

Islamic Beliefs



Key Topics Personalised Checklist

Topic	Revised	Things I still don't understand ... YET	Understand
1. The Nature of Allah			
2. Prophethood (Risalah)			
3. Angels (Malaikah)			
4. Afterlife (Afterlife)			
5. Foundations of faith			

Key Words

Tawhid – Oneness of God

Risalah (prophets) – Messengers picked by God

Allah - God

Immanence – God is close to His creation

Transcendence – God's superior to humans and beyond our understanding

Al Qadr – God knows everything that is going to happen. Our life is predestined.

Akirah – life after death

Malaikah (Angels) – God messengers and servants. His first creation.

Key Quotes:

- *"There is no God but Allah, none have the right to be worshipped but He" Quran 3:18*
- *"Allah, who created the heavens and earth and did not fail... is able to give life to the dead?... He is over all things competent" Qur'an 46:33*
- *"We believe in Allah and that which is revealed to us, and in what was revealed to [the prophets]. We make no distinction between any of them." Qur'an 2:136*
- *"...Every time a messenger came to you...you were arrogant? And a party [of messengers] you denied and another party you killed" Qur'an 2.87*
- *"...Jibril...has revealed the Book to your heart as a guide and as joyful news to the believers" Quran 2:97*
- *"No soul knows what delights of the key are kept hidden from them of joy, as a reward for what they did" Surah 32.17*
- *"... companions of the fire; they will abide eternally therein"*

1. Nature of Allah

Key Characteristics of Allah:

- **Tawhid** – Oneness of God
- **Immanent** – God is close to His creation
- **Transcendent** – God is superior than humans and beyond our understanding
- **Omnipotent** – All powerful
- **Omnipresent** – God is everywhere
- **Omniscient** - All knowing
- **Beneficent** – All loving
- **Eternal** – God has always existed and always will exist
- **Just** – God will judge everyone fairly
- **Fair** – God treats everyone equally
- **Merciful** - Kind



Key Quotes:

- *"There is no God but Allah, none have the right to be worshipped but He" Quran 3:18*
- *"Allah, who created the heavens and earth and did not fail... is able to give life to the dead?... He is over all things competent" Qur'an 46:33*

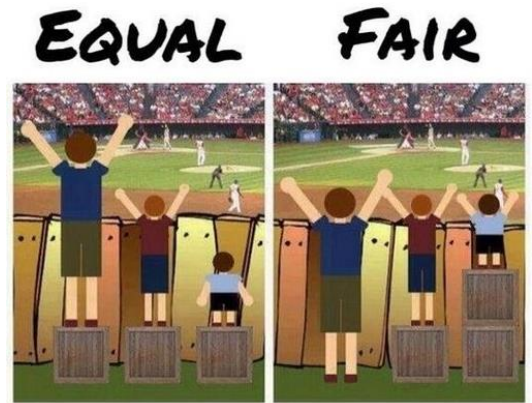
Tawhid:

- The first Pillar of Islam (Shahada) shows the Oneness of Allah is a central belief
- The word 'Allah' means 'One who deserves to be loved'. It has no plural.
- Tawhid has three aspects:
 - o Only Allah can perform certain functions EG creating the world
 - o Only Allah has characteristics such as omniscient / transcendent etc.
 - o Only Allah is worthy of worship
- Shirk is the greatest sin, this is to associate Allah with something / someone else.
- Some claim that without this belief, any Islamic practices have no value.

Allahs Actions	Allahs Worship	Allahs Attributes
- Created the universe and heavens	- Allah is the only one worthy of worship	- Allah is omnipotent
- Allah sustains the universe	- Pray to Allah	- Allah is benevolent
- Only Allah can revive the dead	- Do not worship any prophets or idols	- Allah is immanent
- Allah wards off evil		- Allah is transcendent
- Allah controls all things		- Allah is merciful
		- Allah is fair
		- Allah is just

Adalat (Justice):

- Allah always does what is right and fair. Allah rewards good acts with goodness and bad acts with negative consequences. This will be seen on the day of judgement.
- Humans cannot always see justice being served as they are not capable of understanding how Allah acts.
- Humans should also try to be just and fair.



Merciful - Allah shows His kindness by:

- Sending down prophets to guide us
- Giving humans free will
- Allowing humans to repent their bad deeds and learn from our mistakes (forgiving).

How does the nature of Allah influence Muslims today?

- Omnipotent: Muslims trust He will help them during difficult times
- Omnibenevolent: Muslims use this to try to find goodness in everything they do / see
- Omniscient: Muslims know God is watching them, so it encourages them to be good.
- Just / Fair: Muslims believe everyone will get what they deserve in the afterlife which encourages them to be good. This can also help them cope with death.
- Tawhid: Belief in one God will influence Muslims not to worship anything or anyone else which can make them lose focus on Allah.

Exam Questions:

1. State two Islamic beliefs about Allah (2)
2. Explain Muslim teachings about the Tawhid of Allah (5)
3. Explain the importance of the nature of Allah (8)
4. 'Belief in tawhid is the most important Muslim belief'. Discuss this statement showing that you have considered more than one point of view. (You must refer to religion and belief in your answer). (15)

2. Prophethood (Risalah)







Prophets:

- **Prophet** – Someone chosen by God to deliver His message faithfully.
- Some claim that to disobey a prophet is to reject God.
- Role of prophets:
 - o Clarify the purpose of humans – to worship ONE God and to understand that life is a test
 - o To uncover the truth of the unseen world
 - o To provide us with a practical example as to how to lead a good life leading them to paradise
 - o To purify the soul from materialism and sin
 - o To convey God’s teachings

Key quote:

- *"We believe in Allah and that which is revealed to us, and in what was revealed to [the prophets]. We make no distinction between any of them."* Qur'an 2:136
- *"...Every time a messenger came to you...you were arrogant? And a party [of messengers] you denied and another party you killed"* Qur'an 2.87
- *"The prophets are brothers; although they have different mothers, their religion is one"* Hadith

Adam – The first prophet




		
<p>God created Adam from clay from a variety of clay</p> <p>God created Adam with characteristics such as the ability to reason and to be free</p>	<p>Adam was made to be a caretaker on earth, to look after the environment and the animals.</p> <p>He had free will and reason, so he named everything on earth.</p>	<p>God created Eve from Adams rib while he was sleeping to ease his loneliness.</p>
		
