to the Qur'an and how to understand and follow its teachings.

Collections of Hadith are examined for authenticity, and some sayings are believed to be more reliable than others – that is, it is more likely that some Hadith go back to Muhammad and have been remembered correctly than others. This is one reason why Muslims differ on matters of their faith and beliefs. Sunni and Shi'a may also interpret Hadith in different ways.

The Sunnah is found in the Hadith and is the practices and traditions of Muhammad. Muslims are expected to follow the Sunnah to know how to behave. The Sunnah and Hadith can be quite similar. The main difference is that the Sunnah is about what Muhammad did but the Hadith with what he said. Muslims use both as guides to work out how to live.



Hadith books contain what the Prophet Muhammad said and how he lived. Muslims can read them to learn more about his life and teachings.

**Other important religious writings in Islam**

Muslims believe that other holy books were revealed by Allah before the Qur'an. These include the **Tawrat** (Torah) in Arabic, **Psalms** (Zabur), the **Gospels** of Jesus (Injil) and the **Scrolls of Abraham**.

**Tawrat (Torah)**

In Judaism, the Torah (which means 'teaching', or 'instruction') is the most important book. It is made up of five books – Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. These are the first five books of the Old Testament of the Christian Bible. In Islam, the Muslims believe that they were given to the prophet Musa – Moses – by Allah. The Qur'an was revealed to Muhammad. Muhammad believed that the Qur'an was the final revelation and did not use the Torah to teach. However, Muslims believe that it was used as a guide for the people after Moses but before Muhammad.

**Zabur (Psalms)**

The Christian and Jewish holy books contain Psalms – prayers, poems and songs. These were written by Dawood, or King David, who is a prophet in Islam. In Islam, the Psalms are believed to be the word of Allah.

**Injil (Gospel)**

Muslims also believe that the Gospel of Jesus – the prophet Isa in Islam – is the word of Allah.

**Scrolls of Abraham**

The Scrolls of Abraham are also important in Islam. These scrolls are believed to be the original messages that Ibrahim – Abraham – received from Allah, which were then written down. However, they have since been lost. In the Qur'an there are two references to them, but what they said is not known.

Overall, the Qur'an contains many references to the holy books of Judaism and Christianity. Muslims believe that the original messages were revelations from Allah to trusted people who held them in high regard. However, there is no contradiction between these books because the original messages have been changed or corrupted, and translations are not perfect. The Qur'an is in Arabic, its original language, so the original message is preserved and unique. It is the word of Allah.

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'It was We who revealed the law (to Moses): therein was guidance and light.' (5:44)

## Quick Questions

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35. What is the meaning of the name 'Qur'an'?
- a) duty
  - b) reading
  - c) example
  - d) recitation
36. Name two holy books containing religious writings in Islam, *other than the Qur'an*.

## Now Try 1



37. Explain two ways in which the Qur'an influences Muslims' daily lives.
38. What do Muslims teach and/or believe about some Christian and Jewish Scripture.
39. 'The Qur'an should be the only source of authority for Muslims.'  
Evaluate this statement.

Argue for *and* against this statement. You must refer to Muslim teaching.  
Reach a conclusion that follows from your argument.

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### 3. The Imamate in Shi'a Islam

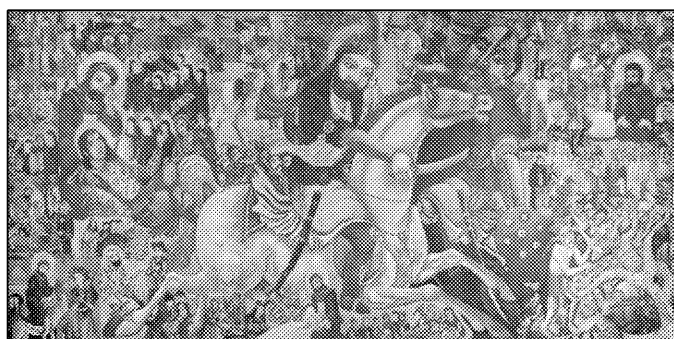
#### Keywords

- ♦ **Imams** – The 12 successors of Muhammad in Shi'a Islam. *Note that in Sunni Islam, the leader of worship in a mosque.*
- ♦ **Imamate** – Means 'leadership' or 'in front' and refers in Shi'a Islam to the 12 imams, the leaders of Islam.

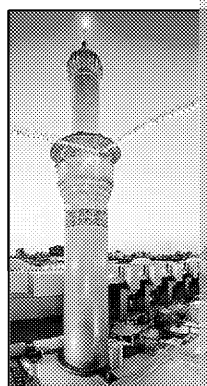
In order to understand the Shi'a Imamate, it is important that you understand Prophet Muhammad's death in 632CE. His followers needed to decide who would be the caliph or 'leader' of the Muslims, but this caused disagreements that would lead to the split between Shi'a and Sunni Muslims. Those who became Shi'a Muslims believed that the right successor was Muhammad's son, his brother, and his cousin, so also his relative, but those who would become Sunni Muslims believed that the right successor was Muhammad's closest friend and companion, and the first person outside Muhammad's family to embrace Islam, should succeed him.

Because early Muslims had formed not just a religious but also a political group, the Imamate had to be spiritual and political, so for many the fact that Abu Bakr was not a blood relative was not a problem. (He was actually a relative by marriage – as the Prophet's wife was Muhammad's father-in-law.)

The arguments over Muhammad's successor continued, and eventually Abu Bakr's son, Ali, did not accept this decision initially, but in order to protect Islam and the unity of the Muslims, he eventually accepted the situation. When Abu Bakr died, a man named Umar succeeded him, then Uthman, who was responsible for the creation of the Quran. Uthman was the third caliph. However, by this time there were many people who thought that Uthman was corrupt, and some said that he had been too slow in dealing with the murder of Uthman. In 656 CE, when Uthman died, Mu'awiya challenged Ali. He was a member of the Kharijites, killed Ali in 661 CE, and Mu'awiya took his place. When he died, his son, Yazid, took his place. However, Yazid's youngest son, Husayn, challenged Yazid. Husayn and his army were killed at Karbala in 680 CE, where Husayn was killed. This battle is very important to Shi'a Muslims and is remembered every year on the Day of Ashura.



A nineteenth- or early twentieth-century painting of the Battle of Karbala.



Husayn's shrine is an important shrine for Shi'as, who stress the importance of Husayn's martyrdom. Some Shi'as believe that Husayn's mosque in Karbala will be the site of the final battle between the forces of good and evil.

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### Important to note...

The key point to remember about Shi'a Muslims is their belief that Muhammad's religious and political leaders who have divine knowledge, which they can use to guide the community. They also need to be part of the family of Muhammad, in Arabic the *Ahl al-Bayt* (family of the house).

Although Muhammad was the final prophet and Muslims believe that anyone who claimed to be a messenger from Allah was not, Shi'as believe that Allah appointed Muhammad who would appoint his family to show early Muslims the correct path and his descendants would be the true prophets, and Shi'as believe that they all had divine knowledge.

Shi'a Muslims believe that the Imamate began with Ali, who Sunni Muslims say was the fourth caliph. After Ali died, his two sons, Hasan and Husayn, succeeded him, followed by another nine **Imams**. Shi'as believe that the twelfth Imam, who they call the Mahdi, did not die but went 'into hiding' and will return on the Day of Judgement. Shi'as who believe in the 12 Imams are sometimes called 'Twelvers'.

**Imams**  
The first four Muslims were Ali, Umar, Uthman and Muhammad. They were the 'Rightly Guided Caliphs' because they were very close to Muhammad (they were very close friends and marriage) of the Prophet.

