



Revision Summaries for GCSE AQA A Religious Studies

Component 1: Islam

Update v1.1, October 2025

zigzageducation.co.uk

**POD
8752**

Publish your own work... Write to a brief...
Register at publishmenow.co.uk

Follow us on Twitter [@ZigZagRS](https://twitter.com/ZigZagRS)

Contents

Thank You for Choosing ZigZag Education.....	ii
Teacher Feedback Opportunity	iii
Terms and Conditions of Use	iv
Teacher’s Introduction.....	1
Introduction to Islam	2
Key Beliefs	3
The Six Articles of Sunni Islam and the Five Roots of Shi’a Islam.....	3
Tawhid	6
The Nature of God.....	8
Angels.....	10
Predestination and Free Will.....	12
Life after Death	14
Practice Questions – Key Beliefs	16
Authority	17
Prophethood	17
The Holy Books.....	20
Imamate	22
Practice Questions – Authority	24
Worship	25
The Five Pillars of Sunni Islam and the Ten Obligatory Acts of Shi’a Islam	25
The Shahadah.....	28
Salah.....	30
Practice Questions – Worship	33
Duties and Festivals	34
Sawm.....	34
Zakah	37
Hajj	40
Jihad	43
Festivals.....	45
Practice Questions – Duties and Festivals.....	48
Mark Schemes – Key Beliefs.....	49
Mark Schemes – Authority.....	50
Mark Schemes – Worship	51
Mark Schemes – Duties and Festivals	53

Teacher's Introduction

The revision summaries in this series are designed to support your students as they study GCSE AQA A Component 1: Islam specification, and have been designed to cover the major themes and concepts of each topic point accordingly.

All students, whether they are academically strong, average or weak, can benefit from a concise and clearly explained set of notes to revise from, both as they work through the AQA course but also when preparing for their end of course exams. It is recommended, therefore, that students be given each relevant summary after learning a topic so that they can clearly understand the summaries and refer back to them when needed. The summaries can also function well, however, as a pack given to students in the run-up to their exams.

Remember!

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

Each topic follows a set structure detailed below:

- ✓ **Keywords:** A clear list of important terminology students need to know when studying the topic.
- ✓ **Overview:** A look at the major themes of the topic, with a brief introduction to the major points of discussion and disagreement.
- ✓ **Key Points:** The main body of the summaries for each topic, they are a clear and concise set of notes that help students support their own knowledge and understanding of the topic.
- ✓ **Student Checklist:** A helpful guide to what students need to know by the end of the revision summary and a way to check their understanding and progress through a particular topic.
- ✓ **Practice Questions:** A full set of practice questions (with extra multiple-choice questions), complete with mark schemes. These are useful for students wishing to improve their knowledge on a particular topic and to practice skills as they approach their end-of-year exams.

This clearly ensures students have not only a grasp of the key themes of each topic, but a way to understand their place within the specification as a whole. Students who may have missed lessons or not made detailed notes may benefit greatly from these revision summaries in helping their recollection of key topics closer to their end-of-course exams, especially when looking over topics covered earlier in their studies.

September 2018

Update v1.1, October 2025

As per the exam board assessment updates, changes have been made to the practice questions:

- "contrasting" replaced with "different" in the 4 mark question
- 5-mark question replaced with a 6-mark question
- 2-mark question reduced to a 1-mark question

Free Updates!

Register your email address to receive any future free updates* made to this resource or other RS resources your school has purchased, and details of any promotions for your subject.

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

Go to zzed.uk/freeupdates

Introduction to Islam



Overview

Islam is the second largest faith group in the world today, with 1.8 billion people who follow this monotheistic faith, which means that Muslims believe in one God, who is commonly referred to as 'Allah'.

Islam began in the sixth century with the preaching of a holy man named **Muhammad**, the most important **Prophet** and final Prophet of Islam. He is considered to be the Father of the faith. Muslims believe he was given the final revelation from God, which was subsequently revealed in the form of the **Qur'an**, which is the holy text of Islam. The Qur'an is, for the most part, the primary authority. Other sources of authority include the **Sunnah** (the actions of the Prophet) and the sayings of the Prophet.

The word Islam means 'submission' and large parts of the faith are about following the teachings of the ways of the Prophet. A Muslim will demonstrate their submission to God in their daily prayers, including daily prayer. Some Muslims pray five times a day, while others pray three times. In all prayers, Muslims will prostrate themselves to demonstrate their submission to God.

There are different branches of Islam. The two dominant factions are the **Sunni** and the **Shi'a**, the only groups of Muslims. Furthermore, within these groups, Muslims might hold to be part of a particular branch based on whether or not they believe in certain teachings derived from jurisprudence, or the interpretation of the law.

Islam is a religion that began as a small religious movement in what is now known as Arabia, and through military conquest to become an empire, and is now an established world religion. Countries of many nations such as Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Iran.



Key Points

Muhammad

The Prophet Muhammad is the founder of Islam. In the beginning of the sixth century, the Angel Jibril visited the Holy Man in a cave on Mount Hira to begin the process of delivering the Holy book, the Qur'an. After his name, you might commonly see the phrase 'peace be upon him' as a common practice as a mark of respect for the important Prophet. His life is considered a model that many will strive to follow his life actions.

The Qur'an

The Qur'an is the holy text within Islam. It is understood by Muslims to be the literal revelation to the Prophet Muhammad. It is considered perfect and without flaw in its content. It is kept above all other books within a Muslim home as a mark of respect. It is the source from which Muslims can derive moral teachings.

Sunnis and Shi'as

There are two major branches of the Islamic faith. These are known as the Shi'a and the Sunni. Muslims in the world identify as Sunni. This divide is rooted in the issue of succession after the Prophet Muhammad in 632 CE. The Sunni Muslims thought that the succession should go to the first companion of the Prophet, while the Shi'a Muslims thought that the succession should go to the Prophet who was married to Muhammad's daughter, Fatimah. This resulted in a branch that exists to this day.

The Five Pillars

Within Islam, there is an analogy which describes the way in which the practices of Islam are supported. These are the Shahadah (the declaration of faith), Salah (daily prayer), Sawm (fasting), Zakat (charitable giving) and the undertaking of the Hajj (the pilgrimage to Makkah).

INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED



Key Beliefs

The Six Articles of Sunni Islam Five Roots of Shi'a Islam



Keywords

- **Sunni** – One of the main branches of Islamic faith that they follow the Six Articles of Faith.
- **Shi'a** – One of the main branches of Islamic faith that they follow the Five Roots of Faith.
- **Allah** – This is the Arabic word for God.
- **Islam** – This is the faith which Muslims follow; the word 'Islam' means 'submission'.
- **Usul ad-Din** – The five principles of Shi'a Islam.
- **Articles of Faith** – The term for the central facets of Sunni belief.
- **Adalah** – The Shi'a term for the Justice of God.
- **Tawhid** – Belief in the Oneness of God.
- **Angels** – Unseen, holy entities who bring God's revelation to humans.
- **Risalah** – This is the article of faith which refers to belief in Prophets.
- **Day of Judgement** – The day the world will end and Muslims believe all humans will be judged for their actions.
- **Justice** – The concept that God will treat humans with fairness and without bias.
- **Resurrection** – The concept of God raising humans from the dead on the Day of Judgement.
- **Imamate** – This is the Shi'a belief in the leadership of the Imams.
- **Twelvers** – The section of Shi'a Islam that specifically believes in Twelve Imams.
- **Supremacy** – The idea that God is all-powerful over all of creation.



Overview

The Sunni and Shi'a branches are the two main factions within Islam. These were created after the death of the Prophet when the Sunnis believed that the father-in-law of the Prophet, Abu Bakr, was the most suitable successor to Muhammad and elected him one of their Four Rightly Guided Caliphs. Conversely, Shi'a Muslims believed that the son-in-law of the Prophet, should have succeeded him. They called him their Imam, and this led to the split of the two groups in terms of leadership which resultantly created divisions in beliefs. Some beliefs, including belief in the Oneness of God and in the Prophets, but there are differences in others. The core facets of each respective branch of Islam are represented in two groupings: The Six Articles of Faith (Sunni Islam) and the Five Roots of Usul ad-Din (Shi'a Islam).



Key Points

The Six Articles of Faith in Sunni Islam

Within Sunni Islam, there are six articles of faith which are central to Sunni beliefs not only regarding God, but also regarding the world around them, the acceptance of God's past interactions with humans and expectations regarding the end of the world.

These Articles are as follows:

- **The Supremacy of God's Will:**
 - This is the belief that God is all-powerful, and therefore everything in existence has been done so because God wished it to be. They believe that nothing has or can happen without God allowing it to.

INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED



- **Belief in Angels**
 - This is the belief in the existence of supernatural beings who are above human belief. They believe that they bring communications from God (revelations) to human beings. They carry out duties they carry out to serve God. There are many angels within Islam, but the most famous is Jibril.
- **Belief in the Authority of the Holy Books**
 - This is the reverence and respect afforded to the Muslim Holy Texts. The Muslims believe that the Qur'an is God's final revelation to mankind. They also believe the Qur'an is the word of God and is immutable. There are other books which are considered holy, but these were either changed or confused.
- **Tawhid**
 - This means the belief in the Oneness of God. Islam is a monotheistic faith. Allah is one, and there is nothing like him, so any concept of comparison with him would contradict this belief is considered to be a great sin within Islam.
- **Belief in the Prophets**
 - This is the belief that God has sent a series of prophets with revelations over the centuries, revealing his will to the world. This culminates in Islamic thought with the Prophet Muhammad, who is considered to be the final Prophet.
- **Belief in the Day of Judgement**
 - This is the belief that there will be a day announced by the blowing of a trumpet. Only God knows the timing of this day. At this point, all of humanity, living or dead, will be brought to account for their actions during life and be judged according to them. This is a major factor as to whether or not they are destined for heaven or for hell.

