

# GCSE AQA A Topic on a Page for Section A

Islam (Short Course)

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
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# Teacher's Introduction

This resource covers the Religious Studies GCSE AQA short course specification for Section A: The Study of Religions: Beliefs and Teachings, for the religion of Islam.

Theme content is split into five sections as follows:

1. **A4 teacher information pages.**
2. **Two A3 revision posters**, between them covering the nine subtopics. These are labelled: **1** to **2**. These posters are intended as a summary of all Islam material, focusing on the main points rather than the detail, so that all important areas are covered without going into too much depth.
3. **Nine A3 subtopic sheets with activities.** Each of these sheets covers one subtopic and provides write-on activities for students to complete. Answers are provided in the A4 subtopic revision posters and the A4 extension question answer pages. These are labelled with numbers inside white circles: Exam-style questions in the activity sheets are marked by a pencil icon:  9
4. **Nine A4 subtopic revision posters.** These provide answers for the main activities given in the A3 subtopic activity sheets. As revision posters, these can be used as a summary for each area, and have enough space for teacher or student annotation. These are labelled with numbers inside black circles: 9
5. **A4 answers to extension questions.** These pages provide answers to the extension questions not covered on the A4 subtopic revision posters.

All posters can be displayed on classroom walls, or given to students to learn in lessons or at home.

As a whole, the resource can be used to help students to revise at the end of a topic/subtopic, or before a test or an exam. Different styles and layouts are used to make the information interesting and to help the students engage with the information in a productive way.

Some activities ask students to find Qur'an quotes – they should be able to do this using the Internet.

## Remember!

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# Islam - Beliefs and Teachings - Key Beliefs

There are two main branches of Islam: **Sunni** and **Shi'a**. They share many beliefs, but have some differences.

## 1 Key Beliefs

- **Sunnis** and **Shi'as** have three of their key beliefs in common.
- Shi'as still believe in angels and the holy books, they are just not included in their main beliefs.
- Sunnis still believe that Allah (God) is fair and just, but do not include this in their main beliefs.
- Shi'as do not believe in predestination and have different beliefs about who should have led Islam after Muhammad to Sunnis.

### Six Articles of Faith in Sunni Islam:

1. Belief in the oneness of God (**Tawhid**)
2. Belief in **angels**
3. Belief in the **holy books**
4. Belief in the **prophets** and that Muhammad was the final prophet
5. Belief in the **Day of Judgement**
6. Belief in **predestination**

### Five Roots of Usul ad-Din in Shi'a Islam:

*Usul ad-Din means 'roots of religion' in Arabic.*

1. Belief in the oneness of God (**Tawhid**)
2. Belief in the **prophets** and that Muhammad was the final prophet
3. Belief in the **Angels** (Jibril, Mikail, Israfeel)
4. Belief in the **Justice** (Adalat) - Allah is just and fair (Adalat)
5. Belief in the **Imamate** (twelve leaders known as Imams who came after Muhammad)

... We bade the angels bow down to Adam, and they bowed down...'  
(Qur'an Surah 7:11)

**Jibril and Mikail** and others, including Israfeel (Rafael).  
→ There is an angel who sits on the right side of the left side of the throne.

Believes that Muhammad's friend Abu Bakr should have succeeded Muhammad as leader of Islam (which he did), and that Muslim leadership did not need to follow Muhammad's bloodline. This is the larger branch of Islam.

**Sunni Islam**

**Shi'a Islam**

Believes that the leadership of Islam should have passed directly from Muhammad to Ali (his cousin and son-in-law), and then through Ali's bloodline. This is the smaller branch of Islam.

**Tawhid** has influenced Muslim use of imagery – because Allah is beyond human imagination, most Muslims forbid making images of him. Instead, Muslims may focus on calligraphy or geometric patterns to understand Allah's beauty, etc. without trying to represent him.

'Say: He is Allah, the One and Only;  
Allah, the Eternal, Absolute;  
He begetteth not, nor is He begotten;  
And there is none like unto Him.'  
(Qur'an Surah 112)

Believing in one God (Allah in Arabic) is very important to Muslims; it is central to Islam – it makes it a monotheistic religion.

## 2 Oneness of God: Tawhid

**Tawhid** is incorporated into the **Shahadah** – the Muslim statement of faith; one of the **Five Pillars** of **Sunni** Islam and also important to **Shi'as**. The Shahadah starts with 'There is no God but Allah'.

Saying or acting as if Allah is not one is called **shirk** – this is a terrible sin in Islam.

- An example of **lesser shirk** (saying Allah is one, but not really believing it) might be treating money as if it should be worshipped.
- An example of **greater shirk** would be worshipping multiple gods (openly denying that Allah is one).

The Qur'an teaches that Allah has no partners, parents or children; he is unique and forever. Muslims believe he created everything.

Muslims believe many things about God (Allah) – that he is omnipotent, beneficent, merciful, and fair. They also believe that he is immanent and transcendent.

Muslims believe that Allah is **beneficent** (loving) and **merciful** – they have shown this by revealing the Qur'an to Muhammad, and showing Muslims how to live good lives so they can please him. Muslims believe that Allah does good in the world, helps those who are suffering and forgives people's sins when they ask.

'... Allah is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful.'  
(Qur'an Surah 4:96)

Muslims believe that Allah is **omnipotent** – that he can do anything. This is demonstrated in his creation of the world.

## 3 Nature of God

Muslims believe that Allah is **fair** and **just** (**adalat** in Shi'a Islam). This means he rewards and punishes people appropriately – ultimately all will be judged on the **Day of Judgement**.

Most Muslims believe that Allah is both **immanent** and **transcendent** – he is active in the world, helping humanity, but he is also above the world and human understanding.

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## Islam - Beliefs and Teachings - Authority

Prophethood (**Risalah**) is very important in Islam. Risalah means 'message' – the prophethood is how Allah has communicated with humanity. Muslims believe that the prophets (**nubuwwah**) began with the first man, Adam, and ended with Muhammad. They believe that Muhammad did not begin Islam, but he communicated Allah's final revelation – the Qur'an.

### Muhammad

#### Role

- Final **prophet** in Islam, who revealed the Qur'an from Allah.
- Formed the Muslim community – the **ummah**.
- A role model for Muslims.

#### Importance

- Muslims must believe that Muhammad is the prophet of Allah. He is the final prophet, the Seal of the Prophets.
- Even if Muhammad is not believed to be the first Muslim, without him there would not be Islam as it is today.

**Note:** Muslims usually add 'peace be upon him' or 'ﷺ' after his name in writing to show respect.

'Muhammad is... the Messenger of Allah, and the Seal of the Prophets...'  
(Qur'an Surah 33:40)

There are many other **prophets** recognised in Islam; many the same as those in the Jewish and Christian faiths – these include Musa (Moses) and Isa (Jesus).

### Qur'an

- The Qur'an is believed to be the direct **revelation** of Allah. Qur'an means 'recitation' – Muhammad recited it.
- Muhammad received this revelation from the angel Jibril (Gabriel).
  - ↳ Some Muslims believe that he received the whole of the Qur'an in one go, while others believe that it was revealed over a number of years.
- Allah is the ultimate **authority** for Muslims, and the Qur'an is an incredibly important source of authority. It is the word of Allah. Many Muslims try to understand it fully, seeing it as Allah's timeless guidance.
  - ↳ While no Muslims challenge the authority of the Qur'an, some do apply modern interpretations to it, and argue that some parts of the revelation were more applicable to the time in which it was revealed.
- The Qur'an teaches Muslims how to live – what is right, and how they should act.
- Muslims believe that the Qur'an completes and corrects earlier holy books.
- **Shariah** law is Islamic law, and is largely based on the Qur'an.