### Sunni caliphs and Shi'a imams

Sunni The Rightly Guided Caliphs	Shi'a The Twelve Imams
<b>Abu Bakr</b> (632–634) Muhammad's closest friend and companion and father-in-law	<b>Ali</b> (656–661) Son of Muhammad's uncle, and Muhammad as he married Fatima
	<b>Hasan</b> (661–670) Son of Ali and grandson of Muhammad
	<b>Husayn</b> (670–680) Son of Ali and grandson of Muhammad
<b>Umar</b> (634–644) Muhammad's wife Hafsa's father	<b>Ali Zayn al-Abidin</b> (680–712) Son of Husayn
	<b>Muhammad al-Baqir</b> (712–733) Son of Ali Zayn al-Abidin
	<b>Jafar al-Sadiq</b> (733–765) Son of Muhammad al-Baqir
<b>Uthman</b> (644–656) Husband of Muhammad's daughters Ruqayya (who died in 624) and then Umm Kulthum	<b>Musa al-Kazim</b> (765–799) Son of Jafar al-Sadiq
	<b>Ali al-Rida</b> (799–819) Son of Musa al-Kazim
	<b>Muhammad al-Jawad</b> (819–835) Son of Ali al-Rida
<b>Ali</b> (656–661) Son of Muhammad's uncle, and Muhammad's cousin and son in law, as he married Muhammad's daughter	<b>Al-Hadi</b> (835–868) Son of Muhammad al-Jawad
	<b>Hasan al-Askari</b> (868–873) Son of Al-Hadi
	<b>Muhammad al-Mahdi</b> (873–present) Son of Hasan al-Askari. He began his Imamate in 873 and is believed by Shi'a to have been in hiding since then. He is known as the Mahdi.

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**Q Why do Shi'a Muslims believe Ali should have been Muhammad's successor?****A** According to Shi'a Muslims:

- Muhammad always had a close relationship with Ali, right from Ali's childhood.
- Ali was Muhammad's cousin, and, therefore, a blood relative.
- He was the first person to make the declaration of faith in Islam.
- Ali protected Muhammad during the Hijra – the journey from Mecca to Medina.
- He fought in most of the early Muslims' battles.
- He married Muhammad's daughter Fatimah.

**Q What happened to the twelfth Imam, Muhammad al-Mahdi?**

**A** Because of fears that he would be killed, the twelfth Imam was hidden for most of his life. Sunni Muslims often believe he died, possibly in childhood, Shi'a Muslims believe he did not die – some even believe he is spiritually present – and will return as the Mahdi.

**The significance of the Imamate**

Remember, belief in the Imamate is part of Shi'a Islam, and it is one of the Usul ad-Din. The Imam who did not die and is currently hidden is called the occultation (a word that means 'concealment'). The occultation of the Mahdi brought the Imamate to an end, but the Shi'a community continued. The people called Ayatollahs, who represent the Mahdi on earth. This means that, although they can be women, the Ayatollahs' religious guidance and authority comes from Allah. Shi'as believe that because the Imams were appointed by Allah, they were infallible, and the Ayatollahs protect this from being altered (deliberately or accidentally) by people.

The Qur'an says: 'Indeed you are but a messenger, and to every people there is a guide' (21:107). How do you relate to the Shi'a Ayatollahs?

**Quick Questions**

40. In Shi'a Islam, how many Imams succeeded Muhammad as leaders of early Muslims?
- four
  - eight
  - ten
  - twelve

41. Give the names of two of the 'Rightly Guided Caliphs'.

**Now Try This...**

42. Explain two ways in which disagreement over who should succeed Muhammad influenced the development of Islam.
43. 'Belief in the Imamate is the main difference between Sunni and Shi'a Muslims.' Evaluate this statement.

Argue for *and* against the statement. You must refer to Muslim teaching. Reach a conclusion that follows from your argument.

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## Section Summary

### Beliefs

- The word 'Islam' means 'submission' and 'Muslim' – a follower of Islam.
- Muslims submit to Allah (God in Arabic).
- Islam began around 1,400 years ago in a region that is now Saudi Arabia.
- The most important figure in Islam is the Prophet Muhammad (c.570–632).
- There are two main groups of Muslims – Sunni (the larger) and Shi'a.
- This split occurred because of disagreement over who should lead the early Islamic community.
- Sunnis believed that Abu Bakr, Muhammad's closest companion, should lead, but Shi'as believed that it should be Ali, Muhammad's cousin and a blood relative.
- Sunni means 'people of the Sunnah', or clear pathway, and Shi'a means 'followers of Ali'.
- There are six key beliefs or 'articles of faith' in Sunni Islam and five in Shi'a Islam. The first three are the same in both ('roots of religion'). However, it is important to remember that Sunnis and Shi'as have different beliefs about the last two main points of the religion.
- Central to Islam is the belief that Allah is one. This is called tawhid and is a statement of faith, the Shahadah. Saying or believing that Allah is not one is considered a major sin.
- This belief in tawhid and belief that Allah is so great that humans cannot comprehend him means that Muslims do not allow images of Allah (or Muhammad and other prophets).
- Muslims believe that Allah has many characteristics that make up his nature. These are listed in the 99 names of Allah.
- Angels are important in Islam. Jibril is the most important, as he delivered the message to Muhammad. This was written in the Islamic holy book, the Qur'an.
- Muslims also believe in jinns (supernatural beings) and in the devil (Iblis).
- Sunni and Shi'a Muslims usually have slightly different beliefs about how Allah interacts with his creation (that Allah already knows what will happen in their lives) and whether they are given predestination or the ability to make decisions for themselves – free will.
- Shi'as, though, usually reject predestination and believe that Allah can change a person's life. Shi'as also believe that people have free will so that they can choose for themselves.
- Muslims believe in life after death. Sunnis and Shi'as believe that there will be a Day of Judgement when people will be sent to heaven (jannah) or hell (jahannam).
- Because people are responsible for their own actions, they can choose to live good lives and believe in Allah or not, and, therefore, go to heaven or hell.
- Shi'as believe that a figure called the Mahdi will return to earth and that the Day of Judgement is near.
- Prophethood (risalah) is important in Islam. Muhammad was the final prophet. Before him, Adam, Ibrahim, Ismail and Isa (Jesus) came by Allah's message.
- There are a number of holy books in Islam. The most important source of guidance is the Qur'an, which contains the word of Allah as revealed to Muhammad through Jibril.
- Other sources of guidance are the Hadith and Sunnah. The Hadith are the recorded sayings and actions of Muhammad; the Sunnah is found in the traditions and practices of Muhammad – examples of how to behave.
- The Tawrat (Torah), Zabur (Psalms) and Injil (Gospels of Jesus) are also considered holy books revealed to earlier prophets.
- In Shi'a Islam, the Imamate – the 12 leaders (Imams) who succeeded Muhammad – is important. The final Imam – the Mahdi – did not die and will return on the Day of Judgement.