<p>A jinn (Iblis) refused to kneel before Adam.</p> <p>Iblis tried to tempt Adam and future humans to commit evil through deception. He became known as Shaytan.</p>	<p>Adam picked a forbidden fruit under the temptation of Iblis and offered it to Eve – they both ate it.</p> <p>As a punishment they were banished to earth from Paradise, however Allah still send guidance to Earth so Adam could teach people about avoiding temptation and to follow God. He forgave them.</p>	<p>Adam built the first Ka'ba in Mekkah where he taught people about Allah</p>

Importance of Adam:

- Given free will and the ability to reason which all of humanity inherited
- Built the first ka'ba to teach the word of Allah
- Gave teachings about the Iblis and how to avoid temptation
- Role model showing us how to repent from our sins to achieve salvation

Ibrahim, Ismail and Isaac

			
Ibrahim questioned the significance of the idols his dad used to make. One day he realised that Allah was beyond our idols.	Ibrahim tried to teach people about Allah by destroying the idols.	The people in Mekkah were not happy so tried to kill him by throwing him in a fire. However, an angel saved him by preventing him from getting burnt.	Ibrahim then travelled and settled in Israel where he married Sarah. The king gave Ibrahim and Sarah a slave called Hagar. Sarah told Ibrahim to marry Hagar and have a child with her as-well as she was not successful in conceiving. However she later conceived Isaac.

		
Ibrahim brought Hagar and their son Ismail to the desert in Mekkah. There was no water so Hagar ran between two mountains 7 times searching for some. Soon an angel appeared leaving the zamzam well.	Ibrahim went to visit Ismail. He had a dream to sacrifice Ismail from Allah. Ismail agreed to this. Before he killed his son, Allah stepped in giving a ram to sacrifice instead as he had passed the test.	Ibrahim and Ismail rebuilt the ka'ba in Mekkah. Ibrahim left Ismail to look after it and to teach people about Allah which was the beginning of the Hajj.

Importance of Ibrahim and Ismail:

- Ibrahim was dedicated to Allah, faithful and loyal as shown by his own willingness to be sacrificed and to sacrifice his son.
- Ibrahim taught people not to worship idols
- Ismail was willing to sacrifice himself which shows dedication and commitment
- Ibrahim and Ismail built the Ka'ba, spread the correct teachings of Allah, and began the hajj



Isa (Jesus):

- Born through the immaculate conception to Maryam
- Performed miracles EG walking on water / healing people
- Not the son of God
- Did not die when he was crucified, he ascended straight to heaven
- He will return to earth near the day of judgement to defeat the 'false Messiah'

The need for a new prophet:

- Previous holy books were lost or were amended
- People were yet again becoming distanced from Allah
- Previous revelations were ignored.

Muhammad:

	
<p>Had a difficult upbringing. Both his parents died and his grandad died. He lived with his uncle as a tradesman. He later married Kadijah.</p>	<p>Muhammad disliked society who were worshipping idols again so often went to a cave in mount Hira to meditate.</p> <p>While meditating, the Angel Jibril appeared telling him to recite the Word of Allah. This was later written down to become the Qur'an.</p>
 	
<p>People rejected Muhammad's teachings. They tried to kill him. He therefore travelled to Madinah where they accepted him and followed him becoming the first Islamic community. This journey was known as the Hijrah.</p>	<p>Muhammad later returned to Mekkah with 300 men and destroyed all of the idols in the ka'ba</p>

Impact of Muhammad:

- Good role model and family man. His teachings and guidance is kept in the Hadith.
- Good leader and teacher
- Taught Muslims not to worship idols
- Due to Muhammad's religious experience, we have the Qur'an which guides Muslims

Exam Questions:

1. State two prophets in Islam (2)
2. Explain why prophets are important in Islam (5)
3. Explain the importance of Muhammad (8)
4. 'Muhammad is the most important prophet'. Discuss this statement showing that you have considered more than one point of view. (You must refer to religion and belief in your answer). (15)

3. Malaikah (Angels)

Angels:

- Heavenly, immortal beings.
- Made from light with no visible body. They are described as having wings and always described as males.
- They are without sin.
- They have no knowledge of their own
- They have no free will.
- They are Allah's messengers and servants.



Angel	Role	Duties	Importance
Jibril (Gabriel)	Angel of Revelation	Was given the word of Allah to teach people.	Guides Muslim as to how to act in accordance with Allah
Mika'il (Michael)	Protector	Keeps the devil out of heaven and gives us resources EG water	Helps us survive and the righteous be safe in heaven
Israfi (Raphael)	Announcer of Resurrection	Job to blow the trumpet to announce judgement day and then again to announce the resurrection	Let us know judgment day is here
Azrail	Angel of Death	Brings the souls to the correct place after death	Ensures our soul goes to the place it deserves
Raqib and Atid	Noble recorder	Raqib sits on the right shoulder recording the right deeds. Atid sits on the left shoulder recording the bad deeds	Ensures we are judged fairly
Munkar and Nakir	Judge	Questions us on entry to paradise	Determines if we deserve a place in Paradise.

Key quote:

"...Jibril...has revealed the Book to your heart as a guide and as joyful news to the believers"

Quran 2:97

Exam Questions:

1. What is meant by Malaikah (2)
2. Explain Muslim teachings about Malaikah (5)
3. Explain the importance of the Malaikah (8)
4. 'Belief in Malaikah is the most important Muslim belief'. Discuss this statement showing that you have considered more than one point of view. (You must refer to religion and belief in your answer). (15)

4. Akhira (Afterlife)

Akhira:

- Life is simply preparation for the eternal afterlife to come. It is a test.
- Signs for the end of the world:
 - Many earthquakes
 - Spreading of killing
 - Rejection of Islam
 - Increase of dishonesty, drunkenness, nakedness and fornication
- Israfil will blow the first trumpet and the following will happen:
 - Blinding light
 - Sky will be cut
 - Mountains become dust
 - Oceans boil over with fire
 - Earth is destroyed
 - Dead will raise up and the living will die instantly
 - Mahdi (a messiah) and Isa will return to earth.
They will fight against the false prophets.
 - The Qur'an will be taken to Paradise
- Israfil will blow the second trumpet and then everyone will be risen ready for judgement.

Barzakh: This is where the souls go upon death while waiting for judgement day. The good are put into a peaceful sleep and the bad are tormented by angels.