### Adam

#### Role

- To be the **caliph** for Allah – to rule and look after the Earth for him.
- To teach other humans to care for the Earth as Allah had taught him.
- To teach humans how to live, e.g. what to eat and how to pray.

#### Importance

- The first human, Muslim and **prophet**.
- Believed to have built the first **Ka'aba** in Makkah (rebuilt by Ibrahim).

'We said: "O Adam! Dwell thou and thy wife in the Garden; and eat of the bountiful things therein..."'  
(Qur'an surah 2:35)

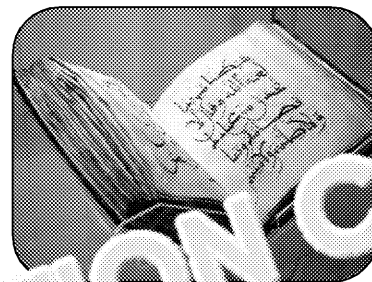
### Ibrahim (Abraham)

#### Role

- Father of Arabs through Ismail (Ishmael).
- Rebuilt the **Ka'aba** (a house for Allah) in Makkah – this is the holiest place in Islam, one important focus for Muslims on the **Hajj** pilgrimage, and the direction in which Muslims face for prayer.

#### Importance

- Was a monotheist when many others were polytheists.
- Was prepared to sacrifice his son Ismail to show his faith in Allah, but Allah stopped him. This is celebrated at Id-ul-Adha, the holiest Muslim festival – Ibrahim's faith is a significant example.



8

### Holy Books

The Qur'an is the most important holy book – some other books from the Jewish and Christian religions are believed to be earlier **revelations** from Allah, though they may contain mistakes.

**Torah** (Tawrat) – the first five books of the Bible, Muslims believe it was revealed to Moses. The Torah is no longer needed for Muslims.

**Psalms** (Zabur) – also in the Tenakh and the Bible, praise to Allah, believed to be written by King David.

- The Qur'an is in Arabic, and it is important to Muslims for them to read the original in Arabic, even though there are translations.
- There are 114 surat (chapters) in the Qur'an.
- The Qur'an is treated with extreme respect; kept clean, and stored higher than other books to show its importance.

**Gospel** (Injil) – The Gospel is the first four books of the New Testament, but to a revelation made by Jesus, which is believed lost. Muslims believe Jesus was God, but that he was a prophet. Muslims believe he was sent from heaven, but that he was not God.

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1. Fill in the two missing Sunni beliefs (which do not overlap with Shi'a main beliefs).

There are two main branches of Islam: **Sunni** and **Shi'a**. They share many beliefs, but have some differences.

**Key Beliefs**

→ **Sunnis** and **Shi'as** have three of their key beliefs in common.

→ Shi'as still believe in \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ they are just not included in their main beliefs.

→ Sunnis still believe that \_\_\_\_\_ (God) is fair and just, but do not \_\_\_\_\_ beliefs.

→ Shi'as do not believe in predestination and have different beliefs \_\_\_\_\_ Muhammad to Sunnis.

**Six Articles of Faith in Sunni Islam:**

1. Belief in the oneness of God (**Tawhid**)
2. Belief in \_\_\_\_\_
3. Belief in the \_\_\_\_\_
4. Belief in the **prophets** and that Muhammad was the final prophet
5. Belief in the **Day of Judgement**
6. Belief in **predestination**

**The Roots of Usul ad-Din in Shi'a Islam:**  
*Usul ad-Din means 'roots of religion' in Arabic.*

1. Belief in the oneness of God (**Tawhid**)
2. Belief in the **prophets** and that Muhammad was the final prophet
3. Belief in the **Day of Judgement**
4. Belief that Allah (God) is just and fair (**Adalat**)
5. Belief in the **imamate** (twelve leaders known as imams who came after Muhammad)

**Note:** Muslims usually add \_\_\_\_\_ or 'pbuh' after the name of the Prophet Muhammad in speech and writing to show respect.

ﷺ

2. What do Muslims usually add after the name of the Prophet Muhammad?

Believes that Muhammad's friend Abu Bakr should have succeeded Muhammad as leader of Islam (which he did), and that Muslim leadership did not need to follow Muhammad's bloodline. This is the larger branch of Islam.

Believes that the leadership of Islam should have passed directly from Muhammad to Ali (his cousin and son-in-law), and then through Ali's bloodline. This is the smaller branch of Islam.

3. Write 'Sunni' and 'Shi'a' into the two dashed-line boxes to match them to the correct descriptions.

4. Give two of the roots of religion in Islam (an \_\_\_\_\_ marks) (Exam Practice)

5. What do you think the \_\_\_\_\_ are for Muslims? Why?

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Believing in one God (*Allah* in Arabic) is very important to Muslims; it is central to Islam – it makes it a monotheistic religion.

cal' rather by or geometric patterns  
to understand Allah's beauty,  
etc. without trying to represent  
him.

quote:

Copy

(Qur'an Surah)

(Qur'an Surah)



## Oneness of

- ➔ An example of **lesser** \_\_\_\_\_ (saying Allah is one, but not really believing it) might be treating money as if it should be worshipped.
- ➔ An example of **greater** \_\_\_\_\_ would be worshipping multiple gods (openly denying that Allah is one).



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Islam - Beliefs and Teachings - Key Beliefs

1. Give a way in which Muslims believe that Allah has shown that he is loving and merciful.

Muslims believe many things about God (Allah) – that he is omnipotent, beneficent, merciful, and fair and just. They also believe that he is both immanent and transcendent.

Muslims believe that Allah is **A** – that he can do anything. This is demonstrated in his creation of the world.

3. Write A–D next to each aspect of Allah’s nature to match them to the correct places in the text.

transcendent

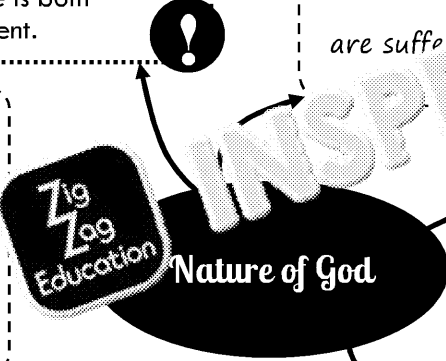
adalat

omnipotent

immanent

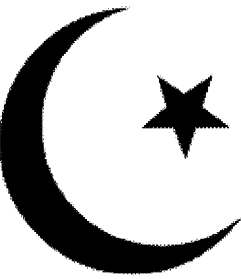
Muslims believe that Allah is **beneficent** (loving) and **merciful** – they believe he has shown this by \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Muslims believe that Allah does \_\_\_\_\_, helps those who are suffering and \_\_\_\_\_ people’s sins when they ask.

2. Fill in

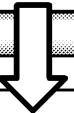


Muslims believe that Allah is **fair** and **just** (**B** in Shi’a Islam). This means he rewards and punishes people appropriately – ultimately all will be judged on the **Day of Judgement**.

Most Muslims believe that Allah is both **C** and **D** – he is active in the world, helping humanity, but he is also above the world and human understanding.