The Five Roots of Usul ad-Din

Usul ad-Din means the Principles of Religion; the phrasing of these facets of belief as roots demonstrates how these are incredibly important to Shi'a Islam as they directly impact the principles of the faith. The five roots of Shi'a Islam are as follows:




- **Belief in the Oneness of God**
 - Like Sunni Muslims, Shi'a Muslims also lay a great deal of importance on the Oneness of God. As Islam is a monotheistic religion, this is a central, important belief held by Muslims. Any form of polytheism is considered a very grave sin within Islamic thought.
- **Belief in The Justice of God:**
 - This is the root of Shi'a Islam that refers to the nature of God as being just and fair to all people with a fair and impartial view. This is also known as Adalat. They believe that God will therefore act justly as he has superior knowledge and is infallible.
- **Belief in the Prophets**
 - Like Sunni Muslims, Shi'a Muslims believe that God has, throughout history, revealed his will to various people he has deemed worthy. These revelations were given to prophets, culminating in the Prophet Muhammad who is considered to be the final Prophet and the revelation of the Qur'an.
- **Belief in the Day of Resurrection**
 - This refers to the belief in the resurrection on the Day of Judgement. Shi'a Muslims believe that when a person dies, their body stays in the state of Barzakh. At the point of resurrection, the dead will experience the Day of Resurrection – at which point all the living will be brought to account for their actions during the course of their lives.
- **Belief in the Imamate**
 - This is the belief in the Shi'a system of leadership following the death of the Prophet Muhammad. Shi'a Muslims believe in twelve Imams following Muhammad's death in 632 CE in order to guide the community. These were descended from Muhammad through his daughter (Fatima), who was the first Imam. These imams are believed to be infallible.

**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**





Student Checklist

What do I know?	No Idea 	Nearly 	Sure 
I can list all six articles of faith in Sunni Islam.			
I can list all five roots of Usul ad-Din in Shi'a Islam.			
I can describe why these are important to Muslims.			
I can identify and describe the key differences between the six articles and five roots.			
I can identify and describe the key similarities between the six articles and five roots.			

INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED



Tawhid



Key Terms

- **Tawhid** – the concept of the Oneness of God.
- **One** – the singular nature of God.
- **Monotheism** – belief in one god, rather than multiple gods.
- **Shirk** – the Islamic sin of suggesting God is not one.
- **Lesser** – the form of shirk when a person professes that God is one but does not believe it.
- **Greater** – the form of shirk when a person openly states that God is not one.
- **Idolatry** – the practice of worshipping something other than the one God with no form.
- **Calligraphy** – A beautiful form of writing, commonly used to decorate mosques.
- **Shahadah** – the Islamic declaration of faith which declares God to be one.



Overview

This is the Islamic concept of the oneness of God; that he is completely and utterly one. All his words and deeds can only be attributed to One God. This idea permeates various aspects of religion, including the Islamic declaration of faith, the Shahadah, which is said at the point of birth and death, and the practice Salah (daily prayer). This short declaration specifically addresses the concept of God being One.



Key Points

Tawhid

Islam is a monotheistic faith; this means that there is only one God within Islam. This concept of God is known as Tawhid, which means to worship God correctly, as all worship should be directed solely to him. This term is a theme within the religious theory and practice of Islam. It is a central tenet of Islamic belief, repeatedly mentioned and described in Surah 112. This is expressed directly in one of the most important prayers which Muslims express, 'There is no God but Allah, and Muhammad is His Messenger'.

Shirk

The sin of shirk is a particularly serious one within Islam, and is considered to be unforgivable. Shirk is to contradict Tawhid and suggest or declare that God is not one. There are two types of shirk considered to be unforgivable. They are divided into the categories of lesser and greater shirk.

- **Lesser shirk** is to profess verbally that God is one, but to believe inwardly that there are others. It is to believe it.
- **Greater shirk** is to state openly that God is not one, or to state belief that there are others. It is to be a polytheist (someone who believes in more than one God, such as a Hindu) would be committing greater shirk.

Idolatry

Idolatry is a sin within Islam that refers to the potential worship of images or physical objects. The concept of the oneness of God means that only God can be worshipped and, therefore, anything else is considered to be a sin, and a particularly grave sin. As a result of this view, there are no images or statues made. This rule also applies to any potential images of the Prophet Muhammad. This is to ensure that the focus of worship is avoided, allowing the focus of worship to remain on God. This is the reason why there are no images or statues within mosques. Instead, they are commonly decorated with beautiful calligraphy.

INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED



Allah

The Arabic name for God, 'Allah', has no plural forms. This shows how the concept of that Muslims use to refer to God.

Surah 112:

*'He is Allah, the One. Allah, the Absolute. He begets not, nor is He begotten.
And there is nothing comparable to Him'*



Student Checklist

What I know?	No Idea 	Nearly 	Sure
I understand the concept of Tawhid.			
I understand what greater shirk is.			
I understand what lesser shirk is.			
I understand why idolatry is important to avoid in Islam.			
I understand how calligraphy helps Muslims avoid committing idolatry.			

INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED



The Nature of God



Keywords

- **99 Beautiful Names** – this is the number of beautiful names for God that Muslims use as terms for God. These are found in the Qur'an and the Hadiths (sayings of Muhammad).
- **Merciful** – the nature of God which depicts his mercy towards human beings.
- **Just** – belief that God will be fair in his judgement, giving punishment and reward.
- **Omnipotent** – the all-knowing, all-powerful nature of God.
- **'Adalat'** – this is the Arabic term for 'God's Justice'.
- **Al-Qadeer** – the Arabic term for the power of God.
- **Transcendent** – the nature of God as being beyond the realm of human physical existence.
- **Immanent** – the nature of God as being constantly close to humanity at all times.
- **Beneficent** – the belief that Allah is completely good.
- **Fair** – belief in the impartiality of God's judgement and treatment of humans.



Overview

Muslims believe that there are many facets of God's nature that collectively present the Islamic view of God. They believe that God has 99 beautiful names, which are remembered through special string of prayer beads with 99 beads – one for each name of God. There are seven main beliefs about the nature of God that are emphasised in Islam. The key beliefs about the nature of God are that he is:

omnipotent, immanent, transcendent, merciful, fair

It is worth noting that the qualities of immanence and transcendence juxtapose with each other. To imagine a God who can be both completely close to humans at all times, and also completely far from humans at all times. This is solved within Islamic thought as they believe that while this would not be a contradiction for a human, God is so powerful and not limited by the boundaries of the physical realm in the same way humans are. God is able to be both at the same time.



Key Points

Merciful

Muslims believe that God shows mercy to those who truly repent and forgives them. This is seen as being merciful to the whole of mankind as well as individuals. The giving of the Qur'an is also seen as a great display of God's mercy towards all of mankind, and his previous revelations as evidence of his mercy throughout history.

Just

'Adalat' is the Arabic term for 'God's Justice'. It expresses the Muslim belief that Allah will judge according to a person's actions throughout their lifetime, good or bad. Muslims believe that Allah will therefore make a judgement of a person's action with full knowledge. They believe that Allah will judge in a just manner today, and this will continue to apply on the Day of Judgement.

Omnipotent

This is the facet of God that refers to his all-powerful nature. Muslims believe that God is all-powerful, able to make all things and control all things. This is also referred to within Islam as Qadir, which refers to the power of God.

INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED



Immanent

This is the facet of God's nature that refers to his constant closeness to mankind. The to man as his jugular vein – which, if cut, will end a person's life. This puts forward that it means to be a living human, and that he cannot be removed from what it means to

Transcendent

The term 'transcendence' in an Islamic context is the fact that God is beyond everything. He is understood to be removed from and greater than mankind.

Fair

This is the belief that God is completely fair; he will treat human beings and judge them as they have acted. Those who have done evil will be treated accordingly, but those who

Beneficent

This is the key belief within Islam that God is inherently and completely good. The goodness of his just, fair and merciful nature, as well as the many blessings he bestows upon people, is referred to 57 times throughout the Qur'an.



Student Checklist

What do I know?	No Idea ☹️	Nearly 😊	Sure 😄
I understand the concept of the Justice of Allah.			
I understand the concept of Allah's mercy.			
I understand the concept of Allah's fairness.			
I understand how Muslims believe Allah shows his goodness.			
I understand how Allah can be both immanent and transcendent.			

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED



Angels



Keywords

- **Angels** – supernatural beings which act as mediators between humans and God.
- **Immortality** – the ability to live forever.
- **Sinless** – the absence of the issue of sin.
- **Jibril** – the most important Angel within Islam.
- **Mika'il** – A prominent angel within Islamic thought.
- **Holy** – meaning 'removed' this refers to a state of being sacred.
- **Revelation** – this refers to communications between God and human beings.
- **Book of Decrees** – this is the book in which angels record the acts and thoughts of humans.
- **Light** – the substance from which angels are made.
- **Free Will** – the ability to make moral choices.
- **Isra'il** – the angel of revelation.
- **Izra'il** – the angel who will blow the trumpet on the Day of Judgement.



Overview

Nature

Muslims believe that angels are real beings; indeed, belief in angels is one of the Six Articles of Faith in Sunni Islam. They believe that they are God's first creation, and that he created them from light. They believe that angels are God's messengers and perform various duties as intermediaries between humans and God. They believe that angels are part of the unseen world. Angels are also considered to be able to dazzle, as they are made of light, whereas humans do not have this ability. Unlike humans, they have no gender – although, for the ease of discussion, it is common to refer to an angel as 'he'. Angels are immortal, so will not suffer death as humans will. They are described in the Qur'an as never ceasing the praising of God. Unlike humans, they have no need of the sustenance gained through food and drink.



Role

Angels within Islam have many duties; one of their main functions, however, is to relay messages from God to humanity. This is because angels are holier than humans, and therefore able to be in the presence of God. Humans are not holy enough to do this. This is because angels are without sin; they do not know what Allah allows them to. As a result of having no free will, they are without sin and can communicate with God.



INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED





Key Points

The key points about angels are regarding their various roles throughout history and function today. Some more important angels have specific central roles within Islam, Mika'il, Israfil and Izra'l.

Jibril

This is the chief angel; he has historically been very important within Islam. He is also known as Gabriel. He has been instrumental throughout Islamic history in giving the most important revelations to the prophets. This was the angel who gave the revelation to the Virgin Mary that she would give birth to Jesus, who is considered to be a very important prophet. Most importantly, Jibril was the angel who revealed the Qur'an to the Prophet Muhammad, commanding him to recite it. He is also known as the Angel of the Holy Spirit.

Mika'il

This is another important angel with a specific role. He helped the Prophet Muhammad throughout his life. Muslims believe that this angel helps believers today with their own spiritual needs. He is responsible for controlling rain, thunder and lightning. He will assist Jibril on the Day of Judgement. It is thought that he never smiles as he has seen the realities of the world and the people can experience here.

Israfil

This is the angel who has a very specific job which has not yet occurred; he is responsible for blowing the trumpet at the end of time at the instruction of God, who is the only One who knows when this will happen. He will indicate the destruction of the world and with it the commencement of the Day of Judgement. He is also called to account for their actions during life. Within Judaism, he may be referred to as the Angel of the Trumpet.