Jannah (heaven / paradise):

- To enter Jannah you have to pass over a very narrow bridge called As-Sirat. Those who manage to cross it have been blessed by Allah for doing good.
- Jannah is magical and mystical. All wishes and desires are fulfilled. No-one will grow old, ill or die. There will be no pain or worries. Families will be reunited, no-one will be alone. There will be rivers, gardens and beautiful weather. There is as much food and wine as you like (but you will not get drunk). Clothes will be splendid and radiant. You will never get tired of the pleasures and delights.
- "No soul knows what delights of the key are kept hidden from them of joy, as a reward for what they did" Surah 32.17



Jahannam (hell):

- The wicked will fail to pass over the As-Sirat bridge. When trying to cross they will fall into Jahannam.
- In Jahannam it is seventy times hotter than any flame on earth. Their skin will be burnt off and replaced to be burnt off again. Boiling water is poured over their heads. They will be dragged in chains and have black smoke in their eyes.
- If you have not said your prayers you will have your head smashed against a boulder. If you gossiped, you will have your lips cut off. If you were arrogant you will be reduced to the size of an ant.



Does Jahannam last forever?

- Most Muslims believe that hell is forever as they Qur'an says: "... companions of the fire; they will abide eternally therein"

Al-Qadr:

- Allah knows everything.
- "He knows what is within the heavens and earth and knows what you conceal and what you declare..." Qur'an 64:4

Freedom and Responsibility

- Humans have free will so they must take responsibility for their actions and be accountable for them.

Why is the afterlife so important?

- Guides their current life to do good. Without this there could be chaos.
- Gives them purpose
- Allows them to be with Allah in Jannah
- Give them peace / hope / comfort

Exam Questions:

1. What is meant by barzakh? (2)
2. Explain Muslim teachings about the day of judgement (5)
3. Explain why the belief in akhira is important to Muslims (8)
4. 'Muslims should be more concerned with this life than the next'. Discuss this statement showing that you have considered more than one point of view. (You

5. Foundations of Faith

Sunni and Shi'a split:

Soon after the death of Muhammad a dispute arose over who should lead the emerging Muslim community as Muhammad did not verbally give a successor. Sunnis believed that as Muhammad did not choose a successor it should be appointed through election and that the Prophet's trusted friend and advisor Abu Bakr was the first rightful leader (caliph) of Muslims. Shias believe that Muhammad's cousin and son-in-law Ali would have been chosen by Muhammad to hold the title (they call the leader imam).

Both men did eventually hold the title. Abu Bakr first until his death, then there were two other caliphs who were both assassinated, and then Ali. However many Shias rejected the first three khalifas. They were angry that Ali had been overlooked and when Ali was later murdered they began to separate themselves further. Shias believed that as Ali was the first rightful imam, only his descendants could claim to be the true leaders of Muslims.

Comparing Sunni and Shi'a

Sunni:

- Majority of Muslims
- Believe Muhammad's successor should be elected
- Abu Bakr should have been Muhammad's successor
- Caliph's are leaders
- Believe in the six articles of faith
- No religious hierarchy
- Leaders are good teachers
- Focuses on the power of God
- Angels have no free will

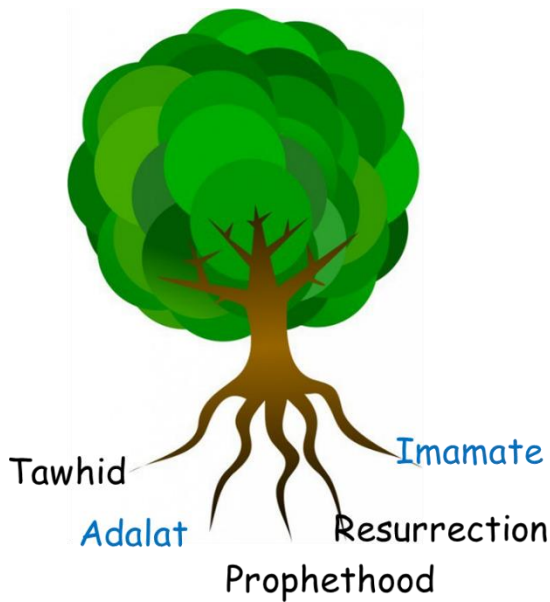
Shi'a:

- Minority of Muslims
- Imams are leaders
- Muhammad's son in law Ali should be Muhammad's successor
- Believe in the 5 roots of Islam
- Leaders are divinely appointed
- Focuses on the afterlife
- Angels have some, but limited free will

Similarities:

- Allah is the One God
- Muhammad is the prophet
- No pictures of Allah / Muhammad
- Charity
- Ramadan
- Quran
- 5 Daily prayers
- Believe in life after death

A) Five Roots of Shi'a Islam:



Tawhid = Section 1
Adalat = Section 1
Prophethood = Section 2
Resurrection (afterlife) = Section 4

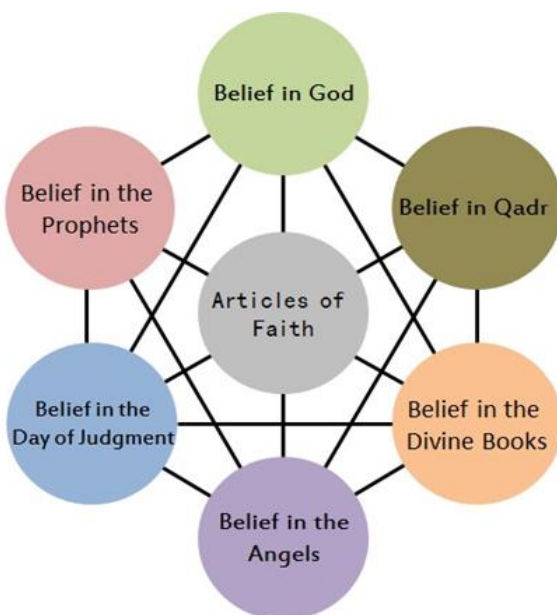
Imamate:

- Shi'as believe that Muhammad said that 12 imams would succeed him as leaders.
- Shi'as believe the first 11 did lead the community. However the twelfth, Mahdi, went missing. Mahdi will appear again at the end of time.
- Imams are protectors of faith and can do no wrong

How can the five roots influence Shi'a Muslims?

- Tawhid - shows there is only One power to follow which stops Muslims getting distracted by idols
- Adalat - Allah is just. This helps me deal with difficult times as I know it is a test and Allah is fair.
- Prophets - Prophets guide me and act a role models for me to follow
- Resurrection - I know life is a test and if I do good I will resurrect to Jannah
- Imamate - Imams give me guidance and understanding of Islam in the modern world helping me to focus on the true message of Allah.