5. Find another quote from the Qur’an about the nature of Allah (Hint: try Qur’an 2:20, 2:222, 95:8.)



4. How do you think these beliefs about Allah make Muslims feel?

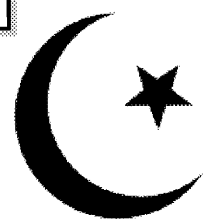
Reference: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Islam - Beliefs and Teachings - Key Beliefs

1. Fill in the gaps – with no clues!



### Nature of Angels:

- Angels are made of \_\_\_\_\_, by Allah.
- Angels do not need to eat or sleep, etc.
- Angels have no gender.
- Angels do not have free \_\_\_\_\_ (unlike humans).
- Angels continually \_\_\_\_\_.

Belief in angels is called **mala'kah** in Islam. Angels in Islam play many roles as well as being messengers of Allah.

2.

Angels

- Gave Allah's revelation of the Qur'an to Muhammad.

- Sustains humans, e.g. through rainfall, and also rewards good people.

**Jibril** and **Mika'il** are believed to have made Muhammad's heart pure during his Night Journey.

'... We bade the angels bow down to Adam, and they bowed down...'  
(Qur'an Surah 7:11)



**Mika'il** and **Jibril** are two of the most (**important/insignificant**) angels in Islam, but many others, including many who Muslims do not know the names of. These include:

- Israfeel (Raphael) will blow the (**pipe/trumpet**) on the **Day of Judgement**.
- There is an angel of death who takes people's (**bodies/souls**) when they die.
- In Muslim tradition two angels sit, one on each shoulder, on each (**Muslim/person**). **Raqib** sits on the right shoulder and records someone's good actions and **Atid** sits on the left shoulder and records their bad actions – for use at the Day of Judgement.

3. Delete the incorrect options (in the brackets).

4. What is a 'jinn' within Islam?



5. Find another quote about angels in the Qur'an and write it here.  
(Hint: try Qur'an 3:42, 32:11, 33:43, or 50:17.)

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## Islam - Beliefs and Teachings - Key Beliefs

1. What is the Arabic term for predestination?

**Sunni** Muslims believe that Allah knows everything which will happen in their lives – this is known as **predestination** or \_\_\_\_\_. However, they still believe that humans have **free will**, it is just that Allah knows what they will choose.

2. Write 'Sunnis' and 'Shi'as' in the correct gaps (marked with ?) in the text.

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\_\_\_\_\_ believe that Allah writes their destinies on the 'Preserved Tablet'.  
→ They believe that Allah can know their future, while they are still **free**, because he is outside of time.

4. Give two Muslim beliefs about predestination. (2 marks) (Exam Practice)

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Many ? \_\_\_\_\_ believe Allah has not determined their lives – this is called **bada**.  
→ They believe that he may try to guide humans but allows them to make their own choices.

? \_\_\_\_\_ believe that their lives are predestined in the sense that they are \_\_\_\_\_, but that this is compatible with human freedom and free will because their lives are controlled by \_\_\_\_\_ – Allah just \_\_\_\_\_.

5. Find a Qur'an verse which may relate to predestination and write it here. (Hint: try Qur'an 3:5, 22:70 or 57:22)

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1. Write 'jannah' and 'jahannam' into the correct spaces beginning with 'j'.

2. Fill in the gaps! Use the words in the box below.

- judged

responsible

resurrected
- Judgement

free will

graves

3. Delete the incorrect options (in the brackets).

4. What do Muslims believe happens at the end of time? (1 mark) (Exam Practice)

a) Immortality

b) Resurrection

c) Union with Allah

d) They are written on the 'Preserved Tablet'

Muslims believe in the **Day of** \_\_\_\_\_ – that at the end of time all the dead will be \_\_\_\_\_ from their \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

In the \_\_\_\_\_ after death, all \_\_\_\_\_ will go to \_\_\_\_\_ (j \_\_\_\_\_) or Hell (j \_\_\_\_\_). This judgement is fair, because humans have \_\_\_\_\_ and so humans are \_\_\_\_\_ and accountable for their actions.

Life after Death: **Akhirah**



For Muslims, life after death (**Akhirah**) begins at the **Day of Judgement**, when Allah judges people's souls. Muslims believe that the bodies are **resurrected**.

J \_\_\_\_\_ is described in the Qur'an as a utopia – great food, beautiful scenery; people will be rewarded and will see Allah.

J \_\_\_\_\_ is described as a place of physical and spiritual (**peace/torment**). Some Muslims believe that it is possible for people in hell to be (**forgiven/condemned**) and then go to heaven. (**Monotheists/Polytheists**) are generally believed to go to hell. Some non-Muslim (**monotheists/polytheists**) may be able to go to heaven.

5. Find a Qur'an verse about life after death. (Hint: try Surah Al-Baqarah)

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1. Who are the first and the last prophets in Islam?

Prophethood (**Risalah**) is very important in Islam. Risalah means 'message' – the prophethood is how Allah has communicated with humanity. Muslims believe that the prophets (**nubuwwah**) began with the first man, \_\_\_\_\_, and ended with \_\_\_\_\_. They believe that Muhammad did not begin Islam, but he communicated Allah's final revelation – the Qur'an.

Muhammad

Role

- Final **prophet** in Islam who received the **C** \_\_\_\_\_ from Allah.
- Formed the Muslim community – the **ummah**.
- A role model for Muslims.

Importance

- Muslims must believe that Muhammad is the prophet of Allah. He is the final prophet, the Seal of the Prophets.
- Even if Muhammad is not believed to be the first Muslim, without him there would not be Islam as it is today.

Adam

Role

- To be the **A** \_\_\_\_\_ for Allah – to rule and look after the Earth as Allah had created it.
- To teach humanity how to live, e.g. what to eat and how to worship Allah.
- The first human, Muslim and **prophet**.
- Believed to have built the first **Ka'aba** in Makkah (rebuilt by Ibrahim).

Prophethood (Risalah)

'We said: "O Adam! Dwell thou with thy wife in the Garden; and eat of the bountiful things thereof."  
(Qur'an 2:35)

Ibrahim (Abraham)

Role

- Father of Arabs through Ismail (Ishmael).
- Rebuilt the **Ka'aba** (a house for Allah) in Makkah – this is the holiest place in Islam, one important focus for Muslims on the **D** \_\_\_\_\_ pilgrimage, and the direction in which Muslims face for prayer.

Importance

- Was a monotheist when many others were polytheists.
- Was prepared to sacrifice his son Ismail to show his faith in Allah. Allah stopped him. This is celebrated at Id-ul- **E** \_\_\_\_\_, the holiest Muslim festival – Ibrahim's faith is a significant example for Muslims.

There are many other **prophets** recognised in Islam; many the same as those in the Jewish and Christian faiths – these include Musa (Moses) and Isa (Jesus).

2. Fill in the Qur'an quotation.

3. Write the correct multiple-choice answers in the gaps above.

- |            |          |         |        |
|------------|----------|---------|--------|
| <b>A</b> – | malak    | tawhid  | caliph |
| <b>B</b> – | Muhammad | Ibrahim | Isa    |
| <b>C</b> – | Zabur    | Qur'an  | Tawrat |
| <b>D</b> – | Hajj     | Zakah   | Sawm   |
| <b>E</b> – | Fitr     | Adha    | Ashura |

(Qur'an Surah 33:40)



The Kaaba

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1. Fill in the gaps! Use the words in the box to the right.

interpretation will revelation  
Allah Shariah whole

## Qur'an

- The Qur'an is believed to be the direct \_\_\_\_\_ of Allah. Qur'an means 'recitation' – Muhammad recited it.
- Muhammad received this revelation from the angel Jibril (Gabriel).
- Some Muslims believe the revelation was \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ while others believe that it was \_\_\_\_\_ for a number of years.
- \_\_\_\_\_ is the ultimate authority for Muslims, and so the Qur'an is an incredibly important source of authority, because it is the word of Allah. Many Muslims try to follow the Qur'an fully, seeing it as Allah's \_\_\_\_\_ for all time.
- While no Muslims deny the authority of the Qur'an, some do apply modern \_\_\_\_\_ to it, and argue that some parts of the revelation were more applicable to the time in which it was revealed.
- The Qur'an teaches Muslims how to live – what is right, and how they should act.
- Muslims believe that the Qur'an completes and corrects earlier holy books.
- \_\_\_\_\_ law is Islamic law, and is largely based on the Qur'an.

