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| Belief | Key Concepts | Examples / Scripture |
|---------------------------|---|------------------------|
| Six Articles / Five Roots | Sunni: Six Articles – Tawhid, Angels, Books, Prophets, Day of Judgement, Predestination. Shi'a: Five Roots – Tawhid, Adalat, Prophethood, Imamate, Resurrection. | |
| Tawhid | The Oneness of God – core to both Sunni and Shi'a beliefs. | Surah 112 |
| Nature of God | Attributes: omnipotent, beneficent, merciful, just. God is both transcendent and immanent. | Surah 6:102–103 |
| Angels | Created from light, obedient, deliver messages. Jibril (Gabriel), Mika'il (Michael). | Surah 2:97; Surah 66:6 |
| Predestination | Sunni: God has set destiny; Shi'a: humans have free will. Tied to Day of Judgement. | Surah 13:11 |
| Akhirah | Life after death: judgement, heaven (Jannah) and hell (Jahannam). | Surah 18:49 |
| Risalah | Prophethood. Adam: first prophet. Ibrahim: obedient servant. Muhammad: final prophet (seal). | Surah 33:40 |
| Holy Books | Qur'an: final revelation. Others include Torah (Tawrat), Psalms (Zabur), Gospel (Injil), Scrolls of Abraham. | Surah 5:44–48 |
| Imamate (Shi'a) | Twelve Imams are spiritual successors of Muhammad, protect the faith. | Shi'a teachings |

| Practice | Key Practices | Examples / Notes |
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| Five Pillars / Ten Obligatory Acts | Five Pillars: Shahadah, Salah, Zakah, Sawm, Hajj. Ten Obligatory Acts (Shi'a): include these + Khums, Jihad, Amr-bil-Marooif, Nahi Anil Munkar, Tawalla, Tabarra. | |
| Shahadah | Declaration of faith: 'There is no god but Allah and Muhammad is His messenger.' | Recited in daily life and conversions |
| Salah | Five daily prayers; wudu (washing), rak'ahs (movements), face Makkah. Friday prayer: Jummah. Differences between Sunni and Shi'a in hand positions and timings. | Surah 96:1–5 |
| Sawm | Fasting in Ramadan. Involves no food/drink from dawn to sunset. Night of Power (Laylat-ul-Qadr) is celebrated. | Surah 96:1–5 |
| Zakah | 2.5% of wealth given to charity. Shi'a Muslims also pay Khums (20%). | Helps the poor, purifies wealth |
| Hajj | Pilgrimage to Makkah once in a lifetime if able. Visit Ka'aba, Mina, Arafat, Muzdalifah. | Surah 2:125 |
| Jihad | Greater Jihad: personal spiritual struggle. Lesser Jihad: physical struggle under strict conditions. | Surah 22:39 |
| Festivals | Id-ul-Adha: celebrates Ibrahim's obedience. Id-ul-Fitr: marks end of Ramadan. Ashura: especially important for Shi'a – mourning for Husayn. | Observed in Britain through prayer and gatherings |

| Area | Key Differences |
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| Beliefs | Sunni: Six Articles; Shi'a: Five Roots of Usul ad-Din. |
| Leadership | Sunni: elected Caliphs; Shi'a: divinely appointed Imams. |
| Imamate | Only recognised in Shi'a Islam – twelve Imams preserve and guide the faith. |
| Practices | Shi'a observe Ten Obligatory Acts including Khums; Sunni follow Five Pillars. |
| Salah | Slight variations in hand position, timing and combining of prayers. |

- Risalah means prophethood or messengership and represents the various ways Allah communicates with humanity.
- Islamic belief teaches that Allah wants to help people live good lives and so he sends messages about how to do this.
- Many of these messages are found in the Qur'an.
- Muslims believe that messages from Allah are communicated through prophets, or nubuwwah.

“We believe in Allah, and the revelation given to us, and to Abraham, Ismail, Isaac, Jacob and the tribes, and that given to Moses and Jesus, and that given to (all) prophets from their Lord: we make no difference between one and another of them: and we bow to Allah.” Qur’an 2:136