B) Six articles of Sunni Islam:



Belief in God = Section 1
Belief in Qadr = Section 4
Belief in Angel = Section 3
Belief in the Day of Judgment = Section 4
Belief in prophets = section 2

Holy Books:

- Holy books are given to humanity to guide them
- Isa = Gospels
- Ibrahim = Abrahamic Scrolls
- Muhammad was given the word of the Quran
- Muhammad's teachings were kept in the Hadith.

TOP TIPS

- Learn your key words!
- Learn some quotes for each sub-topic
- Make sure you spend at least 2 minutes planning your 15 mark question
- If you get the 2 and 5 mark question done as quickly as possible, you will be able to have a little bit longer on the 8 and 15 mark questions.

Revision ideas:

- Make revision cards / sheets on all the topics
- Use the Personalised topic check list at the front of this booklet.

Write down things you are not too sure on and then ask your teacher to explain them in class.

- Practice writing answers to exam question in timed condition



Islamic Practices



Key Topics Personalised Checklist

Topic	Revised	Don't understand ... YET	Understand
1. The 5 Pillars			
2. Shahadah			
3. Salah			
4. Zakah			
5. Sadaqah			
6. Sawm			
7. Hajj			
8. Ten Obligatory Acts of Shi'a Islam			
9. Jihad			
10. Eid ul adha			
11. Eid ul fitr			
12. Other festivals			

Key Words

halal – permitted (allowed) in Islam

haram – forbidden (not allowed)

greater jihad – the inner, spiritual struggle of Muslims to be good Muslims

lesser jihad – holy war; fighting for God's cause if necessary

mosque – the Islamic place of worship and prayer

shariah (straight path) – Islamic law, covering religious life (e.g. prayer) and non-religious life (e.g. no alcohol, no gambling)

ummah - the worldwide Muslim family or community

Key Words

Ibadah: Acts of worship; any action performed with the intention to obey Allah (God)

Shahadah- declaration of faith in Allah.

Salah- Five daily prayers

Congregational prayer: all together, praying as a community. This emphasises the ummah (world-wide Muslim community).

Du'a prayers: personal prayers which may be said at any time of the day. These are in addition to the 5 daily prayers.

Zakah: Compulsory giving: a wealth tax.

Sadaqah: Voluntary charity on top of zakah.

Sawm: Fasting during Ramadan.

Hajj: Pilgrimage to Makkah

Jihad: to strive or struggle for Allah. There are two forms: greater jihad and lesser jihad.

Key Quotes:

'There is no God but Allah, and Muhammad is the prophet of God.' (Qur'an 3:18) **L The SHAHADAH**

'If you sleep and miss a prayer, or forgets it, offer the prayer when you remember.' **SALAH**

'Spend for that which we have provided for you.' (Qur'an 2:254) **ZAKAT**

'The one who looks after and works for a widow and a poor person is like a warrior fighting for God's cause.' **ZAKAT**

'To those against whom war is made, permission is given to fight, because they are wronged.' Qur'an 22:39 **JIHAD**

'The meat will not reach God, nor will their blood, but what reaches Him is piety for you.' Qur'an 22:37 **EID-AL-ADHA**

1. Shahada

Facts:

- First of the 5 Pillars of Islam.
- Statement/ Testimony/ declaration of faith.
- Forms the central support for Islam. The other 4 pillars are all outward expressions of this deeply held belief.
- Sums up the religion of Islam. The belief in one God and the acceptance of Muhammad as God's final messenger.

When is the Shahadah recited?

- Announced in the **adhan** (call to prayer).

- Whispered into a new-born baby's ear.
- Last words heard on your death-bed.
- Muslim soldiers say these words as they go to battle.
- Recitation of this declaration of faith before at least two Muslims is the sole requirement for those who wish to join the Muslim community. (Reversion)

Reversion

- There are no ceremonies/rituals to welcome new believers of Islam.
- To become a Muslim all you need to do is recite the shahadah 3 times.
- Muslims call this reversion rather than conversion. They say that because God is our creator; we are all born worshippers of the true God and so when we discover faith we return (revert) to our natural faith.
- Muhammad Ali was a famous revert.

Key Quotes

'There is no God but Allah and Muhammad is His messenger.' (Qur'an 3:18)

'The Prophet said: "Whoever says; there is no God but God enters Paradise."' (Hadith)

Exam Questions:

1. Explain what Muslims mean by the word 'Shahadah'. (2)
2. Describe Muslim teachings about the Shahadah(5)
3. Explain the importance of the Shahadah. (8)
4. 'Saying you believe in God 3 times should not be enough for you to be considered a Muslim'. Discuss this statement showing that you have considered more than one point of view. (You must refer to religion and belief in your answer). (15)

2. Salah (Prayer)

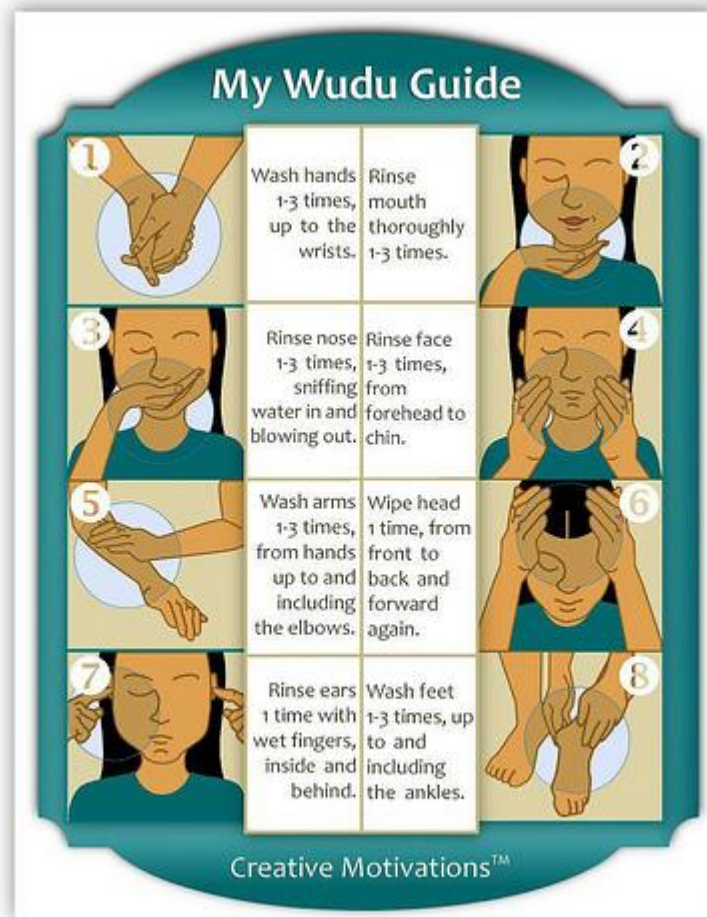
Facts:

- It is the second **Pillar of Islam**.
- God ordered Muslims to pray at five set times of day.
- These five times are dawn (**Fajr**), immediately after noon (**Dhuhr**), mid-afternoon (**'Asr**), sunset (**Maghrib**), and early night (**Isha'**).