The Qur'an is the most important holy book in Islam, but it is not the only one. Some other books from the Jewish and Christian faiths also hold importance. They are believed to be earlier **revelations** from Allah, and the Qur'an makes reference to them – though they may contain errors from human copying and translation.

→ The first of these books of the Jewish Tenakh and Christian Bible, Muslims believe it was revealed to the **prophet** Musa (Moses), though the **A** is no longer needed for Muslims, now they have the Qur'an.

## Holy Books

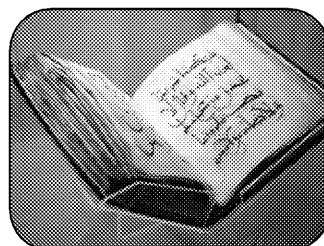
**B** – also in the Tenakh and the Bible, the **B** are believed to be written by the **prophet** Dawood (David).

- The Qur'an is in \_\_\_\_\_, and it is important to Muslims for them to read the original in \_\_\_\_\_, even though there are translations.
- There are 114 surat (chapters) in the Qur'an.
- The Qur'an is treated with extreme respect; kept clean, and stored higher than other books to show its importance.

**C** – The **C** of Jesus, does not refer to the first four books of the Christian New Testament but to a revelation made to the **prophet** Isa (Jesus), which is believed lost. Muslims do not believe that Jesus was God, but that he was an important prophet. Muslims believe that Jesus ascended to heaven, but that he was never crucified/killed.

What is the original language of the Qur'an?

4. Why is it particularly important for Muslims to suggest that parts of the Qur'an should be applied to modern society?



5. Which of these is not a holy book? (1 mark) (Exam Practice)

- a) Scrolls of Abraham
- b) Qur'an
- c) Tawrat
- d) Proverbs

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1. What is the 'imamate' in Shi'a Islam?

2. Delete the incorrect options (in the brackets).

The **imamate** in **Shi'a** Islam refers to...

These led Shi'a Islam one after another, and were blood relatives of Muhammad – in **Sunni** Islam an 'imam' is a leader of a mosque, but not of the whole Sunni community.

4. Why are the 12 imams important to Shi'a Muslims?

History of the Imamate

- **Sunni** and **Shi'a** Muslims disagreed about who should succeed Muhammad:
  - ↳ Sunni Muslims believe the **(Five/First)** **decalophs** succeeded Muhammad. Sunnis have then followed a tradition of **Caliphate** (leadership), although there has not constantly been a Sunni **Caliphate** (leader).
  - ↳ Shi'a Muslims believe **(Abu Bakr)** (the Fourth Rightly Guided Caliph) should have been the first successor of Muhammad. They believe that the leadership of Islam should be passed down Muhammad's bloodline.
- The **(smallest/largest)** branch of Shi'a Islam is the **Twelvers**. They believe that there were 12 imams who followed Muhammad and led Islam (beginning with Ali).
- Twelvers believe that the final, twelfth, imam, known as the **Madhi**, did not die, but was **(hidden / taken to heaven)** (which is known as the **occultation**). They believe that the Madhi is still alive, and will return at the end of time.
  - ↳ Not all Shi'as share all beliefs with the Twelvers. Some believe in the same 12 imams, but not in the occultation. Some believe in a different succession of imams forming the **imamate**.

The Imamate

Role of the Imamate

- To guide Muslims (**A** \_\_\_\_\_) after Muhammad.
- To be both religious and political leaders.
- **Twelvers** at least believe that the **imams** were **B** \_\_\_\_\_, could not be wrong, and knew Allah's will. This gave them the authority to teach and interpret the Qur'an.

Significance of the Imamate

- Helped shape the early **Shi'a** community.
- Part of the division between **Sunnis** and Shi'as, which sometimes causes tension in the Muslim community.
- Ali's younger son **C** \_\_\_\_\_, the third **imam**, was martyred at the Battle of Karbala when challenging the Sunni leadership. This is remembered at the festival of **Ashura**.
- **Twelvers** believe that the **Madhi** will return at the end of time, bringing **D** \_\_\_\_\_.

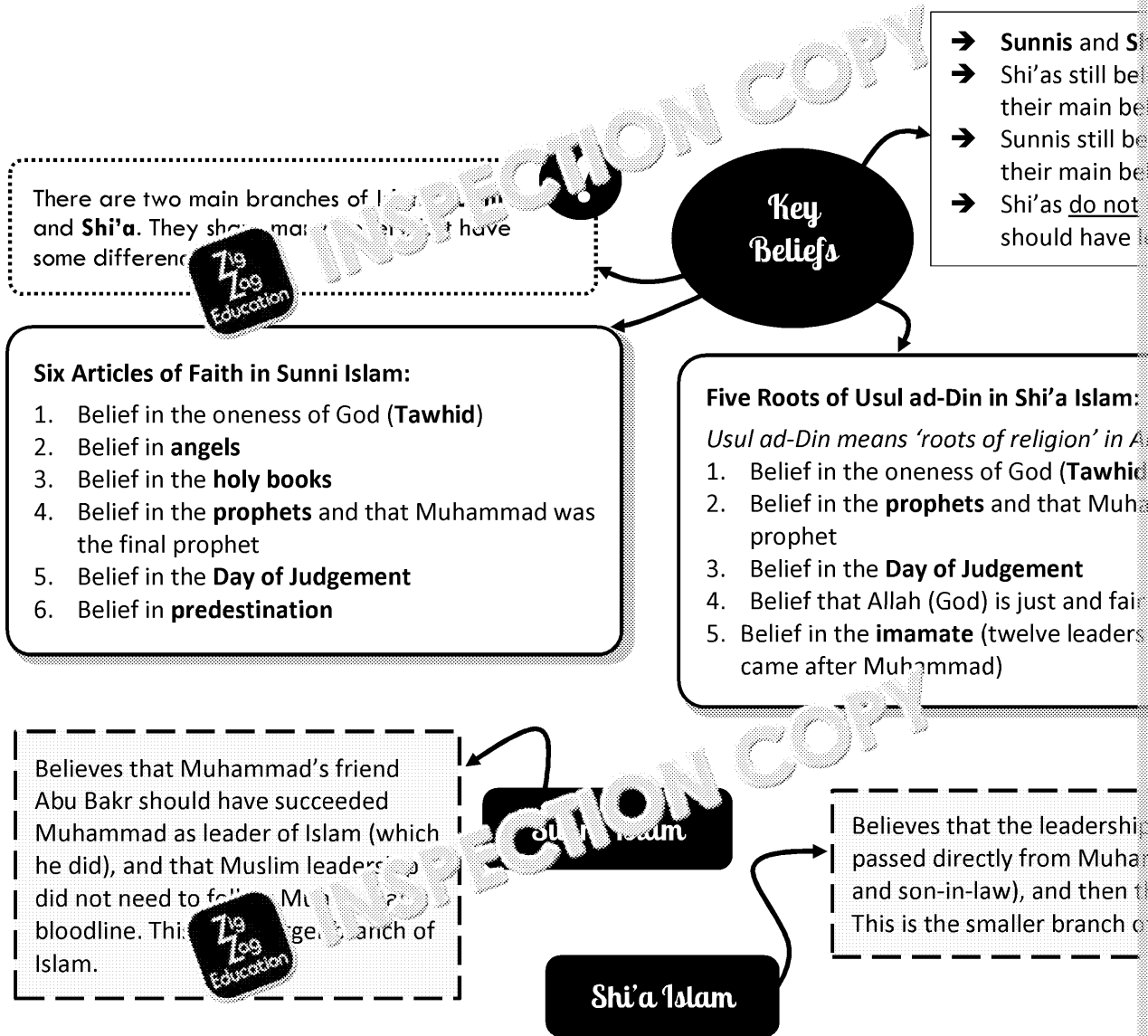
3. Write the correct multiple-choice answers in the gaps.