Izra'l

Also known as the angel of death, this is the angel who takes the final breath away from a person. Only God knows and can decide the point at which a person will die; it is Izra'l (or one of the angels who controls), however, who is the one to take the final breath from a soul.

Other duties of angels include:

- Putting the souls into fetuses at either 40 or 120 days gestation (depending on the religion)
- Being guardian angels
- Watching over believers in battle
- Taking souls to either heaven or hell
- Asking souls questions on their actions during Barzakh
- Recording actions in the Book of Deeds



Student Checklist

What do I know?	No Idea 	Nearly 	Sure
I understand the nature of angels in Islam.			
I understand who Jibril is.			
I understand who Mika'il is.			
I understand the responsibilities of angels in Islam.			

INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED



Predestination and Free Will



Key Terms

- **Free Will** – the concept of being able to make moral choices using your own volition.
- **Predestination** – the concept that our choices have been predetermined by a higher power.
- **Al-Qadr** – the Islamic concept of the Power of God.
- **Responsibility** – the idea that with free will comes the burden of responsibility.
- **Day of Judgement** – the idea in which, within Islamic thinking, humans will be judged on their choices and use of free will.
- **Book of Decrees** – where the angels keep a record of the actions undertaken by humans on the Day of Judgement to determine the predestination of each human.



Overview

The concept of predestination refers to the idea that events that happen in our lives on a daily basis are not actually ones we have made of our own volition, but have been predestined. The idea of Free Will refers to the concept that humans have the freedom of choice and volition to make moral choices that are completely their own.

The concept of predestination within Islam is a slightly complicated one. Opinion can be divided into two main groups – the Sunni concept and the Shi'a concept. While they agree on some key points, there are marked differences between the two methods of thinking about this.



Key Concepts

Sunni Concept of Predestination

- The Sunni concept of predestination stems from their belief in the Supreme Will of God, one of the Five Articles of Faith of Sunni Islam. The Supreme Will of God, known as Al-Qadr, means the supreme power over creation and everything in it. It logically follows that God has the power to happen within that creation, which includes human beings. Some Sunni Muslims believe that God determines the actions that a person will take before they make those choices themselves.
- This places greater weight on the concept of God's will rather than the free will of humans. However, they still believe that humans have the responsibility to make moral choices and that the choices they made in their lifetime.

Shi'a Concept of Predestination

- The Shi'a concept of predestination places less emphasis on the all-powerful nature of God and more on the freedom of humans to make their own moral choices. The key difference is that while they agree that God has the knowledge of what a person will choose, but does not necessarily determine it.
- An example of this can be if a wife wishes to buy her husband an anniversary present. She can choose to buy him a limited edition copy of his favourite movie, or she can choose to buy him a well-endowed watch. She will be able to say beforehand which he will choose (most likely, the watch), but he will still have the free will to make his own choice. The key factor here to bring a choice to light beforehand, but her husband still made his own choice.

INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED



Human Responsibility

- Both Shi'a and Sunni Islam believe in the responsibility of humans to make more of our freedom to make choices comes the responsibility to make the right moral choices not only of ourselves (as our choices have a direct impact on where we will be called to account) but also for the benefit of others. The choices we make will impact the wider Ummah. The choices that we make are written to the Book of Decrees and will be used on the Day of Judgement whether or not we go to heaven (Jannah) or hell (Jahannam).

The Day of Judgement

- Regardless of their differing ideas on free will, both groups believe that on the Day of Judgement, which is known only by God, all human beings (dead and alive) are called to account. The Book of Life will be presented to each individual by an angel. If the Book is handed to the person then they have done well in the sight of God and will be going to Jannah (heaven). If the Book is taken away then the person has done bad deeds within their lifetime and is destined for Jahannam (hell).
- Both Sunni and Shi'a Muslims believe that humans still have free will, despite differing views on predestination. The human responsibility to make their own choices directly affects humans' experience of the Day of Judgement.



Student Checklist

What do I know?	No Idea 	Nearly 	Sure
I understand what free will and predestination are.			
I understand the Sunni view on predestination.			
I understand the Shi'a view on predestination.			
I understand the concept of human responsibility.			
I understand how beliefs about free will impact beliefs about the Day of Judgement.			

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED



Life after Death



Keywords

- **Death** – the end of life.
- **Akhirah** – this is the Islamic concept of the afterlife.
- **Barzakh** – this is the state in which humans reside between the point of death and the Day of Judgement.
- **Sirat Bridge** – this is the bridge that spans the fires of hell and over which souls pass on the Day of Judgement.
- **Day of Judgement** – the end of the world, on which day the entirety of human actions in life.
- **Jannah** – the Islamic concept of heaven.
- **Janaham** – the Islamic concept of hell.
- **Book of Deeds** – this is the document in which the thoughts and actions of humans during their lifetime will be recorded.
- **Angels** – unseen beings who have multiple roles in Akhirah.
- **Resurrection** – this is the returning to life of the deceased on the Day of Judgement.



Overview

The reality of life after death is a very important part of Islamic belief. It is represented in Sunni Islam and in the Five Roots of Shi'a Islam. Life after death, referred to as Akhirah, is a certainty within Islam.



Key Points

Barzakh

- Barzakh is the concept within Islam of a state following death.
- This state spans the time in between the point of death and the time God decides on the Day of Judgement. People do not go straight to heaven or hell upon their death, but remain in the state of Barzakh until God decides that the Day of Judgement should take place.
- Some Muslims believe Barzakh is a state of sleep, while others believe you experience a version of where you are destined to be (heaven or hell).
- Some Muslims believe that during the state of Barzakh, you will be visited by two angels who will ask you a series of questions regarding your belief in Allah and your actions while alive.

Akhirah

- Akhirah is the concept within Islam of the afterlife, which is believed to be a certainty. It refers to the entirety of the afterlife – that being, the state of Barzakh, the Day of Judgement, and either Jannah or Janaham.
- It is important to remember that while this is referred to as life after death, this is a concept of a new kind or stage of life in the afterlife.

Day of Judgement

- This is the final day, the timing of which is known only by God. This will commence with the blowing of the trumpet by the angel Israfil. It will involve a **resurrection** of all the dead, who will be brought back to life for their actions during life.
- The Prophet Isa (Jesus) will return, and with the help of Jibril and Mika'il will judge the people.
- On this day, humans will be judged for their actions in their lifetime for which they were judged. The result of the judgment is down to the choices they made – this is the result of the belief that all humans have to make good choices.
- Muslims believe that on the Day of Judgement every human being will be handed a book of their actions. If the book is handed into the right hand then this person will go to heaven. If the book is handed to the left hand then the person will go to hell. This is based on the choices that they have made in life.

INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED



Jannah

- Jannah is the Islamic term for the concept of heaven, which is considered to be a physical place. It is described throughout the Qur'an as a beautiful garden full of joy and pleasure for the inhabitants.
- Those destined to be in Jannah are given plentiful, delicious foods and drinks, spending their time praising God and enjoying the comfort and beauty of heaven.
- While alcohol is considered haram (forbidden) on earth because it intoxicates, there is mention in the Qur'an of sweet heavenly wine which does not intoxicate and is, therefore, able to be enjoyed by the inhabitants.
- The inhabitants of Jannah are also described as being eternally youthful.

Janaham

- This is the Islamic name for hell. Within Islam, it is thought to be a physical place throughout the Qur'an as a place of great and constant suffering.
- Full of fire, Janaham is a place of torment and suffering for those who are there. Those involved in this torment are described in the Qur'an in detail.
- Those who are in Janaham will be punished for their sins in a variety of ways described in the Qur'an, including boiling water poured on them, and being burned with fire. Once their skin becomes so burned that the pain is no longer keenly felt, they will be given a new skin so that the pain is fresh. They will also be forced to drink boiling water.
- The Qur'an states that in hell there is no respite from the suffering in the flames, but it should be noted that while hell will always exist, those who are sent there on the Day of Judgement are not confined there for the entirety of time. There is some respite for those who truly repent – you can still get to Jannah should you truly repent of your sins and submit to Allah. Some sins, however, are unforgivable, such as Shirk (denying the Oneness of God).



Student Checklist

What do I know?	No Idea ☹️	Nearly 😐	Sure 😊
I understand what Akhirah is.			
I understand what Barzakh is.			
I understand what will happen on the Day of Judgement in Muslim theology.			
I understand the difference between Jannah and Janaham.			

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED





Practice Questions – Key Beliefs

Multiple-choice Questions (Note: in the exam papers there will only be one correct answer)

1. 'Risalah' is the term for which belief?
A In the Oneness of God
B In the Justice of God
C In the Imamate
D In the Prophets
2. 'Tawhid' is the Islamic concept which professes what about God?
A Power
B Oneness
C Immanence
D Transcendence
3. Which of the following is the Islamic term for heaven?
A Akhirah
B Janaham
C Jannah
D Barzakh
4. What concept gives Muslims responsibility over their choices?
A Predestination
B Free Will
C Judgement
D Al-Qadr

5. Give **one** example of the responsibilities of angels.
6. Explain **two** understandings of the concept of predestination and free will in Islam.
7. Explain **two** beliefs about life after death in Islam. Refer to at least one piece of evidence in your answer.
8. 'Tawhid is the most important part of the nature of God'
Evaluate this statement, and in your answer:
 - give reference to relevant Islamic doctrine
 - develop well-supported arguments for and against this view
 - give a reasonable and justified conclusion

INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED



Authority

Prophethood



Keywords

- **Risalah** – the concept of belief in Prophets.
- **Prophet** – a person selected by God to receive revelations.
- **Muhammad** – the final Prophet.
- **Adam** – the first man and Prophet.
- **Musa** – Moses; the Prophet who received the Torah.
- **Dawud** – David; the Prophet who received the Psalms.
- **Isa** – Jesus; the Prophet who received the Gospels.
- **Ibrahim** – Abraham; the Prophet who received the Scrolls of Abraham.
- **Ishmael** – the son of Abraham.
- **Revelation** – the messages that God sends through his Prophets.
- **Angels** – unseen beings who bring God's revelation to humans.
- **Seal of the Prophets** – term for Muhammad that establishes his role as the final Prophet.
- **Rasul** – a Prophet who has a revelation for all humankind.
- **Nabi** – a Prophet who has a revelation specifically for themselves.