Praying:

- **Wudu**: Before Muslims begin to pray, they must prepare themselves by washing in a special way.



The Rakkahs

- Sequence of movements following a set pattern, which make up the prayer routine.
- Different prayers during the day require different numbers of rak'ahs.
- The Muslim will:
 - Stand quietly reciting the prayers from the Qur'an.
 - Bow low, with their hands on their knees.
 - Prostrate on the floor, in submission to God.
 - Kneel with their feet folded under their body.
 - Stand, reciting 'Peace be upon you and God's blessing,' once facing the right and once facing the left.

Why do Muslims pray 5 times a day? The Night Journey

- Mentioned in both the Qur'an and the Hadith.

In the story...

- Muhammad is woken up and taken to Jerusalem on a winged-horse and then up through the seven levels of heaven, to the very presence of God and met with the previous prophets.
- God reveals that Muslims must pray 50 times a day and that worship must be a constant presence throughout life.

- Moses (Musa) intervenes and says that this is too much a God eventually agrees to lower it.
- It was agreed that prayer should happen 5 times a day.

Aims of prayer:

- As a constant reminder of the presence of God.
- To show submission to the will of Allah.
- To cleanse away the corruption of the world.
- To unite all Muslims.
- To bring about peace in the world.
- To remove sins, just as water removes dirt.

Jumm'ah (congregational) prayer:

- Friday is the day Muslims will gather together at the mosque for **jumu'ah** prayers.
- Muslim men are expected to attend Friday, midnight prayers. (Women may attend but tend to traditionally, pray at home).
- Main feature is the sermon (**khutbah**).
- Not holy like the Sabbath, Friday is not seen as holy.

Key quote

'If one of you sleeps and misses a prayer, or forgets it, let him offer the prayer when he remembers.' (Hadith)

Exam Questions:

1. State two aims of prayer. (2)
2. Describe how Muslims pray. (5)
3. Explain the importance of prayer in Islam. (8)
4. 'If you miss prayers, you cannot be considered a true Muslim'. Discuss this statement showing that you have considered more than one point of view. (You must refer to religion and belief in your answer). (15)

3. Zakah (Compulsory giving) and Sadaqah (Voluntary charity)

Zakah Facts:

- **Zakah** is the third pillar of Islam.
- It is a duty that all Muslims must participate in.
- 2.5% of wealth is given.
- They will be rewarded for their acts of giving.
- First act of charity is when a baby is first born. Their hair is shaved off, weighed and the amount it weighs is given to charity.
- Everything that they own has been given to them by God.
- They are simply looking after what God has given them.
- The money they have should be used wisely and in a way which God will like.
- This means giving things to those who need them.
- The poor have a right to share the wealth that belongs to the rich people.
- **Zakah** makes sure this happens and that no one is left really poor in the society.

Why should Muslims give money to charity?

- Duty.
- Being generous and kind.
- Zakah is purity - p
- Wealth is to be shared.
- Humans are **khalifahs** (stewards). We should look after God's creations.
- Muhammad practised zakah.



Key Quotes:

'O you who have believed, spend for that which We have provided for you.' Qur'an 2:254

'The one who looks after and works for a widow and a poor person is like a warrior fighting for God's cause.' Hadith

Sadaqah facts:

- Sadaqah is giving from the heart.
- It is a duty for all Muslims to give Zakah (2.5% of their wealth once a year). But Islam also teaches the importance of voluntary giving too.
- Sadaqah is any good deed done out of compassion or generosity.

Examples of Sadaqah:

- The gift of time.
- Helping others
- Smiling at someone.
- Donating to charity.

Muslim Aid:

Muslim Aid try to eliminate poverty with projects that focus on the following:

- Education
- Skills training
- Provision of clean water
- Healthcare
- Income generation projects



Key Quotes:

“If anyone strokes an orphan’s head, doing so only for Allah’s sake, he will have blessings for every hair over which his hand passes.” (Hadith)

Exam Questions:

1. What is meant by zakah? (2)
2. Outline Muslim teachings about zakah. (5)
3. Explain the importance of the Zakah. (8)
4. 'Zakah is the most important pillar for Muslims to follow.' Discuss this statement showing that you have considered more than one point of view. (You must refer to religion and belief in your answer). (15)

4. Sawm (Fasting)

Facts:

- 4th pillar
- Practice of fasting during Ramadan.
- Holiest month of the year.
- Believed to be the month that the Qur'an was revealed to Muhammad.
- Those who are pregnant, ill, travelling, old etc. should not fast as it is dangerous to their health.

How does fasting help Muslims?

- **Self-discipline-** Fasting is the deliberate control of the body and Muslims are expected to refrain from eating, drinking, smoking and sexual intercourse from dawn to dusk for a period of 29/30 days. They must also refrain from evil thoughts, actions and unkind speech.
- **Spiritual reflection.**

<p>What is Ramadan and why is it important?</p>	<p>Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, when Muslims fast during daylight hours. There are several reasons why Ramadan is considered important: •The Qur'an was first revealed during this month •The gates of Heaven are open</p>
<p>When does Ramadan start?</p>	<p>Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic Calendar. Some Muslims start Ramadan when they see the new Moon, others start Ramadan from when the new moon can be seen in Saudi Arabia which is the country where Islam started.</p> <p>What does it mean to 'fast' during Ramadan?</p>
<p>What about Good Actions?</p>	<p>Muslims believe that their good actions bring a greater reward during this month than at any other time of year, because this month has been blessed by Allah. Almost all Muslims try to give up bad habits during Ramadan, and some will try to become better Muslims by praying more or reading the Qur'an.</p>
<p>Why is Ramadan called the 'Month of the Qur'an'?</p>	<p>Muslims attempt to recite as much of The Qur'an as they can during the month of Ramadan. Many Mosques will attempt to read 1/30th of The Qur'an each night during the month.</p>
<p>On which night was the Qur'an revealed?</p>	<p>Many Muslims believe that The Qur'an was revealed during the last ten nights of Ramadan, they don't know which night in particular.</p>
<p>What does 'Sawm' mean?</p>	<p>Sawm is the practice of fasting during the month of Ramadan. Many Muslims go without food during daylight hours. It means showing self control over what you eat, sleep, do and say.</p>
<p>What happens at the end of Ramadan?</p>	<p>When the new moon is seen it is time for a celebration called 'Eid - ul- Fitr'. It is time to break the fast and the end of Ramadan. There are special services, processions, meals. Gifts are given, new clothes worn and it is also a time to forgive.</p>
<p>Do all Muslims have to fast?</p>	<p>It is mainly teenagers and adults who fast, both men and women as long as they are healthy. Women who are pregnant do not have to fast. Children sometimes try part of the fast to prepare them for taking part fully when older.</p>

Why do Muslims fast?