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# Answers

## Activities

Question Number	Answers
A.	1. b 2. e 3. g 4. h 5. c 6. d
B.	1. b 2. c 3. d 4. a
C.	1. b 2. c 3. c 4. b
D.	1. d 2. e 3. g 4. f 5. b 6. c 7. h 8. a
E.	1. b 2. e 3. a 4. f 5. c 6. d
F.	1. f 2. e 3. a 4. b 5. g 6. c 7. d
G.	Nuh – Noah Idris – Enoch Yusuf – Joseph Musa – Moses Ayyub – Job Dawood – David Suleiman – Solomon Yahya – John Isa – Jesus

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# Beliefs and Teachings

## Key Beliefs

### 1. Introduction to Islam

**Note:** Answers to 'Quick Questions' and 'Now Try This' questions appear together

Question Number	Answer/Mark Scheme
1.	<p>How many articles of faith are there in Shi'a Islam?</p> <p>a) four b) five ✓ c) six d) ten</p>
2.	<p>Give two of the articles of faith in Sunni Islam.</p> <p>Any two from the six articles below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• belief that Allah is the one and only God (tawhid)</li> <li>• belief in <b>angels</b></li> <li>• belief in the <b>holy books</b></li> <li>• belief in the prophets</li> <li>• belief in the Day of Judgement</li> <li>• belief in predestination</li> </ul> <p>Accept any relevant point, 1 mark per point (maximum 2)</p>
3.	<p>Explain two ways in which the articles of faith influence Sunni <i>and</i> Shi'a Islam.</p> <p>It is very important that you include examples that relate to Sunni <i>and</i> Shi'a Islam. You need to know what the articles are! You also need to develop each point to show how this belief influences Muslims in their everyday lives. For example, by explaining what angels are, or how this belief influences Muslims in their everyday lives.</p> <p>Examples are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Both Sunni and Shi'a articles of faith agree that there is one God. The name for this is tawhid. Muslims ensure that they never say that there are other gods – it is essential to Islam.</li> <li>• Both articles of faith express belief in nubuwwah – the prophets – and the importance in Islam; both also include the belief that Muhammad is the final prophet sent by Allah.</li> <li>• Both believe in the Day of Judgement and that people will be judged and go to heaven or hell. This means that Muslims try to behave in a way that is pleasing to Allah.</li> </ul> <p>Accept any relevant points 1 mark per simple point, 2 marks per developed point (maximum 4)</p>

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Question Number	Answer/Mark Scheme	Number of								
4.	<p>'There is no real difference between Shi'a and Sunni key beliefs, so who succeeded Muhammad doesn't matter.' Evaluate this statement.</p> <p>Argue for <i>and</i> against this statement. You must refer to Muslim teaching. Reach a conclusion that follows from your argument.</p> <p>There are many different ways in which you could answer this question, and you could argue either way, but remember that you must give reasons and justifications for your arguments in order to gain higher marks. Point that you could include are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Although Sunni and Shi'a beliefs are in many ways the same, there <i>are</i> important differences, and one of the main ones is in the issue of the Imamate who succeeded Muhammad.</li><li>This is very important to Shi'as and is included in the Shi'a Shahadah.</li><li>Even though both groups essentially believe the same thing, the fact that the two groups exist (and that sometimes this leads to violence, e.g. so-called Islamic State / al Qaeda against Shi'as) shows that there are differences that are not easily overcome.</li><li>These differences have existed for a long time. It is too easy to say that they shouldn't matter, as they clearly do.</li><li>However, you could argue that many Sunnis and Shi'as may be able to overcome these differences in better ways than arguing about them, or worse – Sunni groups such as al Qaeda and so-called Islamic State think Shi'a Muslims are as wrong as people who are not Muslim.</li><li>To the vast majority of Muslims, though, the differences do not matter and Sunnis and Shi'as get along well.</li><li>You also need to show that you understand what the difference is between the two groups, i.e. Sunnis believe that Abu Bakr was Muhammad's proper successor, while Shi'as think Ali was; Ali was also the fourth caliph in Sunni Islam.</li><li>Also show that you understand that Shi'as think Muhammad's successor needs to be a relative, whereas Sunnis do not think that the issue in early Islam was just as much about political rule over early Muslims as it is about religion.</li><li>You also need to show that the issue of who succeeded Muhammad is not the only difference between Shi'as and Sunnis – Shi'as also have different prayer movements and pray three times a day; Shi'as do not usually believe in predestination, etc. These differences also cause problems sometimes.</li></ul> <p>One of the main points in the question is 'There is no real difference...' There <i>are</i> differences, and you need to be clear on what they are (especially concerning the succession after Muhammad) and that they <i>do</i> matter to <i>some</i> Muslims.</p> <table><tr><td>One argument with justification</td><td>1–3 marks</td></tr><tr><td>Different arguments for and against, with justification OR Several linked, justified arguments for one position</td><td>4–6 marks</td></tr><tr><td>Good, well-justified arguments for and against, linked together</td><td>7–9 marks</td></tr><tr><td>Very well argued. Well-justified arguments for and against linked together and leading to a reasonable conclusion</td><td>10–12 marks</td></tr></table> <p>Accept any relevant points or justification</p>	One argument with justification	1–3 marks	Different arguments for and against, with justification OR Several linked, justified arguments for one position	4–6 marks	Good, well-justified arguments for and against, linked together	7–9 marks	Very well argued. Well-justified arguments for and against linked together and leading to a reasonable conclusion	10–12 marks	
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Good, well-justified arguments for and against, linked together	7–9 marks									
Very well argued. Well-justified arguments for and against linked together and leading to a reasonable conclusion	10–12 marks									

## 2. The Oneness of God (Tawhid)

Question Number	Answer/Mark Scheme
5.	<p>Which term refers to the oneness of Allah?</p> <p>a) transcendence b) shirk c) monotheism d) <b>tawhid</b> ✓</p>
6.	<p>Give two of the 99 names of Allah and what they mean.</p> <p>Here, candidates write the Arabic name. You do need to show that you are giving the meaning. You could use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>al-Rahman (Allah is merciful, compassionate)</li> <li>al-Rashid (guide)</li> <li>an-Nur (light)</li> <li>al-Samad (eternal)</li> <li>al-Qadir (powerful)</li> <li>al-Khaliq (creator)</li> <li>al-Hakim (wise)</li> <li>al-Muqit (nourisher)</li> <li>al-Basir (all seeing)</li> <li>al-Ahad (one)</li> <li>al-Hasib (judicious / a judge)</li> </ul> <p>Accept any relevant point, 1 mark per point (maximum 2 marks)</p>
7.	<p>Explain two ways in which belief in tawhid influences mosque design.</p> <p>You also need to develop each point you make to gain two marks for each answer. Your answers could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Muslims forbid images of Allah and the prophets: this stops people from imagining what Allah looks like, as he is transcendent – beyond human understanding.</li> <li>For the same reason, there will be no statues or pictures of Allah, Muhammad or the prophets.</li> <li>Mosques are often decorated with calligraphy – beautiful writing that focuses worship on Allah, but without having a picture.</li> <li>Geometric patterns and tiling in mosques and on prayer mats encourage worshippers to concentrate, and reminds Muslims to focus on Allah and worship Allah only, not statues or pictures of him.</li> </ul> <p>Accept any relevant points 1 mark per simple point, 2 marks per developed point (maximum 4 marks)</p>
8.	<p>What do Muslims teach about tawhid? Refer to Scripture.</p> <p>The 5-mark questions ask you about two teachings/practices and to refer to Scripture. As well as making two points and developing/justifying both, you must refer to Scripture as appropriate for the extra mark. You can't get full marks if you don't refer to Scripture. Again, try to make sure your points are as different as possible so that the marking gives you credit for every point/development you make.</p> <p>You need to include these points in your answer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Muslims believe that Allah is one – this is expressed in the Shahadah, which is called tawhid.</li> <li>Shi'as and Sunnis share this belief and anything that is called shirk.</li> <li>The Qur'an and Hadith also say that Allah is unique, unified, unique, indivisible, and there is no one like him that he is one.</li> <li>Refer to Surah al-Baqara 2:160 of the Qur'an, which says Allah is 'the One and the Only' and that there is none like Him'. These ideas are all part of tawhid.</li> </ul> <p>Accept any relevant points and reference to Scripture 1 mark per simple point, 2 marks per developed point (maximum 4 marks) relevant reference to Scripture</p> <p>If <i>only</i> one religious way is mentioned, maximum 2 marks + 1 mark for scriptural reference</p>