- A** – Sunni      Shi'as      Sufis
- B** – infallible      judgemental      immortal
- C** – Hasan      Husayn      Musa
- D** – war      disaster      peace

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# Islam - Beliefs and Teachings - Key Beliefs



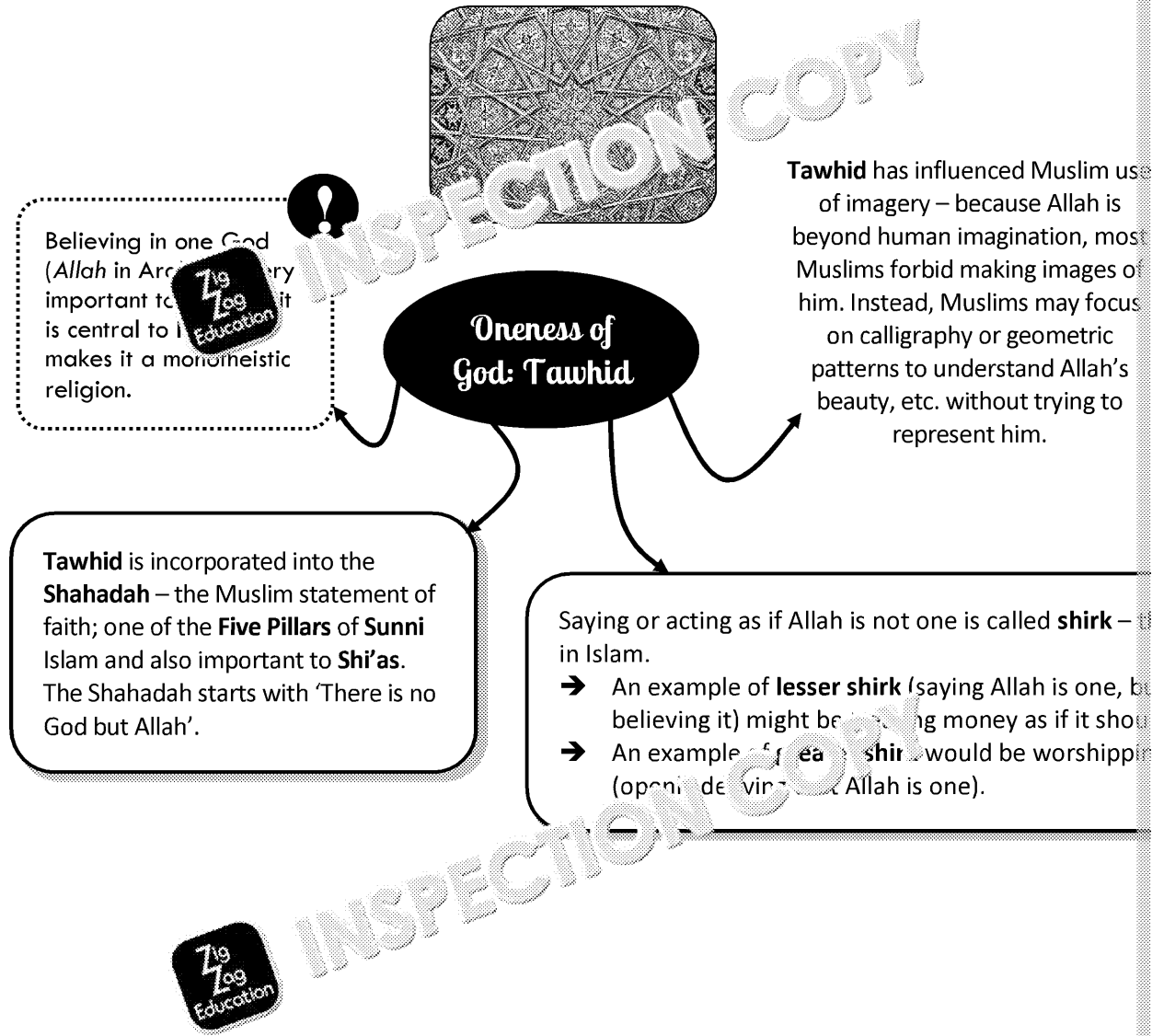
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## Islam - Beliefs and Teachings - Key Beliefs



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## Islam - Beliefs and Teachings - Key Beliefs

Muslims have many things about God (Allah) – he is **omnipotent**, **beneficent**, **merciful**, **compassionate** and **just**. They also believe that he is both **immanent** and **transcendent**.



Muslims believe that Allah is **beneficent** (loving and kind). They believe he has shown this by revealing the Quran, showing Muslims how to live good lives so they can please Allah. They also believe that Allah does good in the world, helps people in need, and forgives people's sins when they ask.

Muslims believe that Allah is **omnipotent** – that he can do anything. This is demonstrated in his creation of the world.

Nature of God

Muslims believe that Allah is **fair** and **just** (**adalat** in Shi'a Islam). This means he rewards people who do good and punishes people who do bad appropriately – ultimately all will be judged on the **Day of Judgement**.

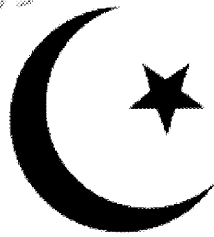


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## Islam - Beliefs and Teachings - Key Beliefs

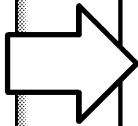


### Nature of Angels:

- Angels are made of light, by Allah.
- Angels do not need to eat or sleep, etc.
- Angels have no gender.
- Angels do not have free will (unlike humans).
- Angels continually worship Allah.

'... We bade the angels bow down to Adam, and they bowed down...'