Overview

The belief in Prophethood within Islam is a key aspect in both Sunni and Shi'a Islam. The term 'Risalah' refers to the belief in the sending of multiple revelations from God to mankind through the medium of prophets. Muslims believe there have been about 124,000 prophets in history, with about 25 of them included or referenced in the Qur'an.

Muslims believe that God sent prophets in his mercy to provide revelation to guide mankind as he is too holy to communicate directly with humans. The giving of revelation, especially the Qur'an, is a clear example of God's merciful nature.

They believe that the line of prophets sent by God ended with the Prophet Muhammad, who was given the final revelation which has not been adulterated as other revelations previously had. They believe that throughout history, God has sent other texts (such as the Torah and the Gospels) to other prophets, but that these texts became misinterpreted. He sent his final revelation in the form of the Qur'an which can never be changed, so cannot become corrupted. This underlines the importance of Muhammad as the final Prophet.

Prophets are chosen by God for a specific reason; for example, the Prophet Muhammad is believed to have been chosen because he was upstanding. His role as the final Prophet as receiver of the Qur'an has made him a central, honoured figure within Islam.

INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED





Key Points

Adam

Role:

- o Iblis tested Adam and Hawwa (Eve), and they fell to temptation in the Garden of Eden.
- o When they were expelled from the Garden of Bliss, Adam and Hawwa were punished and became the first Prophet.
- o The Devil (Iblis) refused to bow down to Adam, disobeying an order to do so from heaven.
- o He built the first form of the Ka'aba.

Importance:

- o Adam was the first man, made from clay.
- o He is considered the father of all mankind.

Ibrahim

Role:

- o This is the Arabic term for Abraham.
- o This is the prophet who is believed to have received The Scrolls of Ibrahim, which are believed to have been completely lost.

Importance:

- o He is remembered specifically on Id-ul-Adha for his willingness to sacrifice his son.
- o He is also believed to be an ancestor of Muhammad, who is believed to be descended from Ishmael.

Muhammad

Role:

- o He was the final of the 124,000 prophets. As a result, he is referred to as the Seal of the Prophets, meaning after him there will be no more prophets sent by God.
- o He lived from 570 to 632 ce
- o He received the Qur'an.

Importance:

- o Muhammad is the most important prophet in Islam.
- o His actions are emulated by Muslims today who attempt to follow the Sunna.
- o Usually, the term 'PBUH' (Peace be upon him) is written or said after the name in respect.

Other Prophets of interest...

Isa

- o This is the Arabic term for Jesus.
- o Muslims believe that Jesus was not the Son of God as he is understood to be revered as an important prophet.
- o They believe he received the Injil (Gospels), but his message was misunderstood by his followers.
- o Importantly, they do not believe that Jesus was crucified and rose again as Christians believe that he was taken up to heaven by God, and did not die.
- o They also refuse to believe that he died for the sake of forgiveness of sins; they believe that to believe that Jesus is capable of doing so is a sin.
- o They do believe that he was born of the Virgin Mary.
- o He will return on the Day of Judgement to help judge humankind.

Musa

- o This is the Arabic term for Moses.
- o Musa is the prophet who received the Tawrat, which is the Arabic word for the Torah.

Dawud

- o This is the Arabic term for David.
- o This is the prophet who received the Zabur, which is the Arabic term for the Psalms.

INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED





Student Checklist

What do I know?	No Idea ☹	Nearly ☺	Sure ☺
I understand the importance of prophets in Islam.			
I understand the role of the Prophet Muhammad.			
I understand the role of Isa, Musa, Dawud, Ibrahim and Adam.			
I understand the role of the prophets in terms of revelation.			

INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED



The Holy Books



Key Words

- **Revelation** – the giving of a message from God to humans.
- **Authority** – the power held by an entity to give instruction or guidance
- **Qur'an** – the final revelation and holiest text in Islam.
- **Injil** – the revelations of Gospels.
- **Tawrat** – the revelation of the Torah.
- **Zabur** – the revelation of the Psalms.
- **Scrolls of Ibrahim** – a revelation which is believed to have been lost.
- **Shari'ah** – the law of God.



Overview

Within Islam, there is a variety of books which are considered to be holy, without necessarily having authority. The most important text within Islam is indisputably the Qur'an, which is the final revelation as given to the Prophet Muhammad. It is considered to be the literal word of God.

Other books considered to be holy in Islam are the Tawrat (Torah), Zabur (Psalms), Scrolls of Ibrahim (Abraham) and the Injil (Gospels). These books are remembered as important revelations, but because their messages have been changed, in Islamic thought, they have no authority in Islam.

The Islamic beliefs regarding Holy Books, specifically the Gospels and the Torah, differ from those of Christians and Jews in Islam. They are viewed as 'People of the Book' who worshipped God but in a misguided way.



Key Points

Qur'an

The Qur'an is the holiest book in Islam. It is considered to be the literal word of God. The revelation of the Qur'an to Muhammad began in 610 CE, at Mount Hira in Makkah by the angel Jibril.

Jibril is believed to have ordered him to 'recite' the Qur'an – which, for an illiterate man such as Muhammad, is considered to be a miracle. He instructed a scribe to write down the revelations in Arabic. To this day, the Qur'an must be written down exactly in Arabic with absolutely no changes, to ensure that the Word of God is preserved. The revelation is remembered each year on the Night of Power during Ramadan.

The Qur'an is written in Arabic, which is the holy language of God. It is considered to be so important that it can cause a person to convert to Islam. It contains 114 Surahs (chapters). The word 'Qur'an' refers to the story of the giving of the revelation to the Prophet by the angel Jibril. It contains accounts, life guidance and instructions on how to follow the will/path of God.

Due to the reverence to the Qur'an as the Word of God, it is respected and viewed as having authority in Islam. It is considered wholly perfect and immutable.

INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED



Injil

This is the Arabic term for the Gospels. These are not the Gospels as we have come to know them in Christian culture; these are past revelation that God gave to Isa during his lifetime. Much of this revelation was confused and adulterated.

The Gospels are referenced 12 times throughout the Qur'an.

Zabur

This is the revelation that was given to the Prophet Dawud, more commonly known as the Psalms.

Scrolls of Ibrahim




This is a revelation that is believed to have been given to the Prophet Ibrahim (Abraham). The original scrolls are believed to have been completely lost.

Tawrat

This is the Arabic term for the Torah: much like the Gospels, however, this is not the same as the Bible we understand within Judaism. Again, Muslims believe that this was revelation that was given to the Prophet Musa but has been changed, parts lost or adulterated over time. These changes made these revelations have resulted in misunderstanding of the message that God was attempting to give people, thus necessitating the need for the Qur'an.



Student Checklist

What do I know?	No Idea 	Nearly 	Sure 
I understand what a revelation is.			
I understand what the Qur'an is, and how it is viewed.			
I understand what the Injil, Zabur, Tawrat and Scrolls of Ibrahim are.			
I understand what the authority of these texts is.			

**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**



Imamate



Keywords

- **Imamate** – the Shi'a belief in divinely ordained and guided leadership for the
- **Imam** – one of the 12 leaders of Shi'a Islam.
- **imam** – the leader of a mosque.
- **Caliph** – the Sunni term for a leader of the faith.
- **Shi'a** – the branch of Islam that believes in the concept of the Imamate.
- **Muhammad** – the final Prophet, whose leadership succession is believed by Shi'a
- **Leadership** – the function of the Imamate.
- **Mahdi** – the final Imam, believed to be hidden until the Day of Judgement.
- **Divine** – the source from which Imams receive their ordination and guidance.
- **Ahl-al-Bayt** – the term which is used to refer to the family of Muhammad.



Overview

The Imamate is the term used to refer to the Shi'a Islamic concept of leadership. This was formed in the issue of the succession from Muhammad. The Prophet died in 632 CE, and the community was divided regarding who should succeed him to lead the Muslim community.

This is where the diverging ideas of the Sunni and Shi'a communities began. Shi'a Muslims believed that the Prophet's in-law, Ali, was the rightful leader. They also believed in the system of future appointment – that is to say, each Imam had the just knowledge and holy guidance to lead the community. They also believe that this leadership should be passed down through the family. Within Shi'a Islam, Imams were elected.

Thus, the idea of Imamate came to be. This was a system of 12 leaders (seven in some branches) chosen from the Shi'a community from the death of the Prophet in 632 CE to 9th century.



Key Points

Imams

- The role of the Imam within Shi'a Islam is to function as a divinely appointed leader of the faith in succession of the Prophet Muhammad. They were intended to guide Shi'a Islam, and were viewed as having divine authority to interpret Scripture.
- The Imams are believed to be just and fair leaders. They are also given the position of authority via their perceived ability to understand and teach the Qur'an, and to interpret Shari'ah Law perfectly.
- Shi'as believe that each generation has an Imam within it, as continuing guidance for people is needed. They are all believed to be descended from the Prophet and, therefore, part of the family of the Prophet, known as Ahl al-Bayt.
- Each Imam has the divine authority and wisdom to appoint their successor.
- The very small grammatical change of a capital 'I' is extremely significant – an imam refers to the leader of a mosque. An Imam with a capital letter refers specifically to the

INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED



Twelvers

- Twelvers are the largest section of Shi'a Muslims who believe there was a successor to the final Imam. They believe that the previous 11 Imams all suffered death, but the twelfth was rather hidden by God somewhere in the world. He is known as the Mahdi.
- There is a smaller part of Shi'a Islam, known as Seveners, who believe there were seven Imams.

Mahdi

- The Mahdi is the term for the final Imam; Shi'as believe that the twelfth and final Imam died in 941 AD. They believe that he did not die, but was rather hidden by God. He will be revealed at the end of time and will join the Prophet Isa (Jesus) in just judgement.



Student Checklist

What I know?	No Idea ☹️	Nearly 😊	Sure 😄
I understand the concept of the Imamate.			
I understand the difference between an Imam and an imam.			
I understand who the Mahdi is.			
I understand the differing Sunni and Shi'a ideas about leadership.			

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED





Practice Questions – Authority

Multiple-choice Questions (Note: in the exam papers there will only be one correct answer)

1. 'Isa' is the Arabic name for which prophet?
A Moses
B Abraham
C David
D Jesus
2. Which of the following is considered to be wholly perfect?
A The Injil
B The Scrolls of Abraham
C The Qur'an
D The Zabur
3. What is the term for belief in the system of leadership in Shi'a Islam?
A Imamate
B Twelvers
C Seveners
D Risalah
4. Which prophet received the Tawrat?
A Ibrahim
B Dawud
C Musa
D Isa

5. Give **one** example of an important prophet within Islam, other than Muhammad.
6. Give **two** examples of holy books within Islam, explaining the authority that each has.
7. Explain **two** examples of the role of the Prophet Ibrahim. Refer to sacred writings.
8. 'The Imamate are the highest authority in Shi'a Islam.'
Evaluate this statement, and in your answer:
 - Give reference to relevant Islamic doctrine.
 - Develop well-supported arguments for and against this view.
 - Give a reasonable and justified conclusion.

INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED



Worship

The Five Pillars of Sunni Islam and the 10 Obligatory Acts of Shi'a Islam



Key Words

- **Pillars** – the central actions of Sunni Islam.
- **Obligatory Acts** – the central actions of Shi'a Islam.
- **Shahadah** – Islamic declaration of faith.
- **Salah** – daily ritualistic prayers.
- **Zakah** – the Islamic system of almsgiving.
- **Hajj** – pilgrimage to Makkah.
- **Sawm** – practice of fasting during the month of Ramadan.
- **Khums** – additional religious tax for Shi'a Muslims.
- **Jihad** – the struggle to follow God's path.
- **Amr-bil-Maruf** – the duty of Shi'a Muslims to promote what is good.
- **Nahi Anil Munkar** – the duty of Shi'a Muslims to oppose what is evil.
- **Tawallah** – the duty of Shi'a Muslims to love God, Muhammad and their 'frier
- **Tabarra** – the duty of Shi'a Muslims to oppose those who oppose the will of G



Overview

The Five Pillars of Sunni Islam and the 10 Obligatory Acts of Shi'a Islam are both central branches of Islam. They share differences and similarities and inform how Muslims how to continue to practise their faith. They are integral to the living of a Muslim life on a daily basis as a way to obey Allah and follow God's path.

The Five Pillars function as part of an analogy – the practices are described as pillars of the religion of Islam. Without upholding the pillars as an individual, the faith of a Muslim is incomplete.

There is notable crossover between the two groupings, namely Salah, Zakah, Sawm and



Key Points

The Five Pillars of Sunni Islam Shahadah

- The Shahadah is the Sunni Muslim declaration of faith, and states as follows:
The Lord Our God is One God and Muhammad is His Messenger
- A statement which asserts the oneness of God, remembering the importance of God.
- This is also a prayer which is repeated during Salah.
- This statement is whispered into the ear of every new-born baby and is, ideally, repeated by a dying Muslim.
- Saying the Shahadah earnestly three times in the presence of Muslims is sufficient for conversion.
- Shi'a Muslims also lay importance in the saying of the Shahadah, but they have a different version, adding on the end, '**And Ali is the friend of God**', asserting their view of Ali (the in-law of the Prophet and the first Shi'a Imam) as the successor to Muhammad.

INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED



Salah

- The practice of daily prayer within Islam.
- Prayer involves a series of movements facing Makkah, as well as reciting various prayers.
- Muslims should pray every day, and perform ablutions (ritual washing) before each prayer.
- Sunni Muslims pray five times per day. These are: Fajr (Before the sun comes up), Dhuhr (midday), Asr (afternoon), Maghrib (post-sunset), Isha (night-time).
- Shi'a Muslims combine various prayers throughout the day; thus they only pray once a day.

Zakah

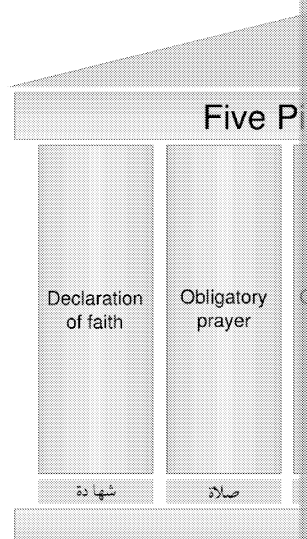
- This is the pillar of Islam which refers to charitable giving.
- All Muslims are required to give Zakah if they have sufficient savings.
- This is given at a set rate; Zakah requires a person to give away 2.5% of their savings.
- There are many benefits to giving Zakah, not least of which is the perceived purification of money.

Hajj

- This is the pillar of Islam which refers to the Muslim pilgrimage to the holy city of Makkah. Every able Muslim is required to undertake this pilgrimage at some point in their life.
- It takes place during the Islamic month of Dhul-Hijjah.
- The Hajj is a multi-day event in which pilgrims travel between different holy sites performing specific rituals or prayers at each.

Sawm

- This is the act of fasting during the Islamic month of Ramadan.
- During the daylight hours of Ramadan (sunrise to sunset every day), Muslims practising Sawm will fast from food and water (as well as tobacco and sexual intercourse) for the duration of the day.
- There are exceptions to the requirement to practise Sawm, such as pregnant women, menstruating women, the elderly and the infirm.



The 10 Obligatory Acts of Shi'a Islam

As previously stated, the 10 Obligatory Acts of Shi'a Islam also include Salah, Zakah, and Hajj. As Shahadah is omitted, it is still an important part of Shi'a Islam and has the additional meaning of being the friend of God. The remaining 10 Obligatory Acts of Shi'a Islam are as follows:

Khums

This is an additional religious tax for Shi'a Muslims which states that they should give 20% of their savings (or more) to charity. It should be noted that Shi'a Muslims who give Khums are considered to be closer to God.

Jihad

This is the Islamic struggle to follow God's path. It has two different forms, the greater and the lesser. The greater form of jihad is the personal struggle of the individual to follow the will of God. The lesser form of jihad is the outward struggle against those who oppose the Islamic faith.

Amr-bil-Maruf

This is the duty of Shi'a Muslims to promote what is good in others, for the sake of the good of the Ummah (wider Muslim community). The term Maruf refers to anything good or virtuous, therefore this is the duty to encourage others in the walk of God's path.

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED



Nahi Anil Munkar

This refers to the duty of Shi'a Muslims to oppose what is evil, and, where possible, to ensure that those who are evil should have the power and means to do so.

Tawallah

This refers to the duty of Shi'a Muslims to love God, Muhammad and their 'friends' – those referred to as the friend of God in the Shi'a addition to the Shahadah.

Tabarra

This is the duty of Shi'a Muslims to oppose those who oppose the will of God, or those who are noted that there is no indication in the Qur'an or Hadith of who is an enemy of God. A clear interpretation of this obligatory act is required. This can sometimes become somewhat controversial within the wider Ummah when applied to the Sunni/Shi'a divide.



Student Checklist

What do I know?	No Idea ☹️	Nearly 😊	Sure 😄
I understand what the Five Pillars of Sunni Islam are.			
I understand what the 10 Obligatory Acts of Shi'a Islam are.			
I understand the difference between Zakah and Khums.			
I understand what Tawallah and Tabarra are.			
I understand what Nahi Anil Munkar and Amr-bil-Maruf are.			
I understand the crossover between the 10 Obligatory Acts and the Five Pillars of Islam.			

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED



The Shahadah



Key Terms

- **Declaration** – this is the announcement of a statement.
- **Tawhid** – the Oneness of God.
- **Muhammad** – the most important Prophet in Islam.
- **Shi'a** – a branch of Islam which has its own addition to the Shahadah.
- **Ibad Allah** – a servant of God.



Overview

The Shahadah is considered to be the central pillar of Islam. This is not to say it is the only pillar of Islam as the other four pillars are equally important, but it is usually represented as the central pillar due to the use and repetition of the Shahadah throughout Islam. It is repeated daily in prayers and before sleep, as well as at the birth of a new-born and at the point of death. A person who truly embraces the Shahadah is known as 'Ibad Allah' which means 'servant of Allah'.

This is the declaration of Islamic faith in One God, and the acknowledgement of Muhammad as the Prophet. The Shahadah declares:

'The Lord Our God is One God, and Muhammad is his Messenger'



Key Points

Tawhid

This is the concept of the Oneness of God. This is critical in the Islamic understanding of God within the Shahadah.

Shi'a Shahadah

While the Shahadah is not an obligatory act in Shi'a Islam, it is still an important declaration. The Shi'a Shahadah involves an addition which acknowledges the importance of the first Imam, Ali.

'The Lord Our God is One God, Muhammad is His Messenger, and Ali is the friend of the Prophet.'

Conversion

In order to convert and become a Muslim, a person must earnestly state the Shahadah in front of other Muslims. This demonstrates the importance of the Shahadah, as it being the means by which one becomes a Muslim.

INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED





Student Checklist

What do I know?	No Idea ☹	Nearly ☺	Sure 😊
I understand what the Shahadah is, and what it says.			
I understand the link between the Shahadah and Tawhid.			
I understand the role of the Shahadah in Islam.			
I understand the importance of the Shahadah as a pillar of Islam.			

INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED



Salah



Key Words

- **Rak'ahs** – the Arabic term for the movements which Muslims perform during
- **Wudu** – the term for the ritual washing or ablutions that should be performed
- **Fajr** – sunrise prayers
- **Asr** – noon prayers
- **Zuhr** – afternoon prayers
- **Maghrib** – sunset prayers
- **Isha** – night-time prayers
- **Prostrations** – the act of kneeling and putting one's head to the floor; this for movements which Muslims make during prayer.
- **Makkah** – the holiest city in Islam and is the direction of prayer.
- **Jummah** – the weekly Friday prayers in the Mosque which male Muslims attend
- **Mosque** – the Muslim place of worship where communal Friday prayer takes place



Overview

Salah is the pillar of faith that refers to the daily prayers. These happen five times per day for Sunni Muslims and three times per day for Shi'a Muslims. They occur at set times and involve set recitations and prostrations. Salah is a daily duty which is commanded in the Qur'an.

One very important fact to remember about Salah is that Muslims believe through Salah they are in the presence of God.



Key Points

Rak'ahs

- This is the Arabic term for the movements which Muslims will undertake during prayer; an image to the right demonstrates the movements which they will undertake.
- There is a series of movements involved including kneeling, bowing and touching one's head to the floor or to the prayer mat.
- They will always pray facing Makkah and will bow in this direction during prayer. This is considered to be a physical sign of their submission to God.
- Sunni and Shi'a practice of Rak'ahs differs as Shi'as prayers differ in that Shi'as touch their head to something akin to a block of clay during prostrations, whereas Sunnis will touch their head to the floor.



**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**



Recitations

- When Muslims prostrate themselves in prayer, they say a series of set recitation always the same and are said at the same point during the prostrations in prayer.
- For example, they will always begin a prayer with the phrase 'Allahu Akbar' which means 'God is the Greatest'.
- Some examples of some of the things they say include:

All glory be to Allah.