- Commanded in the Qur'an.
- Follows the example of Muhammad.
- Celebrates that God gave humans the Qur'an.
- Brings people closer to God.
- A reminder of the mercy and blessings of God.
- Helps Muslims identify with the poor.
- Promotes self-control.
- Helps to recharge spiritual batteries.
- Unites Muslim communities (**Ummah**).

British Muslims:



Ramadan fast in UK 'should be shortened' says scholar

6 hours ago

There is a call for British Muslims to reduce their fasting hours during Ramadan, which begins this week.

Some argue that fasting times should be standardised. Muslims who live in the Middle East only ever have to fast for a maximum of 15 hours a day, whereas in an English summer, Muslims may need to fast for up to 19 hours each day. This is especially hard for students doing exams in the summer months.

Key Quotes:

'Whoever among you is ill or on a journey [during them] - then an equal number of days [are to be made up]. And upon those who are able [to fast, but with hardship] - a ransom [as substitute] of feeding a poor person [each day]. And whoever volunteers excess - it is better for him. But to fast is best for you, if you only knew.' (Qur'an 2:183-184)

Exam Questions:

1. What is meant by sawm? (2)
2. Describe how fasting helps Muslims. (5)
3. Explain the importance of fasting for Muslims. (8)
4. 'Fasting times should be cut short in the UK'. Discuss this statement showing that you have considered more than one point of view. (You must refer to religion and belief in your answer). (15)

5. Hajj (Pilgrimage)

Facts:

- 5th pillar
- The pilgrimage to **Makkah**
- Hajj is an ambition of a lifetime.
- Those who complete it are called **Hajji** (male) or **Hajjah** (female).
- The only pillar that Muslims don't have to perform. However it is compulsory for those who are able to perform it.
- It is a duty for those who; have enough money to leave home for lengthy periods and are physically and mentally fit enough to carry out the demanding ritual.

The Importance of Makkah:

- Makkah is the holiest place on earth because it is the city of God and has immense spiritual significant.
- Muslims believe that in Makkah:
 - Prophet Ibrahim was commanded, in a dream, by Allah to sacrifice Isma'il.

- Ibrahim overcame a test when the devil appeared to trick him into denying God's word. Ibrahim threw stones to drive the devil away.
- Ibrahim's wife Hajar, searched the desert for water and an angel showed her the Zamzam well.
- Ibrahim built the Ka'ba as a place to worship the one true God.
- Muhammad was born.
- Muhammad received the revelations from God/
- Muhammad returned to Makkah to reclaim the city for God.

'And We made this House (Ka'bah) a resort for mankind and a place of security, commanding people: "Take the station of Abraham as a permanent place for Prayer," and enjoined Abraham and Ishmael: "Purify My House for those who walk around it, and those who abide in devotion, and those who bow, and who prostrate themselves (in Prayer)."' (Qur'an 2:125-129)

What happens on Hajj?

Ihram



- Before entering the sacred city, Muslims must **purify their bodies** (wash their face, hands and feet).
- Men must then put on **2 pieces of white cloth**. One tied around the waist and the other thrown over the left shoulder.
- Women must then put on a **long white dress** and **white head covering**.

It shows that everyone is equal in the eyes of Allah, regardless of how rich or poor you are.

Tawaf

Muslims will perform the 'Tawaf' which means walking around the Ka'ba 7 times in an anti-clockwise direction. Preferably running the first three and walking the last four.

The Ka'ba is covered by a black silk and gold curtain known as the **kiswah**. Two-thirds of the way up is a band of gold embroidered Qur'anic text, including the Shahadah. It costs over \$4.5,000,000 to make a Kiswah.

If possible they should try to kiss or touch it as they pass just like Muhammad did.

The circling symbolises unity-worshipping One God together at that moment.

They also do this to remember the destruction of the Idols inside it



Running between mount Sa'fa and Marwa



After running, pilgrims will visit the Zamzam well and drink from it and take some home with them.

Why they do this:

- Hagar and her son Ishmael were left in the desert by her husband Ibrahim.
- Hagar went in search of water, frantically running between the mountains 7 times.
- When she returned Ismael had kicked his heels into the sand and a spring had appeared. This became known as the Zamzam Well.

Mount of Mercy/The Wukuf

- The next day Muslims travel to the Mount of Mercy where they must stay from noon to dusk.
- Here they pray for others. They believe their prayers are more effective here.
- They stand on the Plain of Arafat, remembering God's mercy and forgiveness.



This is where they remember the Prophet Muhammad who gave this last sermon there.

The pillars at Mina



7 pebbles are thrown at the pillars which are said to symbolise the devil. This is reenacting Ibrahim's actions.

Muslims spend the night sleeping under the stars without tents. They collect a bag of tiny pebbles which they bring to Mina the next day.

Id-UI Adha (Festival of Sacrifice)



A sacrifice of a goat or a sheep is made, in memory of when Abraham was going to sacrifice his son for his love of God.



This symbolises a fresh start the state of Ihram is lifted and they can resume his normal life.

This is the most important of all Muslim celebrations.

British Muslims on Hajj:

- Every year about 3 million Muslims go to Makkah for the annual pilgrimage.
- 100,000 of these will be from Britain.
- Some have been on Hajj before, but some experience it for the first time- it can be a deeply spiritual experience.

Issues British Muslims might face when going to Makkah:

- Obtaining a visa to go to Saudi Arabia.
- Cost
- Booking with a deceiving travel company.
- Work- holiday etc.