(Qur'an Surah 7:11)



**Jibril** and **Mika'il** are two of the most important angels in Islam, but including many who Muslims do not know the names of. These include:

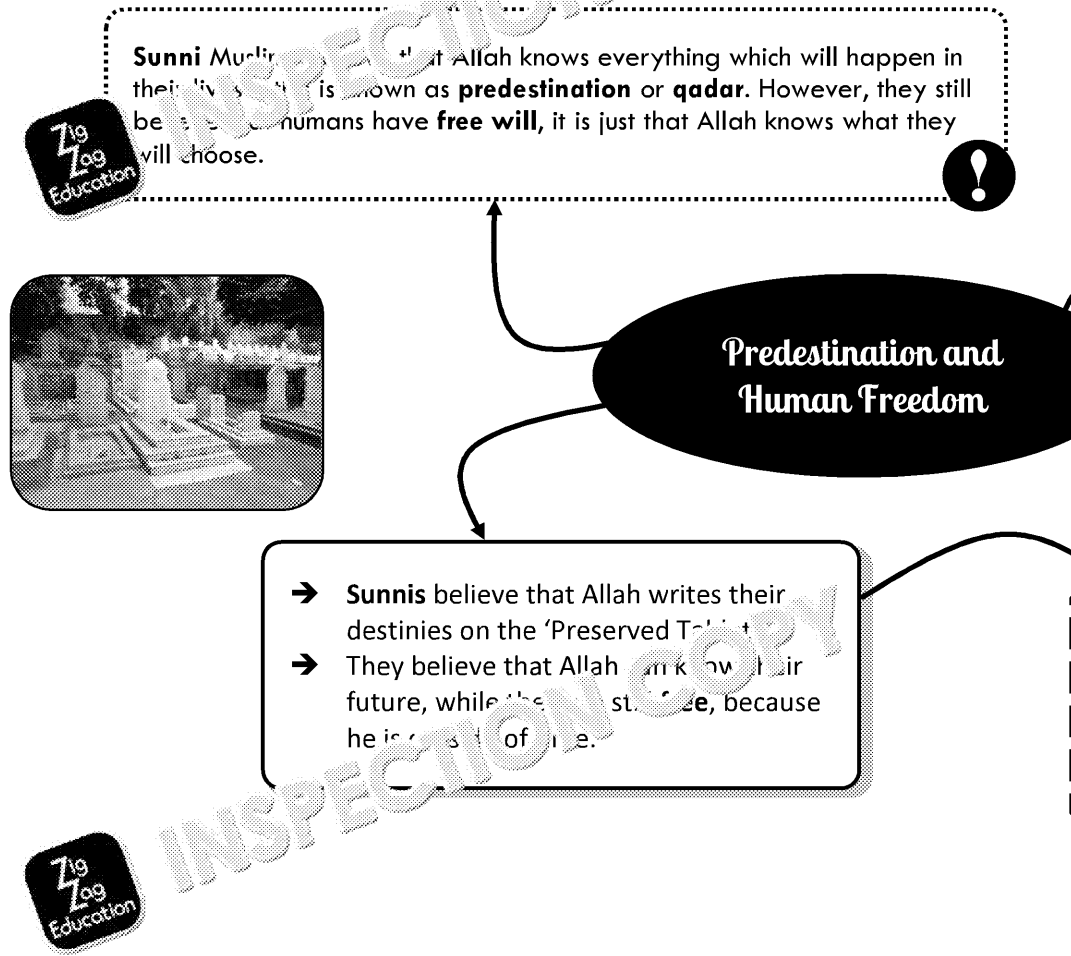
- Israfeel (Raphael) will blow the trumpet on the **Day of Judgement**.
- There is an angel of death who takes people's souls when they die.
- In Muslim tradition two angels sit, one on each shoulder, on each right shoulder and record someone's good actions and Atid sits records their bad actions – for use at the Day of Judgement.



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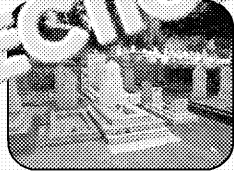
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## Islam - Beliefs and Teachings - Key Beliefs

Muslims believe in the **Day of Judgement** when the souls of all people will be judged from their graves and judged. In the life after death (**Akhirah**) they will go to Heaven/Paradise (**jannah**) or Hell (**jahannam**). This judgement is fair, because humans have **free will** and so humans are responsible and accountable for their actions.



Life after Death  
**Akhirah**

**Jannah** is described in the Qur'an as a utopia of food, beautiful people, and peace. People who go to Jannah will see Allah.

**Jahannam** is described as a place of physical and spiritual torment. Some Muslims believe that it is possible for people in hell to be forgiven and then go to heaven. Most Muslims are generally believed to go to hell – some non-Muslims and atheists may be able to go to heaven.



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# Islam - Beliefs and Teachings - Authority

Prophethood (**Risalah**) is very important in Islam. Risalah means 'message' – the prophethood. Muslims believe that Allah has communicated with humans through prophets. They believe that the prophets (**nubuwwah**) began with the first man, Adam, and ended with Muhammad. They believe that Muhammad received the final revelation – the Qur'an.

## Adam

### Role

- To be the **caliph** for Allah – to rule over the Muslims
- To teach other humans to care for the earth
- To teach humans how to live, eat and drink

### Importance

- The first human, Muslim and prophet
- Believed to have built the first mosque

## Prophethood (Risalah)

## Muhammad

### Role

- Final **prophet** in Islam, who revealed the Qur'an from Allah.
- Formed the Muslim community – the **ummah**.
- A role model for Muslims.

### Importance

- Muslims must believe that Muhammad is the prophet of Allah. He is the final prophet, the Seal of the Prophets.
- Even if Muhammad is not believed to be the first Muslim, without him there would not be Islam as it is today.

**Note:** Muslims usually add 'peace be upon him' or 'pbuh' after the name of the Prophet Muhammad in speech and writing to show respect.

## Ibrahim (Abraham)

### Role

- Father of Arabs
- Rebuilt the Kaaba in Mecca, a place in Islam for pilgrimage, and the first Muslim festival

### Importance

- Was a monotheist
- Was prepared to sacrifice his son, but Allah stopped him

There are many other **prophets** recognised in Islam; many the same as those in the Jewish and Christian faiths – these include Musa (Moses) and Isa (Jesus).

'Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah, and the Seal of the Prophets...'  
(Qur'an Surah 33:40)

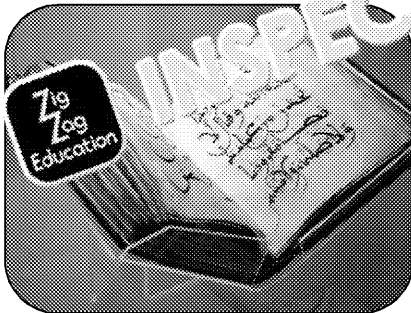
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# Islam - Beliefs and Teachings - Authority

## Qur'an

- The Qur'an is believed to be the direct **revelation** from Allah.
- Qur'an means 'recitation' – Muhammad recited it.
- Muhammad received this revelation from the angel Jibril (Gabriel).
  - ↳ Some Muslims believe he received the whole of the Qur'an in one revelation, while others believe that it was revealed over a number of years.
- Allah is the ultimate **authority** for Muslims, and so the Qur'an is an incredibly important source of authority, because it is the word of Allah. Many Muslims try to follow the Qur'an fully, seeing it as Allah's will for all time.
  - ↳ While no Muslims deny the authority of the Qur'an, some do apply modern interpretation to it, and argue that some parts of the revelation were more applicable to the time in which it was revealed.
- The Qur'an teaches Muslims how to live – what is right, and how they should act.
- Muslims believe that the Qur'an completes and corrects earlier holy books.
- **Shariah** law is Islamic law, and is largely based on the Qur'an.



The Qur'an is the most important of the other books from the Jewish and Christian religions – believed to be earlier **revelations** – though they may contain more information.

**Torah (Tawrat)** – the first book of the Bible, Muslims believe that the Torah is no longer relevant.

**Psalms** – some of the Psalms are still used in Islamic prayer.

## Holy Books

- The Qur'an is in Arabic, and it is important to Muslims for them to read the original in Arabic, even though there are translations.
- There are 114 surat (chapters) in the Qur'an.
- The Qur'an is treated with extreme respect; kept clean, and stored higher than other books to show its importance.