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Question Number	Answer/Mark Scheme	Number of								
9.	<p>'Expressing tawhid is impossible without pictures.' Evaluate this statement.</p> <p>Argue for <i>and</i> against this statement. You must refer to Muslim teaching. Reach a conclusion that follows from your argument.</p> <p>Always show that you know what key terms in a question mean, so, here, explain tawhid. If you were unsure about this question, look back at the information in chapter about how Allah is represented in mosques and in Islamic art, etc. You must make sure that you show that you understand that Muslims forbid images of Allah in the sense of paintings/statues, etc. and why. Your arguments here could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Muslims do not allow pictures of Allah (or Muhammad and prophets), but they express tawhid – the belief that Allah is one – in other ways.</li><li>• Expressing ideas is possible without actual pictures of human figures, etc. Muslims have developed other ways of expressing the idea of tawhid through focusing on Allah's spiritual nature and qualities.</li><li>• For example, they use calligraphy and geometric tiling or mosaics (which you see in mosques in Britain and all over the Arab world). These focus a worshiper's attention on Allah and help them to concentrate.</li><li>• Geometry also helps Muslims to focus on Allah, the universe and creation, and reminds Muslims that they should worship Allah only, not statues or pictures.</li><li>• You could contrast ways in which Christians / Hindus / other faiths express ideas about God – e.g. statues of Jesus and Mary, icons of God, Hindu gods (statues of gods and goddesses) – with Islam, and how Muslim ideas are expressed in very different ways.</li><li>• Don't forget to outline why Muslims do not allow pictures of Allah: Muslim belief that Allah is transcendent means that his nature goes beyond limits of human understanding.</li><li>• However, you could add that in Shi'a Islam it is more likely that you will find images of Muhammad, prophets and angels, but not of Allah.</li><li>• You could argue that a 'picture' doesn't have to be a painting of a person or figure... why can't it be abstract (made up of shapes, etc.)?</li></ul> <p>You can argue for <i>and</i> against this statement, but you must give valid reasons <i>and</i> argue your own points.</p> <table><tr><td>One argument with justification</td><td>1–3 marks</td></tr><tr><td>Different arguments for and against, with justification OR Several linked, justified arguments for one position</td><td>4–6 marks</td></tr><tr><td>Good, well-justified arguments for and against, linked together</td><td>7–9 marks</td></tr><tr><td>Very well argued. Well-justified arguments for and against, linked together and leading to a reasonable conclusion.</td><td>10–12 marks</td></tr></table> <p>Accept any relevant point or justification</p>	One argument with justification	1–3 marks	Different arguments for and against, with justification OR Several linked, justified arguments for one position	4–6 marks	Good, well-justified arguments for and against, linked together	7–9 marks	Very well argued. Well-justified arguments for and against, linked together and leading to a reasonable conclusion.	10–12 marks	
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Question Number	Answer/Mark Scheme
13. Cont.	<p>You don't have to remember exact quotations from the Qur'an but you are able to paraphrase (outline what the Qur'an says), as in the last bullet point. There are other quotations that you can use.</p> <p>Accept any relevant points and reference to Scripture</p> <p>1 mark per simple point, 2 marks per developed point (maximum 2 marks per relevant reference to Scripture)</p> <p>If <i>only</i> one religious way is mentioned, maximum 2 marks + 1 mark for reference</p>
14.	<p>'Muslims can have clear beliefs about the nature of Allah.' Evaluate this statement for <i>and</i> against this statement. You must refer to Muslim teaching and a conclusion that follows from your argument.</p> <p>This question asks what Muslims believe about Allah's nature and whether these beliefs are clear, not about what is said in the Qur'an. However, this does not mean you can't refer to the Qur'an as the reason why Muslims believe some things.</p> <p>The main points to include here are those in the heading for this chapter. You should suggest that Muslims have coherent beliefs about Allah. Muslims believe:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• omnipotent</li> <li>• beneficent</li> <li>• merciful</li> <li>• fair (see adalat)</li> <li>• just (see adalat)</li> <li>• immanent</li> <li>• transcendent</li> </ul> <p><i>You will need to explain what these terms means and what it means about Muslim beliefs about Allah's nature. Don't forget to define what Allah is like.</i></p> <p>You can refer to the Qur'an to support these points. NB You can also refer to the answer to this question from the previous chapter about tawhid. You could also explain how the Qur'an describes Allah's nature clearly, and give examples of how Muslims believe about how Muslims believe that Allah's nature is ultimately different from what is why they do not allow any images/pictures of him. You could also say that saying Allah is unknowable means that it is hard to have clear beliefs about him.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The fact that some Muslims may believe that Allah is transcendent means that he is not known. This means that he is not immanent – close to humanity and the world.</li> <li>• You could discuss Sufism and Sufi belief that Allah is imminent: through spirituality and mysticism and try to become one with Allah and his name (dhikr Allah).</li> </ul> <p>Other answers/arguments are also possible!</p> <p>One argument with justification</p> <p>Different arguments for and against, with justification OR Several linked, justified arguments for and against, with justification</p> <p>Good, well-justified arguments for and against, linked together</p> <p>Very well argued. Well-justified arguments for and against, linked together and leading to a reasonable conclusion.</p> <p>Accept any relevant point or justification</p>

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## 4. Angels

Question Number	Answer/Mark Scheme
15.	<p>In Islam, which angel delivered the Qur'an to Muhammad?</p> <p>a) <b>Jibril</b> ✓  b) Mika'il  c) Israfeel  d) Iblis</p>
16.	<p>Give the names of two angels in Islam, other than Jibril.</p> <p>Remember not to repeat Jibril! You could answer with the names of any two angels in the chapter, such as Mika'il, Israfeel or Malik.</p> <p>Accept any relevant point, 1 mark per point (maximum 2 marks)</p>
17.	<p>Explain two ways in which Muslim beliefs about the role of angels influence their lives.</p> <p>To get full marks here, you need to make two points about Muslim beliefs about angels. Make sure that you develop each point to get the additional marks. Your points should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Muslims believe that the angel Jibril (Gabriel) has delivered revelations to the prophets, including Muhammad. Therefore, they follow the teachings of the Qur'an, believing it has come from Allah.</li> <li>Muslims believe that angels protect people from death until it is the right time – therefore, they may be less scared about dying, as they believe they will die until it is the right time for them.</li> <li>Muslims believe that there are angels watching them, on their shoulders, recording their good and bad deeds, which may influence them to try to do good. They believe that Allah will know everything which they do.</li> <li>Muslims believe that angels provide for them, and so they may not worry about having enough, as they believe that Allah will provide.</li> </ul> <p>Accept any relevant points  1 mark per simple point, 2 marks per developed point (maximum 4 marks)</p>
18.	<p>What do Muslims believe/teach about angels and other supernatural beings? Refer to Scripture.</p> <p>Remember that in 5-point questions you do need to refer to Scripture. This question asks about other supernatural beings, not just angels, so you should mention angels and Shaytan, but remember that it asks about the Qur'an's teachings in general. Your points could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Angels and supernatural beings are mentioned many times in the Qur'an.</li> <li>The Qur'an says that Shaytan makes humans and jinn commit evil deeds by 'whispering into hearts'.</li> <li>Explanations of angels, jinn and Shaytan.</li> <li>The Qur'an outlines duties of angels: for example, it says that they watch the time; do exactly as Allah commands them; Jibril 'brought down the Qur'an to Muhammad'.</li> <li>The Qur'an also says that angels were created by Allah and that they are 'messengers with wings'.</li> </ul> <p>Accept any relevant points and reference to Scripture  1 mark per simple point, 2 marks per developed point (maximum 10 marks)  relevant reference to Scripture  If <i>only</i> one religious way is mentioned, maximum 2 marks + 1 mark for relevant reference</p>