Exam Questions:

1. State 2 things that happen on Hajj. (2)
2. Describe the importance of Makkah to Muslims. (5)
3. Explain the importance of completing Hajj. (8)
4. 'All Muslims must perform Hajj'. Discuss this statement showing that you have considered more than one point of view. (You must refer to religion and belief in your answer). (15)

6. Ten Obligatory Acts of Shi'a (Furu-Ad-Din)

The five pillars are followed by Sunni Muslims. Shiah Muslims have ten obligatory acts:

1. **Salah** (prayer)

There are 5 daily prayers, where Muslims face towards the Ka'ba in Makkah, but many Shi'as combine these into three. These prayer times are:

- Between dawn and sunrise.
- Just after noon.
- At dusk, just after sunset.

They do this because they say that Muhammad allowed to combine prayers.

2. **Sawm** (fasting)

Like Sunnis, Shi'as practise fasting during the month of Ramadan, but from the 20th day they remember the death of Ali (son of the prophet) and spend three days in mourning.

3. **Hajj** (pilgrimage)

Like Sunnis, Shi'as go on the annual pilgrimage to Makkah in the 12th month of the Muslim calendar. In addition to Hajj, they also make pilgrimages to Shi'a shrines and graves, in particular visiting the grave of Husayn in Karbala (Iraq).

4. **Zakah** (charity)

Like Sunnis, Shi'as make a charity payment of 2.5% of their wealth every year. This goes to support the poor and those in need.

5. **Khums** (wealth tax)

In addition to Zakah, Shi'as are expected to pay Khums, a wealth tax of 20% of their savings. This money is paid to Muslim scholars and community leaders for the welfare of the community.

6. **Jihad** (Struggle)

Jihad is the duty to struggle against sin. For the sake of God, Muslims should fight against injustice, removing any obstacles that might prevent people being able to worship God.

7. **Amr-bil-Marooif** (encouraging others to do good)

The central purpose of Islam is to create a society where people can live in peace and harmony. Therefore, it is the duty of all Muslims to encourage others to do good, for the sake of God. In the Hadith Muhammad promises that the person who persuades someone to do good, will get the same reward as the person they persuaded.

'And let there be [arising] from you a nation inviting to good, enjoining what is right and forbidding what is wrong, and those will be the successful' Qur'an 3:104

8. **Nahil Anril Munkar** (discouraging the bad)

It is the duty of all Muslims to forbid evil; when someone sees a wrong, they should correct it. It is the responsibility of the whole community to discourage others from harmful actions, such as bribery and corruption. This applies to individuals, families and the whole society.

'Whoever among you sees an evil should change it with his hand.'
Hadith

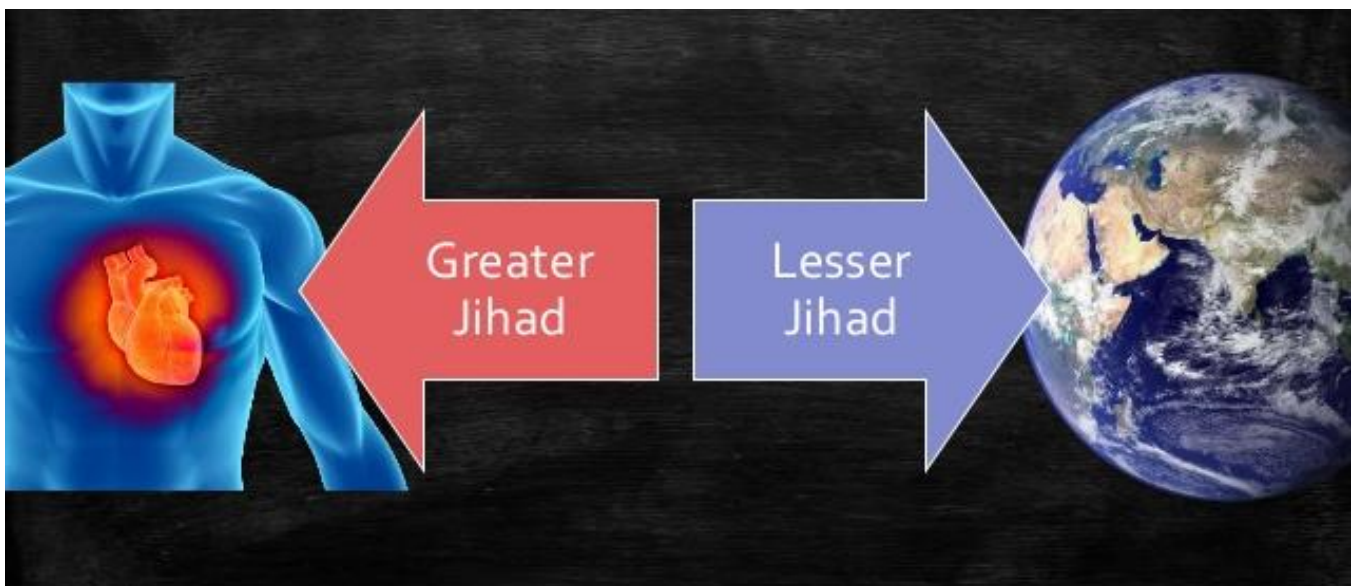
9. **Tawalia** (to love the friends of God)

Tawalia means having love for God and for the Prophet Muhammad. We should love all those who are friends of God; people who are kind and fair. We should try to associate ourselves with people who are kind and trustworthy. For Shi'a Muslims it also means having love for the Ahl al-Bayt, the 12 infallible Imams who are the descendants of Muhammad.

10. **Tabarra** (to hate the evil-doers)

Muslims believe that it is important to dissociate themselves from the enemies of God. We should hate, separate ourselves from, people who are impure and who oppress others. However, Muslims often disagree about who the enemies of God are.

7. Jihad (Struggle)



The greater jihad

The personal spiritual struggle or effort of every Muslim to follow the teachings of Allah in their own lives. It can also be seen as the desire and commitment to live the perfect Muslim life.

1. The need to control your desires.
2. The battle against laziness.
3. Encourage what is right.
4. Respect for the beliefs of others.

The Lesser Jihad:

- The struggle to build a good Muslim society; also Holy War (the struggle to defend against oppression; with force if necessary).
- *'To those against whom war is made, permission is given to fight, because they are wronged.'* Qur'an 22:39
- The concept of lesser jihad arose during Muhammad's lifetime, when he gave his followers permission to fight. Muhammad's enemies in Makkah planned to wipe out all the Muslims and so they believed that there was no choice other than to engage in conflict.

The rules of Jihad:

- It must be started and organised by a religious leader, not just by any politician.
- It must be for a recognisably just cause, in the name of Allah, and according to the will of Allah.
- It must always be as a last resort, after every other means for settling the problem has been tried and has failed.
- It should never be fought out of aggression, or desire to gain territory.
- Innocent should not be made to suffer.
- Trees, crops and animals should be protected.