Praise be to Allah.

There is no God except Allah.

Allah is the Greatest.

There is no power and strength except within Allah.

Wudu

- The practice of ritual washing before prayer. This was first used in the Sunnah as mentioned in the Qur'an. Specifically, wudu involves the washing of the face, hands, forearms, feet and head. It is a symbol of respect and also as a way to prepare themselves to pray. It is a symbol of respect and also as a way to prepare themselves to pray.
- This should be done in preparation for prayer; Mosques will have specific areas for wudu. However, it should be stressed that it is a symbol of respect and also as a way to prepare themselves to pray.
- Should a Muslim be put in a position where they have no access to any water, it is a provision for a form of dry wudu performed with a substance such as sand. This ritual is specifically about preparation for prayer rather than cleanliness.

Prayer Times

Sunni Muslims pray five times per day. These are:

- Fajr – sunrise prayers
- Asr – noon prayers
- Zuhr – afternoon prayers
- Maghrib – sunset prayers
- Isha – night-time prayers

It should be noted that Shi'a Muslims pray three times per day, rather than five. This is because they combine the Zuhr and Asr (noon and afternoon) prayers and the Maghrib and Isha (sunset and night-time) prayers. They pray once in the morning, once at midday or afternoon and once at night.

In addition to Salah, Muslims can also practise Du'a, which is additional personal prayer. It is a request for help or a plea for forgiveness about a particular thing happening in their life at that time.

Jummah

Jummah is the word which refers to Friday prayers at the mosque. This is communal prayer. Women are not required to attend Jummah, and can instead pray at home. Men are required to attend Jummah at the mosque to pray together and listen to a sermon by the imam.

Like elsewhere, prayer in the mosque during Jummah (and other prayers in the mosque) is in the direction of Makkah. The direction of Makkah within the mosque is indicated by the structure of the mosque, there is a mihrab (curved indentation) on the Quibla Wall. In all mosques, the mihrab is in the direction of Makkah, enabling Muslims to pray easily in the direction of Makkah.

Men are required to pray Jummah on a Friday, but women are not. This is because women are required to stay at home and look after the children, whereas men had the freedom to go to the mosque. Women are required to pray still at this time, but this can be done at home. Muslim homes do not have a mihrab, but they will require a clean and clear area of floor on which they will use to pray. They also pray in the direction of Makkah within the home, so they would need to know in which direction Makkah is.

**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**





Student Checklist

What do I know?	No Idea ☹	Nearly ☺	Sure 😊
I understand what Salah is.			
I understand the five daily times of prayer.			
I understand what Jummah is			
I understand the role of Rak'ahs.			
I understand the role of wudu.			
I understand the significance of the direction of prayer.			

INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED





Practice Questions – Worship

Multiple-choice Questions (Note: in the exam papers there will only be one correct answer)

1. Which Pillar of Islam is the declaration of faith?
A Sawm
B Shahadah
C Salah
D Hajj
2. Which of the following do the Sunni Pillars and the Shi'a Obligatory Acts not share?
A Khums
B Zakah
C Salah
D Sawm
3. What is the direction for the movements made during prayer?
A West
B Makkah
C Rak'ahs
D Quibla
4. Which of the following statements is the Shahadah?
A Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is one
B The Lord Our God is One God, and Muhammad is his messenger
C The Lord our God is one, and Muhammad and Ali are his friends
D The Lord our God Is One, And Ali is his friend

5. Give **one** version of the Shahadah.
6. Explain the role of recitations and Rak'ahs within Salah.
7. Explain the role of Zakah in Islam. Refer to scripture within your answer.
8. 'The Shahadah is the most important Pillar of Islam'
Evaluate this statement, and in your answer:
 - give reference to relevant Islamic doctrine
 - develop well-supported arguments for and against this view
 - give a reasonable and justified conclusion

INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED



Duties and Festivals

Sawm



Key Words

- **Ramadan** – the holiest month in the Islamic calendar.
- **Fasting** – the act of abstaining from food and drink.
- **Exceptions** – groups of people or situations in which people are omitted from fasting.
- **Ummah** – the wider Muslim community.
- **Zakah** – the giving of charity.
- **Qur'an** – Muslim holy text.
- **Recitations** – many Muslims will memorise verses of the Qur'an during Ramadan.



Overview

- Sawm is the practice of fasting for the period of time from sunrise to sunset during the month of Ramadan in the Muslim calendar. It is an extremely important month in the Islamic calendar, providing an opportunity to refocus on God as well as the practice of fasting providing the opportunity for spiritual discipline. Furthermore, fasting during Ramadan is considered to have many benefits as well as being directly commanded in the Qur'an.
- Meaning 'to restrain', Sawm is a practice of spiritual discipline, as fasting from both food and water is a difficult and uncomfortable task. There is a variety of spiritual benefits to fasting which help a Muslim to endure their fast. It is a time to focus on God, religious practice and ensuring a believer is being the best Muslim they can be. Increased reading of the Qur'an is also a common practice during the month of Ramadan.



Key Points

Ramadan

- This is the ninth and holiest month within the Islamic lunar calendar. Because of the lunar calendar, this month moves around the seasons throughout the years. This can be difficult for those practicing Sawm, as should Ramadan fall in the summer, the days are longer, and the heat can render the abstinence from drinking water very hard.
- Ramadan is the time of the year when a Muslim will look at their life and re-evaluate it, and think about how they can improve and follow God's path better than they have before. It is a time for meditation on personal sins and morality as well as a chance to re-focus on God and the Muslim community.

Fasting Origin

- The origin of Sawm finds its roots in the very beginning of the giving of revelation. The month during which the revelation was given to Muhammad (Ramadan) is commanded within the Qur'an to be a month of fasting. The Prophet himself encouraged his followers to fast in order to remember this time.

INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED



Duties

- This is the practice of abstaining from food and drink during the hours of daylight for a variety of reasons, and is considered to have a variety of benefits. Fasting is a spiritual ability for mind to triumph over matter. The spirit of fasting is as important as the act itself. The Prophet himself also practised fasting, so it is Sunnah to fast.
- By going without food or drink for these hours, Muslims are reminding themselves of the less fortunate within the Ummah who may not have regular access to food and water. Muslims feel prompted to give Zakah during the time of Ramadan.

Benefits

- There is a variety of benefits to fasting, within Islamic thought. These benefits include increased closeness to God, spiritual self-discipline, unity within the Ummah, and the achievement of spiritual goals. Hadith 31 states that, *'whoever fasts during Ramadan out of sincere faith and hoping his past sins will be forgiven.'* Furthermore, fasting is a benefit of reminding Muslims of the less fortunate. It is a blessing from God, fostering in them compassion and empathy for those less fortunate.
- It should also be noted that Muslims do not just fast from food and drink during Ramadan, but also from intercourse and tobacco. Muslims are also fasted from during the hours of daylight. Furthermore, the fast is ended by the eating of food and drink following sundown. This was the practice of the Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) to follow.

Exceptions

- There is a variety of exceptions for those who do and do not fast during Ramadan. It is important to remember that God is merciful, and while Ramadan should be a burden which reminds believers of their spiritual discipline, it should not be a burden to the point at which it causes harm to the body. Muslims should believe that God shows mercy to those to whom it would cause harm, who are not able to fast. A reasonable approach, which is an important facet within Islam as reason is of central importance.

For example, people who are exempt from fasting are as follows:

- Pregnant women
- The elderly
- Nursing mothers
- Infirm people
- Children under the age of 12
- Menstruating women
- Those travelling
- It should be noted, however, that while menstruating women and travellers are exempt from fasting during Ramadan, they are required to make this up at a later date, so while they may not fast during Ramadan, they will fast at another time. Pregnant women, elderly people, nursing mothers and children are all exempt for health reasons.

Night of Power

- The Night of Power, also known by the Arabic term Lailat al-Qadr, is the night of the year when Muslims remember the giving of the revelation of the Qur'an from God to Muhammad through the angel Jibril. This night is observed within Muslim practice by praying and reading of the Qur'an and focused prayer. It should be noted that Muslims do not know the exact date on which this night occurs, but it is believed that this night occurred during the month of Ramadan and therefore this is when it is remembered.

"The Night of Power"




'Recite! In the name of your Lord who created man from a clinging clot. The Lord is most gracious, teaching by the pen.'

**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**





Student Checklist

What do I know?	No Idea 	Nearly 	Sure 
I understand what Sawm is.			
I understand why Muslims fast.			
I understand the significance of Ramadan.			
I understand the exemptions to fasting, and why they are exempt.			
I understand the role of the Night of Power.			

INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED



Zakah



Keywords

- **Zakah** – the pillar of Islam regarding charitable giving.
- **Charity** – the giving of financial means to help those less fortunate.
- **Ummah** – the wider community of believers within the globe.
- **2.5%** – the percentage of their amassed wealth which able Muslims are required to give.
- **Purify** – this is the meaning of the word Zakah.
- **Benefits** – there is a variety of positive outcomes for both the giver and receiver.
- **Nisab** – the term for the minimum amount of money that a Muslim can have before they are required to give Zakah.
- **Sadaqua** – this means voluntary charity which is given in addition to Zakah.



Overview

Zakah is the pillar of Islam that refers to the giving of charity to the less fortunate. It is a fixed rate, assuming they meet the minimum financial threshold for Zakah. This is referred to as Nisab.

Zakah can be given either to Muslim charities or to the collection within a mosque. Many Muslim charities have specific sections on their websites where Zakah payments can be made. Any Zakah given to the poor by the mosque itself. In some Muslim-majority countries in which they have a government, Zakah can be paid to the government who then have the responsibility to use the money to help the poor.



Key Points

Percentage

Zakah is given at a fixed rate, which is a percentage of the assets of a Muslim.

Zakah requires the annual giving of 2.5% of the amassed wealth of a Muslim. This is usually calculated on a Muslim's savings, but historically has been calculated using weight (for example, the weight of gold or silver they may have owned).

Benefits

There is a variety of benefits to the giving of Zakah.

The meaning of the word 'Zakah' is 'to purify'; by giving Zakah, a Muslim purifies the money they have remaining, enabling them to spend it well in the eyes of God.

Further benefit of the giving of Zakah is the unity of the Ummah – by giving Zakah to the Ummah who may not be as financially stable as others, they are helping others within the Ummah which is seen as serving the Ummah. For those who are helping their brother or sister in faith is a further benefit. For those who give Zakah, as with all other forms of charity, it can improve their quality of life by enabling them to have such as food or shelter for a time.