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Question Number	Answer/Mark Scheme	Number of								
19.	<p>'Angels aren't one of the main Shi'a beliefs, so they can't be important in Islam'. Evaluate this statement.</p> <p>Argue for <i>and</i> against this statement. You must refer to Muslim teaching. Reach a conclusion that follows from your argument.</p> <p>Answering this question includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Showing that you know that belief in angels is one of the six main beliefs in Islam, but that it is not one of the five Shi'a articles of faith.</li><li>Defining what an angel is – never forget to explain key terms! One of their was to give Allah's messages to prophets, but they have many other duties. You could give examples e.g. Mika'il's role in ensuring people have sustenance.</li><li>Demonstrating that you understand that just because something isn't an article of faith doesn't mean it isn't important – angels are part of Shi'a belief too.</li></ul> <p>You also need to discuss the statement in more depth. Here, the statement that angels can't be important in Islam is untrue – angels play a very important role.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Show that you know this by giving examples. The main one would be that angels played a central role in relaying Allah's message to Muhammad.</li><li>You could write about the other roles of angels, e.g. in the Day of Judgement, guarding heaven and hell, and in recording good and bad deeds.</li><li>You could include the example of how Mika'il and Jibril made Muhammad pure so that he could undertake the Night Journey to receive instructions for prayer.</li><li>There are also accounts of angels being present at the Battle of Badr, helping Muslims.</li></ul> <p>You could perhaps argue that other parts of a Muslim's faith are more important than angels, such as belief that Allah is one, but you can't successfully say that angels are important at all! Remember – <i>always</i> back up your arguments.</p> <table><tr><td>One argument with justification</td><td>1–3</td></tr><tr><td>Different arguments for and against, with justification OR Several linked arguments for one position</td><td>4–6</td></tr><tr><td>Good, well-justified arguments for and against, linked together</td><td>7–9</td></tr><tr><td>Very well argued. Well-justified arguments for and against, linked together and leading to a reasonable conclusion.</td><td>10–12</td></tr></table> <p>Accept any relevant point or justification</p>	One argument with justification	1–3	Different arguments for and against, with justification OR Several linked arguments for one position	4–6	Good, well-justified arguments for and against, linked together	7–9	Very well argued. Well-justified arguments for and against, linked together and leading to a reasonable conclusion.	10–12	
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## 5. Predestination and human freedom

Question Number	Answer/Mark Scheme
20.	<p>What is the name given to the idea that everything that happens has already by Allah?</p> <p>a) <b>predestination</b> ✓  b) judgement  c) human freedom  d) justice</p>
21.	<p>Name two sources of Muslim beliefs about the Day of Judgement.</p> <p>Qur'an and the Hadith</p> <p>Accept any relevant point, 1 mark per point (maximum 2)</p>
22.	<p>Explain two ways in which belief in predestination may influence a Muslim.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sunnis and Shi'as agree that there will be a Day of Judgement – it is a Sunni article of faith and one of the five key Shi'a beliefs.</li> <li>• They both believe that on this day Allah will resurrect (bring back) people who have died.</li> <li>• Everyone will be judged according to his or her actions.</li> <li>• Those who are good will go to paradise (heaven – jannah) and those who have lived bad lives to hell (jahannam).</li> </ul> <p>All these beliefs mean that Muslims ensure that they behave well so that they will be judged favourably and go to heaven.</p> <p>For your second point, you could develop one of these points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allah is fair, so he will not judge people for things that would not be possible. This means that Muslims should not focus on things that they are not able to do.</li> <li>• Only Allah knows when the Day of Judgement will come, and not humans. This means that Muslims must behave well all the time and not rely on forgiveness for sins before it is too late.</li> <li>• People who have worshipped false gods will suffer. Muslims must not do this, for example, shirk. They must be monotheists at all times.</li> </ul> <p>Any points and references to the Qur'an/Hadith etc. would be accepted.</p> <p>Accept any relevant points  1 mark per simple point, 2 marks per developed point (maximum 4)</p>
23.	<p>What do Muslims believe and/or teach about predestination? Refer to your notes.</p> <p>The 5-mark questions ask you about two teachings/practices and to explain them. As well as making two points and developing/justifying both, you must refer to Scripture as appropriate for the extra mark. You can't get full marks if you don't do this. Again, try to make sure your points are as different as possible so that the marking gives you credit for every point/development you make.</p> <p>First of all, make sure you explain what predestination is, and try to include the term 'qadar'.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sunni Muslims believe in predestination – the idea that Allah knows what will happen.</li> <li>• Some Muslims have a belief that Allah writes down their destinies in a book called the 'Preserved Tablet'.</li> <li>• However, some Muslims may reject any idea of predestination as it goes against the belief that humans have free will or human freedom and that Allah does not have a predetermined history or the course that people's lives will take.</li> <li>• Allah is all-knowing, as he is all-powerful.</li> <li>• Key teachings come from the Qur'an, which says: 'From Allah, verily the unseen is hidden on earth or in the heavens' (3:5) and 'Knowest thou not that all that is in heaven and on earth? Indeed it is all in a Record' (22:12).</li> <li>• You could include ideas about how Allah is not bound by time in the same way humans are, which makes predestination possible, etc.</li> </ul>

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Question Number	Answer/Mark Scheme
23. Cont.	<p>Accept any relevant points and reference to Scripture</p> <p>1 mark per simple point, 2 marks per developed point (maximum 2 marks per relevant reference to Scripture)</p> <p>If <i>only</i> one religious way is mentioned, maximum 2 marks + 1 mark for scriptural reference</p>
24.	<p>'Sunni and Shi'a Muslims differ widely in their beliefs about the Day of Judgement'. Evaluate this statement.</p> <p>Answer for 24. You must refer to Muslim teaching and make a conclusion that follows from your argument.</p> <p>To begin, make sure you define the term 'Day of Judgement' (Yawm al-Din [judgement] or Yawm al-Qiyamah [resurrection], the Last Day, or the Hour of Reckoning) and what it means in Islam. Make sure you then go on to discuss what both groups believe about this day – that Allah will resurrect those who die, that all will be judged and sent to heaven/hell – but also consider whether there are differences and whether these are very ('widely') different or not. Key points are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Both groups believe that there will be a Day of Judgement – it is one of the Sunni articles of faith and the five key Shi'a beliefs.</li> <li>The main difference that you need to write about is how Sunni and Shi'a Muslims disagree about whether people have free will or not and whether Allah knows what will happen during people's lives (the idea of predestination). Does lack of free will affect what happens on the Day of Judgement?</li> <li>You could try to explain how predestination and free will are different. Predestination does not mean that Muslims do not have free will, but that Allah knows what they will choose whether to do good or bad. The idea is that Allah is outside of time in the same way as human beings are outside of space. What will happen in a person's life, but that person, while he/she is alive, still has the ability to choose how to act and behave.</li> <li>You could include, e.g. the mainly Sunni belief about the Preservation of the Quran.</li> <li>Include information that shows ways in which both groups' beliefs are similar, such as that all Muslim beliefs about this day are found in the Quran, that only Allah knows when the Day of Judgement will come and that Allah, even Muhammad, can change this; and that everyone will be resurrected.</li> </ul> <p>There are many other points that can be written about here.</p> <p>One argument with justification</p> <p>Different arguments for and against, with justification OR Several linked, justified arguments for one position</p> <p>Good, well-justified arguments for and against, linked together</p> <p>Very well argued. Well-justified arguments for and against, linked together and leading to a reasonable conclusion.</p> <p>At least one clearly relevant point or justification</p>