Jihad today:

- Most Muslims agree that a holy war can only be called against an aggressor that threatens Islam.
- Some Islamic extremists argue that 9/11 etc. are acts of jihad.
- Moderate Muslims reject this idea, arguing that these acts are aggressive and target innocent civilians and so fail the test set by the Qur'an.

#NotinmyName:

- The Active Change Foundation, based in East London, is a community based organisation set up to protect and safeguard young people and families from unrest and violence in all its forms.
- #NotInMyName: Young British Muslims at Active Change Foundation show their solidarity against ISIS and their actions. See how a simple message can be shared to show how ISIS is misrepresenting Islam.



Exam Questions:

1. Explain what is meant by 'jihad'. (2)
2. Outline the difference between lesser and greater jihad. (5)
3. Explain the importance of the greater jihad. (8)
4. 'War is always wrong.' Discuss this statement showing that you have considered more than one point of view. (You must refer to religion and belief in your answer). (15)

8. Eid-ul-Adha

Facts:

- Most important festival.
- Marks the end of hajj and is a chance for Muslims to celebrate worldwide.
- **Adha** = sacrifice

Ibrahim and Ishma'il:

One night Ibrahim had a bad dream. He dreamt Allah told him to sacrifice Ismail. Ibrahim thought it was Shaytan (Devil) playing nasty tricks on him.

The next night Ibrahim had the same horrid dream. Ibrahim knew that Allah would only ask him to do such a thing if he had good reason. Even though he loved his son dearly, he was prepared to do this difficult thing for Allah.



Ibrahim told Ismail they had to go to Mount Arafat. He took a knife and a rope with him. On the way they passed a place called Mina. The devil, Shaytan, came to Ibrahim and tried to talk him out of sacrificing his son. Ibrahim turned his back on him and would not listen.

When they reached Mount Arafat, Ibrahim told Ismail what Allah wanted him to do. Ismail listened and accepted what was to happen. Ismail told his father to tie his hands and legs and blindfold himself so he would not struggle and make his father even more upset than he was going to be and Ibrahim was blindfolded so he would not see his son suffer.

Ibrahim did as Ismail had said. He then took the knife and did what Allah had told him to do. When he took the blindfold from his eyes he looked down, not at his son but at a dead ram. Ismail was at his side. Ibrahim was afraid. He thought he had disobeyed but then he



heard a voice telling him not to worry. Allah looks after his followers. Ibrahim and Ismail had passed a difficult test.

Preparations for Eid-ul-Adha in Britain:

1. Gifts bought
2. New clothes made
3. Food prepared
4. Arrangements made for the sacrifice. In the UK it is illegal to kill an animal without a license. Therefore, Muslims may ask a butcher to slaughter a sheep for them; they will share it amongst family and neighbours as a communal meal. Giving some of this meat to the poor is a sacred duty.

Celebrating Eid-ul-Adha:

- Public holiday in Islamic countries i.e. Indonesia, Turkey, and Jordan.
- Not an official holiday in UK but many Muslims will take the day off of school/work.
- Celebrations include: going to the mosque, wearing new clothes, visiting friends and family.

Key Quote:

'The meat will not reach God, nor will their blood, but what reaches Him is piety for you.' Qur'an 22:37

Exam Questions:

1. State 2 ways in which Muslims celebrate Eid-ul-Adha. (2)
2. Describe why Muslims celebrate Eid-ul-Adha. (5)
3. Explain why Eid-ul-Adha is such a popular festival for Muslims. (8)
4. 'Eid-ul-Adha is the most important festival within Islam' Discuss this statement showing that you have considered more than one point of view. (You must refer to religion and belief in your answer). (15)

9. Eid-ul-Fitr

Facts:

- The first Eid was celebrated in 624 CE by the Prophet Muhammad with his friends and relatives after the victory of the battle of Jang-e-Badar.
- Muslims are not only celebrating the end of fasting, but thanking Allah for the help and strength that he gave them throughout the previous month to help them practise self-control.
- The festival begins when the first sight of the new moon is seen in the sky.
- Muslims in most countries rely on news of an official sighting, rather than looking at the sky themselves.
- The celebratory atmosphere is increased by everyone wearing best or new clothes, and decorating their homes.

- There are special services out of doors and in mosques, processions through the streets, and of course, a special celebratory meal - eaten during daytime, the first daytime meal Muslims will have had in a month.
- Eid is also a time of forgiveness, and making amends.

What happens on Eid-ul-Fitr?:

<p>1. Eid ul-Fitr begins when the new crescent moon is sighted.</p> 	<p>2. Muslims dress up in their best clothes.</p> 	<p>3. Eid prayers take place at the Mosque.</p> 
<p>4. Money is given to the poor so that everyone can share in Allah's blessing.</p> 	<p>5. Muslims visit their friends and family and give money and presents to the children.</p> 	<p>6. Muslims celebrate with lots of food!</p> 

Exam Questions:

5. State 2 ways in which Muslims celebrate Eid-ul-Fitr. (2)
6. Describe why Muslims celebrate Eid-ul-Fitr. (5)
7. Explain why Eid-al-Fitr is such a popular festival for Muslims. (8)
8. 'Muslims who do not fast, should not celebrate Eid-UI-Fitr.' Discuss this statement showing that you have considered more than one point of view. (You must refer to religion and belief in your answer). (15)

10. The Night of Power (Laylat-ul-Qadr)

One of the holiest days of the calendar, marking the date when the Qur'an was revealed to Muhammad. Islamic tradition is not certain of the exact date, so this event is remembered throughout the last ten days of the month of Ramadan. It is often celebrated on the 27th day of Ramadan. During this time, Muslims may stay up all night, reciting the Qur'an, praying and remembering God's mercy and forgiveness.

11. Ashura

This is a festival celebrated only by Shiah Muslims.

The first month of the Islamic calendar and it remembers the Hijrah, when Muhammad and his followers fled from Makkah, to establish the first Muslim community in Medina. Sunnis fast on the 10th night of Muharram. Shi'as observe Muharram as the month when Husayn (Muhammad's grandson) was martyred and so they refrain from joyous events in his memory.

Exam Questions:

1. Name two Islamic festivals. (2)
2. Outline Islamic beliefs about festivals. (5)
3. Explain why Muslims celebrate so few festivals. (8)
4. 'You cannot be considered a Muslim, if you don't celebrate all Islamic festivals.' Discuss this statement showing that you have considered more than one point of view. (You must refer to religion and belief in your answer). (15)