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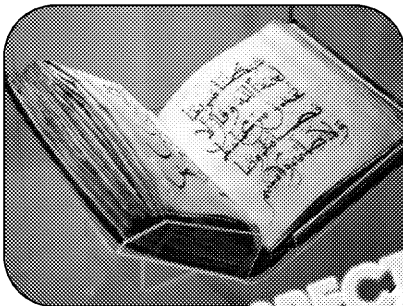
# Islam - Beliefs and Teachings - Authority

The **imamate** in **Shi'a** Islam refers to the collection of **imams**, or leaders, who came after Muhammad in Islam one after another, and were blood relatives of Muhammad – in **Sunni** Islam all Muslims are blood relatives of Muhammad but not of the whole Sunni community.

## History of the Imamate

- ➔ **Sunni** and **Shi'a** Muslims disagreed about who should succeed Muhammad.
  - Sunni Muslims believe the **Four Rightly Guided Caliphs** succeeded Muhammad. Sunnis have then followed additional leaders, but Muhammad's family has not constantly been in power. The **Sunni Caliphate** (leadership of all Muslims) has not always been a reality.
  - Shi'a Muslims believe that Ali (the Fourth Rightly Guided Caliph) was the first successor of Muhammad. They believe the leadership of Islam should be passed down Muhammad's bloodline.
- The largest branch of Shi'a Islam is the **Twelvers**. They believe in 12 imams who followed Muhammad and led Islam (beginning with Ali).
  - ➔ Twelvers believe that the final, twelfth, imam, known as the **Mahdi**, will die, but was hidden (which is known as the **occultation**). They believe the Mahdi is still alive, and will return at the end of time.
  - Not all Shi'as share all beliefs with the Twelvers. Some believe in 12 imams, but not in the occultation. Some believe in a different succession of imams forming the **imamate**.

## The Imamate



## Role of the Imamate

- ➔ To guide Muslims (**Shi'as**)
- ➔ To be both religious and political
- ➔ **Twelvers** at least believe the Imam is infallible – they could not disobey Allah's will. This gave them the authority to teach and interpret the Quran.

## Significance of the Imamate

- ➔ Helped shape the early Shi'a community
- ➔ Part of the division between Sunni and Shi'a which sometimes causes tension in the Muslim community.
- ➔ Ali's younger son Husayn was martyred at the Battle of Karbala, which is remembered at the festival of Ashura.
- ➔ **Twelvers** believe that the Imam will return at the end of time, bringing justice.

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# Islam Topic on a Page Activities Answer

Some questions ask for comparison between religions. This is not expected in the exam, but activities involving comparison should help students to remember points about Islam and broaden their understanding of similarities and differences between religions.

Always check information, specification

## 1. Key Beliefs

- 1) See summary sheet
- 2) See summary sheet
- 3) See summary sheet
- 4) For example:
  - Belief in the oneness of God
  - Belief in the prophet Muhammad as the final prophet
  - Belief in the Day of Judgement
  - Belief that God is just and fair
  - Belief in the imamate1 mark per point (maximum 2)
- 5) For example: I think that belief in the oneness of God and belief in the prophets, or prophet, are the most important beliefs for Muslims, as they are the core beliefs of Islam's statement of belief (the shahadah). I also think that belief in the Day of Judgement is important for Muslims because both Sunni and Shi'a Muslims have this belief as part of their faith.
- 6) For example: I think that Sunni and Shi'a beliefs are more similar than they are because their key beliefs overlap, and many others are shared. For example, Shi'a Muslims believe in predestination and about who rightfully led early Islam, and these are not more similar than which they share.
- 7) For example: 1 Ali (cousin of Muhammad), 2 Hasan (Ali's eldest son), 3 Husayn (Muhammad's grandson), 4 Muhammad, 5 Ali, 6 Ja'far, 7 Musa, 8 Ali, 9 Muhammad, 10 Ali, 11 Hasan, 12 Muhammad

## 2. Oneness of God: Tawhid

- 1) See summary sheet
- 2) See summary sheet
- 3) See summary sheet
- 4) For example: Allah is seen as unique in Islam because this is taught in the Qur'an that God is unique, and the only being who created the universe, and so is unique in this respect to any parents, wives or children, so no one is quite like him.
- 5) For example: Most mosques do not have statues, because of the belief that Allah is unique and he is beyond human imagination. In mosques there are no statues of humans or animals, instead of Allah or distract from worship. Worshippers should be concentrating on Allah.
- 6) For example:
  - Tawhid influences Muslims today in how they use art. Because they believe in one God, they avoid inaccurate representations of him and instead often focus on abstract art.
  - Tawhid influences Muslims today in that they are careful not to commit the sin of shirk, which would imply or say that Allah is not one, such as worshipping other gods.Accept any relevant points  
1 mark per simple point, 2 marks per developed point (maximum 4)
- 7) For example: In Islam, Muslims believe in one God who is also one person, undivided. In Christianity, Christians believe in one God who is three persons. Therefore, while both Muslims and Christians believe in one God, the Christian God is not presented as one person as Allah is presented in Islam.

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### 3. Nature of God

- 1) See summary sheet
- 2) See summary sheet
- 3) See summary sheet. D, B, A, C
- 4) For example: I think these beliefs about God must make Muslims feel happy and God loves them, and is merciful, so will not necessarily condemn them for making that he is fair rather than prejudiced. Muslims can feel awe at a transcendent God relationship with him which can enrich their lives.
- 5) For example:
  - '... for Allah hath power over all things.' (Qur'an 2:203)
  - '... For Allah loves those who turn to Him constantly and He loves those who (Qur'an 2:222)
  - 'Is not Allah The Wisest of Judges?' (Qur'an 95:8)
- 6) For example:
  - Muslims believe that Allah is loving. They believe that he has shown this by making them know him and know how to live.
  - '... Allah loves those who turn to Him constantly and He loves those who (Qur'an 2:222)
  - Muslims believe that Allah is fair and just. They believe that he will judge how they have lived.

Accept any relevant points and reference to scripture.

1 mark per simple point, 2 marks per developed point (maximum 4), 1 mark for scripture. If *only* one religious belief is mentioned, maximum 2 marks + 1 mark for scripture.

- 7) For example:
  - Muslims believe that Allah is eternal. This may make them feel more comfort.
  - Muslims believe that Allah is omniscient/all-knowing. This may mean that Muslims do good deeds as they believe that Allah knows what they do.
  - Muslims believe that Allah is wise. This will likely make them want to follow his guidance as he knows best and his guidance will help humans.

### 4. Angels

- 1) See summary sheet
- 2) See summary sheet
- 3) See summary sheet
- 4) For example: Jinn are evil spirits, made from fire. Unlike angels they have free will. Iblis or Shaytan, who is a jinn, rather than an angel. Jinn may try to tempt humans.
- 5) For example:
  - 'Behold, the angels said: "O Mary! Allah has chosen thee and purified thee - (chaste) all nations." (Qur'an 3:42)
  - 'Say: "The Angel of Death will (duly) take your souls: then your Lord." (Qur'an 26:81)
  - 'He it is Who bestows blessings on you, as do His angels, that He may bring you out from darkness into light: and He is Full of Mercy to the Believers.' (Qur'an 33:43)
  - 'Behold, two (guardian angels) appointed to learn (his doings) learn (and record) and one on the left.' (Qur'an 50:17)
- 6) For example:
  - Munkar and Nakir are angels who test the faith of the dead before they are resurrected.
  - There are angels who guard heaven and hell. Ridwan is the guardian of heaven.

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- 7) For example:
- One argument with justification
  - Different arguments for and against, with justification  
OR Several linked, justified arguments for one position
  - Good, well-justified arguments for and against, linked together
  - Very well argued. Well-justified arguments for and against, linked together and leading to a reasonable conclusion.