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## 6. Life after death

Question Number	Answer/Mark Scheme
25.	<p>What is the name of the figure that Shi'a Muslims believe will return at the end of time?</p> <p>a) akhirah b) Qiyamah c) <b>Mahdi</b> ✓ d) jannah</p>
26.	<p>Give two Muslim beliefs about hell.</p> <p>One of the main beliefs are below, but other answers would be accepted if they believe in hell, which they call jahannam.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Muslims believe that how you behave in life determines what happens after you die, and if you live a bad life you will go to hell on the Day of Judgement.</li> <li>• However, because Allah is merciful, people can be spared hell.</li> <li>• Muslims do not usually believe that those who have already died go to heaven or hell.</li> <li>• Muslims believe that the duties of angels include recording bad and good deeds, and whether someone will go to heaven or hell.</li> </ul> <p>Accept any relevant point, 1 mark per point (maximum 2 marks)</p>
27.	<p>Explain two ways in which beliefs about akhirah may influence a Muslim's life.</p> <p>To get full marks here, you need to make two points about Muslim beliefs about akhirah. Make sure you explain what this is – belief in life after death. You need to develop each point to get the additional marks. You could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Life is like a test and it would be pointless if nothing followed it, so there is a firm belief in life after death.</li> <li>• They also believe that how you behave in life determines what happens after you die.</li> <li>• They believe in heaven and hell (jannah and jahannam), but that Allah is merciful and people can be spared hell.</li> </ul> <p>Muslims do not usually believe that those who have already died go to heaven or hell: all those who have died will be resurrected on the Day of Judgement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some may believe that 'enemies of Islam' such as those who deny Islam, may go straight to hell on death, and others may believe that those who have fought for Islam will go straight to paradise.</li> <li>• The fact that Allah has given human beings free will, or human freedom to make choices – means that humans are accountable for their actions and whether they choose to live good or bad lives.</li> <li>• Muslims believe that humans will be questioned about their actions on the Day of Judgement.</li> </ul> <p>Accept any relevant points 1 mark per simple point, 2 marks per developed point (maximum 4 marks)</p>

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Question Number	Answer/Mark Scheme	Number of
28.	<p>What do Muslims believe and/or teach about heaven and hell? Refer to Scripture</p> <p>The 5-mark questions ask you about two teachings/practices and to refer to Scripture. As well as making two points and developing/justifying both, you must refer to Scripture as appropriate for the extra mark. You can't get full marks if you don't do this. Again, try to make sure your points are as different as possible so that the marking gives you credit for every point/development you make.</p> <p>Your answer to this question could include some of the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Muslims believe in heaven – jannah, or paradise and hell – jahannam.</li> <li>• Most believe that Muslims have free will and can choose to act in ways that mean they go to heaven or hell.</li> <li>• Allah is forgiving and people can be forgiven for sins and still go to heaven.</li> <li>• Muslims believe that humans will be questioned about their actions in life on the Day of Judgement and be sent to heaven or hell.</li> <li>• Muslims do not usually believe that those who have already died have already gone to heaven or hell: all those who have died will be resurrected from the graves for the Day of Judgement.</li> <li>• Some many believe that 'enemies of Islam', such as those who denied that Muhammad was the messenger of Allah, may go straight to hell on death, and others may believe that those who have fought for Islam will go straight to paradise.</li> <li>• Some Muslims may believe that Christians and Jews may also go to heaven as the three faiths have the same root.</li> <li>• Most believe that people who lived before Muhammad will be allowed to go to heaven too.</li> <li>• Shi'as believe that the Mahdi has to return before judgement can take place and people go to heaven or hell.</li> <li>• Some Muslims disagree over whether people will stay in hell forever or whether they can atone, or make up, for their sins.</li> <li>• Some parts of the Qur'an talk of there being seven levels of hell, depending on the severity of a person's sins, and some may believe this.</li> <li>• The Qur'an says: 'Call to Allah that they do, nothing will be rejected of them. Allah loves those that do right.' In other words, those who have done good will be recognised when judged.</li> <li>• It also says that because Allah is all-knowing people's deeds will be known and 'be paid in full' – in other words, they will get what they deserve, in heaven.</li> </ul> <p>Accept any relevant points and reference to Scripture</p> <p>1 mark per simple point, 2 marks per developed point (maximum 4), 1 mark for relevant reference to Scripture</p> <p>If <i>only</i> one religious way is mentioned, maximum 2 marks + 1 mark for scriptural reference</p>	

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Question Number	Answer/Mark Scheme	Number of								
29.	<p>'The fact that Allah already knows what will happen means that Muslims don't have any accountability.' Evaluate this statement.</p> <p>Argue for <i>and</i> against this statement. You must refer to Muslim teaching. Reach a conclusion that follows from your argument.</p> <p>As usual, think about what keywords you need to define in order to answer this question. Here, the main term is 'accountability': the belief that humans are responsible for their actions and will be judged on that on the Day of Judgement.</p> <p>Then think about what this question is really saying. 'Allah already knows what happens' is the idea of predestination – explain this. (The question is asking you the point of doing good if Allah already knows the path your life will take and what will happen to you when you are judged?) There are many arguments you could make.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Remember that Shi'a Muslims often do not believe in predestination. What difference does this make to your answer? (It means that Shi'as do have free will and accountability!)</li><li>You could try to explain how predestination and free will are different – predestination does not mean that Muslims do not have free will, or human freedom – the ability to choose whether to do good or bad. The difference is that Allah is not bound by time in the same way as human beings are. He knows what will ultimately happen in a person's life, but that person, while he or she is alive, still has the ability to choose how to act and behave.</li><li>Include information such as that Muslim beliefs about this day are found in the Qur'an and Hadith; only Allah knows when the Day of Judgement will come; that no one, not even Muhammad, can change this; everyone will be resurrected.</li></ul> <table><tr><td>One argument with justification</td><td>1–3 marks</td></tr><tr><td>Different arguments for and against, with justification OR Several linked, justified arguments for one reason or another</td><td>4–6 marks</td></tr><tr><td>Good, well-justified arguments for one side or the other, linked together</td><td>7–9 marks</td></tr><tr><td>Very well argued. Well-justified arguments for and against, linked together and leading to a reasonable conclusion</td><td>10–12 marks</td></tr></table> <p>Accept any relevant point or justification.</p>	One argument with justification	1–3 marks	Different arguments for and against, with justification OR Several linked, justified arguments for one reason or another	4–6 marks	Good, well-justified arguments for one side or the other, linked together	7–9 marks	Very well argued. Well-justified arguments for and against, linked together and leading to a reasonable conclusion	10–12 marks	
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## Authority

