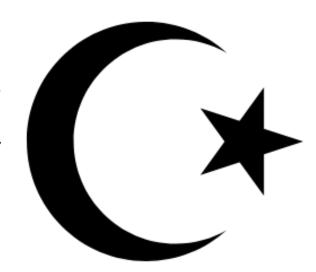
Knowledge Organiser: Islam



Component 1: The study of religions: beliefs, teachings and practices

- Islam is a monotheistic religion that teaches belief in one God, known in Arabic as Allah.
- It was revealed over 1,400 years ago through the Prophet Muhammad, who Muslims believe is the final prophet in a long line that includes figures such as Abraham, Moses, and Jesus.
- Muslims believe that Allah revealed his final message to humanity through the Qur'an, the holy book of Islam, which is written in Arabic and is considered the literal word of God.
- The core beliefs and practices of Islam are known as the Five Pillars: Shahadah (the declaration of faith), Salah (prayer five times a day), Zakah (giving to charity), Sawm (fasting during the month of Ramadan), and Hajj (pilgrimage to Makkah, if able).
- Muslims aim to live a life of submission to the will of Allah and follow the example (Sunnah) of the Prophet Muhammad, recorded in the Hadith.
- Worship often takes place in a mosque, and Islamic beliefs shape all aspects of a Muslim's life, from moral behaviour to daily routines.



Key Beliefs

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	Surah 5:44-48
	Abraham.	
Imamate (Shi'a)	Twelve Imams are spiritual successors of Muhammad, protect the faith.	Shi'a teachings

Islamic Practices

Practice	Key Practices	Examples / Notes
Five Pillars / Ten	Five Pillars: Shahadah, Salah, Zakah, Sawm, Hajj.	
Obligatory Acts	Ten Obligatory Acts (Shi'a): include these + Khums, Jihad, Amr-bil-Maroof, 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

Sunni and Shi'a Differences

Area	Key Differences
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.

Prophethood

- 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