#### Points and Justification for

- Muslims believe that the angel Jibril revealed the Qur'an to Muhammad for
- The Qur'an talks about angels communicating with people for Allah on other
- 'Behold, the angels said: "O Mary! Allah hath chosen thee and purified thee – all nations."' (Qur'an 3:42)
- Muslims believe that the angel Mika'il rewards good people.
- Jibril and Mika'il are the two most important angels in Islam, so these must be angels fulfil.
- Angels do fulfil these roles, and this does not exclude them fulfilling other roles.

#### Points and Justification for

- Muslims believe that there are many different angels who fulfil many different roles in the Qur'an – some angels do communicate with people for Allah
- Muslims believe that angels continually worship Allah, so this is also part of
- Muslims believe that Israfeel will blow the trumpet on the Day of Judgement
- Muslims believe that there is an angel of death who takes their souls.
- 'Say: "The Angel of Death, put in charge of you, will (duly) take your souls: then to your Lord."' (Qur'an 32:11)
- Muslims believe that there are angels sitting on their shoulders recording their
- 'Behold, two (guardian angels) appointed to learn (his doings and note them) on the left.' (Qur'an 50:17)

Accept any relevant point or justification.

## 5. Predestination and Human Freedom

- 1) See summary sheet
- 2) See summary sheet
- 3) See summary sheet
- 4) For example:
  - Sunni Muslims believe that their actions are predestined – they believe that Allah has written everything in his 'Preserved Tablet'. They believe that they are still free, but that Allah knows what they will do.
  - Shi'a Muslims do not believe in predestination; they believe that they determine their own fate. This is called 'bada'. However, they believe that Allah does guide their choices.

Accept any relevant points

1 mark per simple point, 2 marks per developed point (maximum 4)

- 5) For example:
  - 'From Allah, verily nothing is hidden except what is in the heavens.' (Qur'an 3:5)
  - 'Knowest thou not that Allah knows what is in heaven and on earth? Indeed it is easy for Allah.' (Qur'an 2:255)
  - 'He is the First and the Last, the Evident and the Hidden: and He has full knowledge of what you do.' (Qur'an 2:177)
- 6) For example:
  - I think that the Shi'a view of predestination makes the most sense, as I do not believe I am free if God knew what they would do before they did it.
  - I think that the Sunni view of predestination makes the most sense, as I believe I am free to choose, then he will also be all-knowing, and will know people's actions before they do.
- 7) For example: Predestination and human freedom relate to the Day of Judgement. Humans will be judged on their actions. If Allah already knows what humans will do before they do, then he will judge them on the Day of Judgement. This could also seem to oppose human freedom. If Allah already knows what humans will do, then people may believe that they are not free to change their actions.

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## 6. Life after Death: Akhirah

- 1) See summary sheet
- 2) See summary sheet
- 3) See summary sheet
- 4) b) Resurrection of the Body
- 5) For example:
  - 'Every soul shall have a taste of death: and only on the Day of Judgment shall recompense. Only he who is saved far from the Fire and admitted to the Garden (of Life): for the life of this world is but goods and chattels of deception.' (Qur'an 29:21)
  - 'Gardens of perpetual bliss: they shall enter there, as will as the righteous and their offspring: and angels shall enter unto them from every gate (with peace)' (Qur'an 41:31)
  - 'And to every soul will be paid in full (the reward) of its Deeds; and (Allah) knows what ye do.' (Qur'an 39:70)
- 6) For example: Muslims believe that when people die their bodies remain in their graves until the Day of Judgment. They believe that the Angel of death takes their souls.
- 7) For example: Comparison between life after death in Islam and Christianity.

### Similarities:

- Muslims believe in resurrection of the body, as do many Christians.
- Muslims believe in equivalents of heaven and hell as Christians do.
- Muslims believe in a Day of Judgement at the end of time, as many Christians.
- Muslims believe in the second coming of Jesus before the end of time.

### Differences:

- Muslims do not believe in purgatory, unlike some Christians.
- Muslims do not believe in immortality of the soul, unlike some Christians.

## 7. Prophethood: Risalah

- 1) See summary sheet
- 2) See summary sheet
- 3) See summary sheet
- 4) For example: Prophets in general are important to Muslims because they have provided examples for Muslims to follow.
- 5) For example:
  - Muslims believe that Muhammad is Allah's messenger, who received the Quran to teach people how to live according to Islam.
  - 'Muhammad is... the Messenger of Allah, and the Seal of the Prophets...' (Qur'an 33:40)
  - Muslims believe that Muhammad is a role model for Muslims. He formed the Muslim community (ummah) and established Allah's will.

Accept any relevant points and reference to scripture.

1 mark per simple point, 2 marks per developed point (maximum 4), 1 mark for scriptural reference. If *only* one religious belief is mentioned, maximum 2 marks + 1 mark for scriptural reference.

- 6) For example: Muhammad was both a religious and political leader. He won many battles and made many converts. While he started the Muslim community in Makkah, he and his followers had to travel to Medina for safety. However, years later they returned.
- 7) For example:
  - Muslims believe that the prophet Musa (Moses) received the Tawrat (Torah).
  - Muslims believe that the prophet Dawood (David) wrote the Psalms (Zabur).
  - Muslims believe that the prophet Isa (Jesus) was a good person and taught that God did not die, but ascended to heaven.

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## 8. Holy Books

- 1) See summary sheet
- 2) See summary sheet
- 3) See summary sheet. C, B, D, A
- 4) For example: It is particularly hard for Muslims to suggest that parts of the Qur'an are not applicable to modern society because the Qur'an is believed to be the exact word of Allah, and to question Allah. However, some Muslims do suggest that the Qur'an was Allah's word for that time and that as modern society is very different, parts of the revelation may not apply.
- 5) d) Proverbs
- 6) For example: The Hadith and the Sunnah (the writings about the life, words and actions of Muhammad, which are particularly important to Muslims today, because while Muhammad's advice is not the word of God), he was believed to be a holy and inspired person, and so his advice is used to help Muslims to understand the will of Allah. Muslims also want to follow Muhammad as a good example, and they want to be like him.
- 7) For example: Muslims treat the Qur'an with respect by keeping it on the highest shelf, and they wrap it in a protective cloth. Muslims must keep it clean (Muslims must not use it as a book of reference, and they must not drop it on the floor to show it respect).

## 9. The Imamate

- 1) See summary sheet
- 2) See summary sheet
- 3) See summary sheet
- 4) For example: The 12 imams are important to Shi'a Muslims because they believe that they are the leaders of Islam and were divinely inspired – therefore, their words and actions are important.
- 5) For example: The imams needed to be religious leaders because they were guiding the Muslims according to Allah's will, and they also needed to be political leaders because the Muslims needed them for practical matters as well, and the Shi'as fought battles with Sunnis over the past centuries.
- 6) For example:
  - Belief in the imamate influences Shi'a Muslims because they want to follow the teachings of these imams. They also remember them at festivals, such as the martyrdom of Imam Hussein.
  - Belief in the imamate also influences Shi'a Muslims because it influences their beliefs. Twelver Shi'as believe that the Madhi will return at the end of time, so they believe in the imamate.
  - Belief in the imamate influences Shi'a Muslims in following Islam in a different way. Sunnis do not believe in the imamate and follow(ed) different leaders and have different practices.

Accept any relevant points

1 mark per simple point, 2 marks per developed point (maximum 4)

- 7) For example: the four Rightly Guided Caliphs are the first four leaders of Islam, and Sunnis and Shi'as are both

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