### 1. Prophethood

Question Number	Answer/Mark Scheme
30.	<p>Which word means prophethood in Islam?</p> <p>a) Ibrahim b) <b>risalah</b> ✓ c) Hijra d) caliph</p>
31.	<p>Give two reasons why prophets are important in Islam.</p> <p>There are various answers to this question:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prophets are a source of authority in Islam.</li> <li>• They are a way in which Allah communicates his message to people.</li> <li>• They are Allah's representatives on earth.</li> <li>• Allah chose Muhammad as the final prophet who received the Qur'an.</li> <li>• Prophets are examples of how to behave in life.</li> </ul> <p>Accept any relevant point, 1 mark per point (maximum 2 marks)</p>
32.	<p>Explain how two prophets <i>apart from Muhammad</i> have influenced Islam.</p> <p>Here, you would probably write about Ibrahim and Adam, as these are the two prophets who have been discussed most. However, you don't have to – if you know about any other prophets then that is fine. Make sure that you develop each point to get the additional marks.</p> <p>Adam is important because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He was the first human being.</li> <li>• He was the first Muslim.</li> <li>• He is considered to be the first prophet.</li> <li>• He was appointed to live on earth as Allah's caliph.</li> <li>• He taught future generations how to look after the earth.</li> <li>• He built the original Ka'aba.</li> <li>• He taught people how to pray, to repent, what should and should not be done, etc.</li> </ul> <p>Ibrahim is important in Islam because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He is considered to be the father of the Arab people.</li> <li>• Muhammad's ancestry can be traced back to Adam through Ibrahim.</li> <li>• He was against polytheism.</li> <li>• He rebuilt the Ka'aba.</li> <li>• He was Ismail's father.</li> <li>• He was so devoted in this faith – he submitted to Allah by being willing to sacrifice Ismail.</li> </ul> <p>Accept any relevant points 1 mark per simple point, 2 marks per developed point (maximum 4 marks)</p>

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Question Number	Answer/Mark Scheme	Number of								
33.	<p>What do Muslims believe and/or teach about why Ibrahim is important in Islam? Refer to Scripture.</p> <p>The 5-mark questions ask you about two teachings/practices and to refer to Scripture. As well as making two points and developing/justifying both, you must refer to Scripture as appropriate for the extra mark. You can't get full marks if you don't do this. Again, try to make sure your points are as different as possible so that the marking gives you credit for every point/development you make.</p> <p>Points include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Ibrahim is considered to be the father of the Arab people through his son Isma'il.</li><li>Muhammad was a descendant of Ibrahim.</li><li>Ibrahim saw that people were worshipping many false gods or idols – was angry.</li><li>He believed in one God and wanted to discover more about him.</li><li>He was the first to call on the Ka'aba after it had been used by polytheists.</li><li>Ibrahim is mentioned many times in the Qur'an.</li><li>Allah tests Ibrahim's devotion by asking him to sacrifice his son Ismail in the Qur'an surah 37.</li><li>Ibrahim's willingness to do as Allah asks is an example for Muslims.</li><li>He was devoted in his faith and proved his submission to Allah.</li></ul> <p>Accept any relevant points and reference to Scripture 1 mark per simple point, 2 marks per developed point (maximum 4), 1 mark for relevant reference to Scripture If <i>only</i> one religious way is mentioned, maximum 2 marks + 1 mark for scriptural reference</p>									
34.	<p>'All prophets are equally important in Islam.' Evaluate this statement.</p> <p>Argue for <i>and</i> against this statement. You must refer to Muslim teaching. Reach a conclusion that follows from your argument.</p> <p>Don't forget to define what is meant by a prophet and to mention that prophets are called risalah.</p> <p>Points to discuss include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>For Muslims the only source of authority is Allah.</li><li>However, there are other sources of authority in Islam, including prophets.</li><li>Prophets are the way in which Allah communicates his message to people.</li><li>Muslims believe that the first prophet was Adam, but there were thousands of others.</li><li>They include Ibrahim (Abraham), Musa (Moses), Dawood (David) and Isa (Jesus).</li><li>Muhammad was the 'seal' of the prophets, or the final messenger from Allah.</li><li>Don't forget that although Muhammad lived around 1,400 years ago, Muslims believe that Islam goes back much further.</li><li>You need to know about Muhammad, Ibrahim and Adam, so you could give information about these three prophets.</li></ul> <p>The key point here is that Islam does have many prophets (nubuwwah) but the most important – the 'seal' of the prophets and the final prophet – is Muhammad. However, this does not mean that others are not very important. Many played crucial roles in Islam's development.</p> <table><tr><td>One argument with justification</td><td>1–3 marks</td></tr><tr><td>Different arguments for and against with justification OR Several linked, justified arguments for one position</td><td>4–6 marks</td></tr><tr><td>Good, well-justified arguments for and against, linked together</td><td>7–9 marks</td></tr><tr><td>Very well-justified. Well-justified arguments for and against, linked together leading to a reasonable conclusion.</td><td>10–12 marks</td></tr></table> <p>Accept any relevant point or justification</p>	One argument with justification	1–3 marks	Different arguments for and against with justification OR Several linked, justified arguments for one position	4–6 marks	Good, well-justified arguments for and against, linked together	7–9 marks	Very well-justified. Well-justified arguments for and against, linked together leading to a reasonable conclusion.	10–12 marks	
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Very well-justified. Well-justified arguments for and against, linked together leading to a reasonable conclusion.	10–12 marks									

## 2. The holy books

Question Number	Answer/Mark Scheme
35.	<p>What is the meaning of the name 'Qur'an'?</p> <p>a) duty b) reading c) example d) <b>recitation</b> ✓</p>
36.	<p>Name two holy books and their writings in Islam, <i>other than the Qur'an</i>.</p> <p>Here, you need to be clear.</p> <p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Psalms (Zabur)</li> <li>• Gospels (Injil)</li> <li>• Torah (Tawrat)</li> <li>• Scrolls of Abraham</li> </ul> </p> <p>Accept any relevant point, 1 mark per point (maximum 2 marks)</p>
37.	<p>Explain two ways in which the Qur'an influences Muslims' daily lives.</p> <p>You could mention any two of the following, but make sure that you develop each point to get the additional mark.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Muslims believe that it contains the word of Allah, revealed to Muhammad by the Angel Jibril, so they should follow it in all aspects of life.</li> <li>• As it is divinely inspired, it conveys truths about Allah that should guide everyday life.</li> <li>• It teaches Muslims what is right and wrong, how to behave and how to live, and fair, so it can be used as a guide and a source of knowledge.</li> <li>• Because it is used by all Muslims it can be said to strengthen the worldwide community of Muslims.</li> </ul> <p>Accept any relevant points 1 mark per simple point, 2 marks per developed point (maximum 2 marks)</p>
38.	<p>What do Muslims teach or believe about some Christian and Jewish religious writings? Refer to Scripture.</p> <p>The 5-mark questions ask you about two teachings/practices and to refer to Scripture. As making two points and developing/justifying both, you must refer to Scripture as appropriate for the extra mark. You can't get full marks if you don't. Again, try to make sure your points are as different as possible so that the marking gives you credit for every point/development you make.</p> <p>Here, you need to be clear about which religious writings in Islam are relevant. Christian: the Torah, Psalms and Gospel. You could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Muslims believe that other religious writings, which are also important in Christianity and Judaism, were revealed by Allah before the Qur'an (Tawrat in Arabic), Psalms (Zabur) and the Gospel of Jesus (Injil).</li> <li>• The Torah was given to Moses – Musa – who is also important in Islam. It says: 'It was We who revealed the law (to Moses): therein was guidance for you, if you were God-fearing.'</li> <li>• The Psalms – prayers, poems and worship songs to God – were revealed to Dawood, or David, who is a prophet in Islam.</li> <li>• Muslims also believe that the Gospel of Jesus, the prophet Isa in Islam, is important.</li> <li>• You could add that the Qur'an calls Jews and Christians 'People of the Book' because of the common scriptures of these three faiths.</li> <li>• However, the Torah, Psalms and Gospel were subject to change over time, unlike the Qur'an, which is held as highly in regard as the Qur'an – this is the reason for its status in Islam.</li> </ul> <p>Accept any relevant points and reference to Scripture 1 mark per simple point, 2 marks per developed point (maximum 4 marks) relevant reference to Scripture If <i>only</i> one religious way is mentioned, maximum 2 marks + 1 mark for relevant reference</p>