'W
a lo
don

**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**



Origins of Zakah

The concept of Zakah finds its origins within the Qur'an – it is a practice by Muslims to do so within the Qur'an. A verse which commands Zakah is as follows:

Charities shall go to the poor, the needy, the workers who convert, to free the slaves, to those burdened by sudden expenses, to Allah, and to the traveling alien. Such is GOD's command. Omniscient, Most Wise.
Qur'an 9:60

Significance of Zakah

Zakah is given for a multitude of reasons. It is important for Muslims to remember that their wealth has not been amassed for their own and they have a duty to remember that wealth that must be shared.

One of the most important parts of Zakah is the way it should be given. That is to say privately – in an ideal setting, the person receiving the money should not know who it should not draw attention to their giving. This is for two reasons – firstly, to underline that all wealth exchanged belong to God, not to the individual. Secondly, Zakah should always be given so the recipient does not feel any shame in receiving charity which will help their situation as it was the donor's wealth. The donor does not feed pride in parading their wealth and good fortune. This connects Zakah to the concept of serving God to help one's fellow Muslims.

Zakah should also be given willingly. Due to the secretive nature of the giving of Zakah, a Muslim should be aware of the giving of Zakah, or the spirit in which it is given, Allah is all-seeing and they should remember Allah in the giving of Zakah.

Further Giving

Islamic concepts of charity are not wholly limited to Zakah.

Khums is a further system of almsgiving which is directly tied to Shi'a Islam; Sunni Muslims are not required to give Khums. Khums is a 20% religious tax applied to the surplus income of Shi'a Muslims. Shi'as are required to give Zakah as well; Khums is an additional form of almsgiving rather than a substitute for Zakah. This comes from Qur'an 8:41 which states, 'Know that whatever of a thing you acquire, a fifth of it is for Allah, for the Messenger, for the near relative, and the orphans and the needy and the wayfarer.' This is divided differently in modern times, with money going to the needy, religious scholars (to support their work) and also to mosques.

Sadaqua is also an important concept regarding almsgiving in Islam. This is the concept of voluntary giving, while not required, it is greatly encouraged.

INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED





Student Checklist

What do I know?	No Idea ☹	Nearly ☺	Successful 😊
I understand what Zakah is.			
I understand the amount that should be given, and how it should be given.			
I understand what Sadaqua is.			
I understand the benefits of Zakah.			
I understand the significance of Zakah.			
I understand the difference between Zakah and Khums.			

INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED





Keywords

Hajj

- **Pilgrim** – a person undertaking Hajj.
- **Hajj** – a religious pilgrimage to Makkah which every able Muslim should undertake.
- **Makkah** – an important Holy site within Islam.
- **Ka'aba** – the centre of the ritual of Tawaf, believed to be the house of God. It was built by Adam and rebuilt multiple times by different Prophets.
- **Tawaf** – the practice of circling the Ka'aba seven times.
- **Zamzam** – this is the well which is believed to have sprung up as a miracle to quench the thirst of Ishmael.
- **Mina** – this is the location of the Jamarat pillars.
- **Jamarat** – three pillars which Muslims pelt with stones on the Hajj to represent the destruction of idols.
- **Irham** – the holy site which Muslims enter into before the commencement of Hajj.
- **Arafat** – this is a mountain and an important site of the pilgrimage.
- **Muzdalifah** – this is a site of Hajj where Muslims will pray, as well as gather to receive the Zakaat.
- **Mount Hira** – a holy site on Hajj where Muslims believe Muhammad received the Qur'an.
- **Id Ul-Adha** – this is a festival which remembers the prophet Ibrahim, celebrated after Hajj.
- **Dhul Hijjah** – this is the month in which Hajj is celebrated.



Overview

Hajj is the pillar of Islam that refers to the required pilgrimage that every able Muslim must take at some point during their lifetime. This pilgrimage centres around the geographical location of Makkah, the holy city within Islam. This is located in Saudi Arabia, as indicated on the map.

This is a pilgrimage that was undertaken by the Prophet in his lifetime. It involves visiting a series of holy sites, each of which involves performing a series of rituals. It is an extremely spiritual and emotional process for most Muslims as this is believed to be the holiest place on earth.

Hajj occurs once annually during the 8th to 12th of the Islamic month of Dhul-Hijjah. A person who has completed Hajj is a Hajji.



INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED





Key Points

There is a variety of important stages of Hajj, which lasts for four days. They are as follows:

Irham

This is a holy state that must be entered into before going on Hajj. Men dress all in **white**, women in one block colour (usually white). Muslims will undergo ritual **washing and prayers**.

The wearing of white and block colours symbolises purity and also the **equality** of all before God.

This is the place where the **seven times** a day Muslims pray at the shrine to God, the Prophet Muhammad was here that the Kaaba was built to others to Allah.

Muslims will also use a **stone** built in their hands in the Kaaba is considered to be the original stone.



Praying at Arafat

Mount Arafat is where Muhammad is believed to have given his final sermon. On the journey here, pilgrims will collect bottled water from the well of **Zamzam** where it is believed God miraculously provided water for Hajar and Ismael.

Once at Arafat, they will spend an afternoon in the heat of the sun praying, specifically for forgiveness of their sins. They believe by doing this, God will forgive their sins.

This is where the night in which pilgrims will spend time **praying**. They will spend time in the selection of 49 days following day.

Mina

Mina is an important location on the pilgrimage. This is the location of the Jamarat pillars, which have both historical and symbolic significance.

The historical significance is that the three pillars represent **Ibrahim, Hajar** and **Ismail** and their respective submission, trust and willingness to be sacrificed to God. Muslims will pelt the **pillars** with stones as they gathered in Muzdalifa the previous day. This remembering of the commandment to **'pelt'** Iblis with stones.

This also symbolises the individual believer's **rejection** of the devil and of **evil and temptation**.

They also take the opportunity to remember the testing of Ibrahim and reflect on their own challenges within life.

This is the final stage of the Hajj which pilgrims will complete and there will be a sacrifice. They will also perform the practice of the Hajj between the Arafat and Mina.

INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED



Origins of the Hajj

- The origin of the Hajj is found within the Sunnah, or the actions of the Prophet. After his death, he performed a pilgrimage to Makkah and commanded his followers to do the same.
- Before this, many of the places which Muslims visit on Hajj were important to the Prophet Ibrahim. This history is also remembered and marked on Hajj.
- During his journey, the Prophet instructed his followers, therefore all Muslims, to follow the way in which he did.

Other Events on Hajj

- Id Ul-Adha: This is an Islamic festival which remembers the willingness of Ibrahim to sacrifice his beloved son Ismail to God. It also remembers Ismail's willingness to be sacrificed himself. It is observed on the Hajj, as well as worldwide. The celebration of Id Ul-Adha on Hajj is a more serious event, which involves the sacrifice of an animal such as a sheep or a goat.

Other Optional Hajj Destinations




- The grave of Ismail in Makkah
- Medina
- The Prophet's Mosque
- The Prophet's grave

Benefits of Hajj

- The benefit of fulfilling the commandment and pillar of observing Hajj.
- Closeness to God – many Muslims describe Hajj as a highly spiritual experience and are strengthened greatly as a result of taking the pilgrimage.
- Strengthening the Ummah through communal experience.
- Forgiveness of sins.
- Fosters self-discipline.



Student Checklist

What do I know?	No Idea 	Nearly 	Sure 
I understand what Hajj is.			
I understand the different events on Hajj, and what they signify.			
I understand the benefits of Hajj.			
I understand the significance of the state of Ihram.			
I understand the significance of Tawaf.			
I understand the significance of the Standing at Arafat.			

**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**



Jihad



Keywords

- **Struggle** – the meaning of Jihad.
- **Lesser** – the form of Jihad which appertains to the struggle to defend the faith.
- **Greater** – the form of Jihad which refers to the personal struggle of the believer.
- **Holy War** – military action declared in the name of God.
- **Hadith** – sayings of the Prophet; there are conflicting reports of these regarding Jihad.
- **Conduct** – the way in which lesser jihad is supposed to be performed.
- **Conditions** – the circumstances in which lesser Jihad can be justified.



Overview

- Jihad comes from the Arabic word 'juhd' meaning 'to make effort'. The concept of Jihad has become more prominent due to modern events where some individuals have committed acts of violence in the name of Islam. It should be noted that this understanding of Jihad in contemporary times is different from the concept of Jihad within traditional Islamic thought.
- Within Islamic thought, there are two different versions of Jihad. These are known as Greater Jihad and Lesser Jihad. Greater Jihad is an inward struggle to make a believer walk more towards the path of Allah, while Lesser Jihad is the outward struggle against those who might oppose the faith. It is within the latter that violence occurs. There are hadith and Qur'anic verses supporting and discussing Jihad.
- The term for a person who has undergone a personal or lesser struggle of Jihad is 'mujahid'.



Key Points

Greater Jihad

- This is the form of Jihad that refers to the inward struggle of the individual to follow the path of Allah. It is referred to as the greater Jihad as it is considered to be more important and a believer is encouraged to engage in it. It is considered to be the harder form of Jihad. Examples of greater Jihad include:
 - Memorising Qur'anic verses
 - Volunteering for an Islamic charity
 - Overcoming personal struggles with sins (e.g. jealousy)
 - Forgiving someone who has hurt or wronged you
 - The practice of Sawm
 - Undertaking Hajj

Lesser Jihad

- This is the form of Jihad which involves military action, regarding the protecting of the faith. There are instances in the Qur'an in which the practice of lesser Jihad is discussed and supported. It is discussed in the context of these military actions furthering the purposes and interests of the faith.

Conditions

- There are allowances within the Qur'an for the violence of lesser Jihad to take place, however, with conditions. There are reasons for which lesser Jihad can take place.
- There are criteria within which lesser jihad is permitted and it is paramount that these criteria are met. Jihad is an act of military violence declared to be in the name of God.
- Some examples of the conditions under which military Jihad can be justified are:
 - Must be initiated by a just religious leader/imam
 - Must be reactionary to an attack on the faith
 - Must have exhausted all other non-violent options
 - Must not be used for personal/political/territorial gains
 - Must not be used to force others to convert to Islam
- Some examples of the criteria for the conduct that should be upheld by those undertaking Jihad are:
 - Must show mercy to any captives of war
 - Must cease combat when the enemy surrenders
 - Must not harm any of the enemy's women, children or food supplies




INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED





Student Checklist

What do I know?	No Idea 	Nearly 	Sure 
I understand what Jihad means.			
I understand the difference between greater and lesser Jihad.			
I understand which of the Jihads is considered to be harder.			
I understand the conditions under which lesser Jihad can be undertaken.			
I understand the conduct that must be adhered to to undertake lesser Jihad.			

INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED



Festivals



Keywords

- **Id-ul-Fitr** – the festival which celebrates the end of fasting during Ramadan
- **Id-ul-Adha** – the festival of sacrifice, celebrate on Hajj as well as within the year
- **Ashura** – a festival observed by all Shi'a Muslims and some Sunni Muslims, with events depending on the practice of Islam observed.
- **Dhul Hajjah** – the Islamic month in which Hajj is undertaken and the observance of Hajj
- **Halal** – meaning permitted; when applied to the idea of meat, this refers to a type of meat which makes the meat permissible to eat under Islamic law.
- **Karbala** – battle which is remembered by Shi'a Muslims on Ashura.
- **Husayn** – grandson of the Prophet Muhammad, killed at Karbala.



Overview

- There is a variety of different festivals within Islam. Some have differences in celebration, or not they are celebrated by Sunni or Shi'a Muslims. Some are celebrations involving large meals, whereas others are more solemn occasions involving a more reflective nature.
- There are two 'Ids' (sometimes also spelled Eid) which are celebrated by both Sunni and Shi'a Muslims. It is thought that these are two days which Muhammad stated God declared to be good days. The festival which is observed by both Shi'a and Sunni Muslims, but the observance of it is different within Shi'a Islam.



Key Points

Id-ul-Fitr

- This is the Muslim festival which celebrates the ending of Ramadan and with it the celebration of the breaking of the fast that has lasted for the month of Ramadan. It is celebrated when the first moon of the new month (Shawwal) is seen. Due to the lunar nature of the Islamic calendar, Id-ul-Fitr can fall change each year. It can last from one to three days.
- The **origin** of this festival dates back to the very beginning of the revelation. Muhammad was given this revelation during the holy month of Ramadan, during which he was asked to fast, in order to mark the remembrance of the giving of the revelation. At the end of the month, and therefore Id became the event of the breaking of the fast.
- It is a day of universal celebration throughout the entirety of the worldwide Ummah.
- Muslims consider Id-ul-Fitr to be an opportunity to thank God for the strength and guidance given throughout the month-long fast of Sawm. It is considered to be the lesser of the two Ids.
- There is a variety of ways in which Id-ul-Fitr is celebrated. It is customary to eat a meal at the end of Sawm. There are also gatherings for communal prayer and sermons at which is usually regarding forgiveness. Families and friends gather and sometimes Muslim families will also use this day to go to visit the graves of their ancestors. It is common for Muslims to wear their nicest, or newest, clothes to celebrate.

INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED



Id-ul-Adha

- This is considered to be the greater Id. This is a festival that takes place on the Hajj, but is also observed across the world by the wider ummah. This is considered to be the festival of sacrifice, both due to the event it commemorates and how it is practised. It lasts from the 10th to the 14th of Dhul-Hajjah.
- The **origin** of Id-ul-Adha is the remembrance of the obedience of Ibrahim the Prophet as told in the Qur'an. The festival remembers specifically the story of the prophet Ibrahim and his son Ishmael.
Qur'an 37 100–112 recounts the story of how Ibrahim was willing to sacrifice his beloved son Ishmael to God, and how Ishmael himself was willing to be sacrificed. God sent an angel to stop the sacrifice before it occurred, as Ibrahim and Ishmael had demonstrated their obedience to God in their willingness to carry out the sacrifice. This is considered an example for Muslims to follow to be obedient to God in all things, even regarding what is precious to them.
- On the Hajj, this festival is celebrated with the sacrifice of a lamb or a goat to remember Ishmael. The meat from this sacrifice is split three ways: one-third to the sacrificer, one-third to family and friends and one-third to the poor. As the Ummah is illegal, and thus many Muslims celebrating Id-ul-Adha in countries where this is illegal, and thus many Muslims celebrating Id-ul-Adha in countries will practise this in others ways. For example, it is common to purchase a lamb to remember the sacrifice, eating a third of the meat and distributing two-thirds to family, friends and neighbours and the less fortunate as is the practice with the sacrifice on Hajj. Some Muslims will use money rather than meat.
- Other methods of marking Id-ul-Adha are the exchange of gifts between family and friends, and a meal between family and friends. There is a strong emphasis on inclusion in this festival, and Muslims will make an extra effort to ensure people are not celebrating alone. Some Muslims will ensure that they are not alone on this festival.

Ashura

- Ashura is celebrated in different forms depending on whether or not a Muslim is Shi'a. It is the 10th of Muharram, as Ashura means 'tenth'.
- Firstly, for Shi'a Muslims, Ashura is an incredibly important event which marks the martyrdom of Husayn, the grandson of the Prophet, who was martyred. It is considered a solemn day, during which Muslims actively mourn for Husayn. It is believed that Husayn was killed along with his army. It is believed their bodies were disrespected and not buried later. It is remembered with grief and mourning.
- Within Shi'a Islam, it is marked as a day of mourning, and this is shown clearly in the way that many Shi'a Muslims observe the day. It is common for re-enactments of the battle to take place among Shi'a communities, and for people to wear black as an outward symbol of their mourning. Demonstrations of mourning in public gatherings are common worldwide Shi'a community – there is a gathering in London at Marble Arch where people will beat themselves on their bare chests as a mark of their sharing in the suffering of Husayn. It is also common for Shi'a Muslims to demonstrate their sharing in and remembrance of Husayn's suffering.
- Within countries such as Afghanistan, Ashura is a public day of holiday to mark Ashura. It is like the one held in London where people will beat themselves in a similar manner, however, further expressions of the suffering of Husayn can be displayed by men beating themselves. Within Iraq, it is common for Shi'a Muslims to observe Ashura. Karbala is believed to be Husayn's grave in remembrance.
- Within Sunni Islam, Ashura remembers two events: the leading of the Israelites out of Egypt and the day that the Prophet Nuh left the ark after the flood. Respectively, these events are observed on this day, but not all Sunni Muslims observe Ashura. Ashura within Sunni Islam is a voluntary day of fasting. Should a Sunni wish to mark the day with fasting, there is no requirement.
- Ashura functions as a reminder to Shi'a Muslims of the sufferings of Husayn and to stand up for what is right.

**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**





Student Checklist

What do I know?	No Idea ☹	Nearly ☺	Sure 😊
I understand what Id-ul-Fitr celebrates.			
I understand what Id-ul-Adha celebrates.			
I understand what Ashura remembers.			
I understand how Id-ul-Fitr is celebrated.			
I understand how Id-ul-Adha is celebrated.			
I understand how Ashura is celebrated.			

INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED





Practice Questions – Duties and Festivals

Multiple-choice Questions (Note: in the exam papers there will only be one correct answer)

1. Which of the following is an example of a Muslim who would not be exempt from Sawm?
A A pregnant woman
B A father of a new-born
C An elderly man
D A menstruating woman
2. At which of the following sites of Hajj do Muslims collect pebbles?
A Mina
B Arafat
C Muzdalifah
D Jamarat
3. Which of the following is an example of lesser Jihad?
A Memorising Qur'anic verses
B Defending the faith with military action
C Forgiving a fellow believer
D Volunteering with a Muslim charity
4. Which festival remembers the Prophet Ibrahim and his son Ishmael?
A Ashura
B Id-ul-Fitr
C Id-ul-Adha
D Ramadan

5. Give **one** examples of a Muslim who would be exempt from Sawm.
6. Explain **two** different ways of interpreting the concept of Jihad.
7. Explain the role of the Prophet Ibrahim in Id-ul-Adha. Refer to scripture in your answer.
8. 'Equality within the Ummah is best shown through Hajj.'
Evaluate this statement, and in your answer:
 - give reference to relevant Islamic doctrine
 - develop well-supported arguments for and against this view
 - give a reasonable and justified conclusion

INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED





Mark Schemes – Key Beliefs

Multiple-choice: Correct answers in order: (d), (b), (c), (b) (1 mark each for a total of 4 marks)

5. 1 mark for any correct point. Possibilities include:

- Mika'il helping Muhammad and believers in their faith
- Mika'il sending rain/thunder/lightning
- Isra'il as the angel of death
- Jibril bringing revelation
- Guardian angels
- Ensoulment of foetuses
- Recording actions in the Book of Deeds
- Escorting souls to heaven or hell
- Israfil blowing the trumpet to signal the end of days

6. 2 marks per point for a total of 4 marks:

Simple explanation = 1 mark

Detailed explanation = 2 marks

Students may include the following:

- **The Sunni view:** That God is all-powerful, and the supreme will of God means decision you are going to make. However, they still believe that humans have choices.
- **The Shi'a View:** That God knows what you are going to do before you do it, but humans have complete free will and therefore, they are responsible for their actions.

7. Marked as the four-mark question, plus 1 mark for naming a relevant reference to scripture, for a further mark for applying this to the question, for an overall total of 6 marks:

Students might include the points below, but any relevant points can be included:

- **Akhirah** – This is the Islamic term for the Afterlife. It is a certain belief within Islam.
- **Barzakh** – This is the state after death, but before the Day of Judgement, where Muslims believe that this is a state of sleep, whereas others believe that those are the asked questions by angels.
- **Jannah** – This is the Islamic idea of heaven; it is described as a heavenly garden where righteous people who inhabit it. It is believed to be a real place.
- **Janaham** – This is the Islamic concept of hell; it is described as being a fire-filled place where unrighteous people who inhabit it. It is believed to be a real place.
- **Day of Judgement** – This is the final day that only God knows the timings of, when the trumpet will be blown and all of humankind (living and dead) will be called to account for their actions.
- **Verses of Scripture** could include: Surah 56:42–44, Surah 13:23

8. Criteria:

One argument with justification
Different arguments for and against, with justification OR Several linked, justified arguments for one position
This is the highest level which can be reached if only one point of view is considered
Good, well-justified arguments for and against, linked together
Defining the question in relation to religion
Very well justified. Well-justified arguments for and against, linked together and leading to a reasonable conclusion.
Appropriate reference to religion used to answer question

INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED



Preview of Answers Ends Here

This is a limited inspection copy. Sample of answers ends here to stop students looking up answers to their assessments. See contents page for details of the rest of the resource.