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Question Number	Answer/Mark Scheme	Number of
39.	<p>'The Qur'an should be the only source of authority for Muslims.' Evaluate this statement.</p> <p>Argue for and against this statement. You must refer to Muslim teaching. Reach a conclusion that follows from your argument.</p> <p>This question requires you to know about holy books and religious writings other than the Qur'an that are important in Islam. Remember to define what the Qur'an is (what the name means ('recitation')). The main point here is that the Qur'an is the source of authority for Muslims, but that other books are also important.</p> <p>Points to discuss are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• One of the main beliefs of Islam is the importance of the holy books – this is one of the six articles of faith in Sunni Islam.</li><li>• Holy books are also very important in Shi'a Islam.</li><li>• The Qur'an is the most important source of authority for Muslims – they believe it contains the word of Allah.</li><li>• The Qur'an is divinely inspired.</li><li>• It is also a guide for Muslims.</li><li>• It shows them how to be good and fair, and contains knowledge.</li><li>• It is used by all Muslims so strengthens the ummah.</li><li>• You could include the point that Muslims believe that the Qur'an in Arabic is the most authentic, and that translations do not convey the message of Allah with the same beauty.</li><li>• The Qur'an corrects errors in previous religious writings, including the Jewish and Christian writings. It is the completion of these other books.</li><li>• You could include how the Qur'an is treated by Muslims. Other holy books and religious writings, while always treated with respect, are not treated in the same way.</li></ul> <p>However:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• You could argue that passages of the Qur'an that were revealed to Muhammad were passed around by word of mouth, so you could question the effect of this (accidental change, etc.) – does this make a difference to its authority and that other sources are needed, e.g. Hadith.</li><li>• Muslims do consult other books (they need further guidance. Some may consult experts in Islam, scholars at mosques, etc.</li><li>• Muslims use the Hadith, collections of writings about the life of the Prophet Muhammad, which contain his sayings and teachings. These are categorised into those that are most likely to go back to Muhammad's original words/meaning.</li><li>• These can guide Muslims as to how to live life according to the Qur'an and help them to understand and follow its teachings. Sometimes the Qur'an can be hard to understand or to apply to the modern day, and other sources may help.</li><li>• Sunnah can also be used as a guide to worshipping Allah and to how to behave, and, like Hadith, can help to clarify and give additional information.</li><li>• Don't forget that Muslims believe that other religious writings were revealed by Allah before the Qur'an – Torah (Tawrat), Psalms (Zabur) and the Gospels (Injil).</li></ul>	
	One argument with justification	1–3 marks
	Different arguments for and against, with justification OR Several linked, justified arguments for one position	4–6 marks
	Good, well-justified arguments for and against, linked together	7–9 marks
	Very well argued. Well-justified arguments for and against, linked together and leading to a reasoned conclusion.	10–12 marks
	A generally relevant point or justification	

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### 3. The Imamate in Shi'a Islam: its role and significance

Question Number	Answer/Mark Scheme
40.	<p>In Shi'a Islam, how many Imams succeeded Muhammad as leaders of the Muslim community?</p> <p>a) four b) eight c) ten d) <b>twelve</b> ✓</p>
41.	<p>Give the names of any two of the 'Rightly Guided Caliphs'.</p> <p>There were four, so you can choose any two from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Abu Bakr</li> <li>• Umar</li> <li>• Uthman</li> <li>• Ali</li> </ul> <p>Accept any relevant point, 1 mark per point (maximum 2 marks)</p>
42.	<p>Explain two ways in which disagreement over who should succeed Muhammad influenced the development of Islam.</p> <p>You need to be clear about why groups disagreed over who should succeed Muhammad, and that this caused the Sunni/Shi'a division. For your two points, why this happened, you could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Muhammad's followers disagreed as some thought that his successor should be a family member and blood relative, and Ali, his cousin and the first Imam, was closest. These became Shi'as.</li> <li>• Others believed that Abu Bakr, Muhammad's closest friend and the first person outside Muhammad's family to become a Muslim, was the best choice. These became Sunnis.</li> <li>• The first Muslims were both a religious and a political group, so the idea of a blood relative of Muhammad was not necessary, so that Abu Bakr should succeed even though he wasn't a blood relative of Muhammad.</li> </ul> <p>Accept any relevant points 1 mark per simple point, 2 marks per developed point (maximum 4 marks)</p>

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Question Number	Answer/Mark Scheme	Number of								
43.	<p>'Belief in the Imamate is the main difference between Sunni and Shi'a Muslims. Evaluate this statement.</p> <p>Argue for <i>and</i> against this statement. You must refer to Muslim teaching. Reach a conclusion that follows from your argument.</p> <p>As with any question that asks you to evaluate or discuss a statement, you need to show that you know what it means. Here, the main term to explain is 'Imamate' – you must write about what this is and how belief in this makes a difference between Sunni and Shi'a Muslims. This means that you need to write about the disagreements about who should be the successor of Muhammad and what led to these two groups forming. However, don't just tell the story – don't waste time explaining exactly what happened historically. Stick to answering the question. (Simply giving the names of Sunni and Shi'a successors is not doing this – apply what you know to answering the question.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• You must know that the issue of the Imamate isn't the only difference between Sunnis and Shi'as. Others include difference in prayer times/movements, Shi'a belief in the Mahdi (although some Sunni share this), the Shi'a stress on other figures in Islam and martyrdom (e.g. Husayn) that Sunni sometimes disagree with, and differences in the Shahadah.</li><li>• As with most questions like this, you can argue either way, but make sure you back up what you say with correct information.</li><li>• However, it's difficult to say that the differences between Shi'a and Sunni do stem from what happened after Muhammad died.</li><li>• If you have done some extra research about Shi'a Islam you may know that Shi'as believe that there were 12 Imams, e.g. a group called the Ismailis had 12 Imams after the twelfth went into hiding or disappeared (the 'occultation') – in other words, there are differences of opinion about what the Imamate is and who Shi'as too.</li></ul> <table><tr><td>One argument with justification</td><td>1–3 marks</td></tr><tr><td>Different arguments for and against, with justification OR Several linked, justified arguments for one position</td><td>4–6 marks</td></tr><tr><td>Good, well-justified arguments for and against, linked together</td><td>7–9 marks</td></tr><tr><td>Very well-justified. Well-justified arguments for and against, linked together and leading to a reasonable conclusion.</td><td>10–12 marks</td></tr></table> <p>Accept any relevant point or justification</p>	One argument with justification	1–3 marks	Different arguments for and against, with justification OR Several linked, justified arguments for one position	4–6 marks	Good, well-justified arguments for and against, linked together	7–9 marks	Very well-justified. Well-justified arguments for and against, linked together and leading to a reasonable conclusion.	10–12 marks	
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