

**Explain Islamic  
teachings about the  
afterlife. (8 marks)**

# **What are the differences between the Sunnis and the Shiahhs?**

**Unit: Islam**

**29 November 2022**

# **Sunnis and Shiahs**

**Sunni**

**Shia**

Denominations

**What are the main  
differences between the  
Sunni and the Shia?**

<https://www.truetube.co.uk/film/shia-sunni>

## **Six articles of faith – Sunni Islam**

- 1. Tawhid**
- 2. Malaikah**
- 3. Kutub**
- 4. Risalah**
- 5. Akhirah (including Yaw Muddin)**
- 6. Al'Qadr**

## **Five principles of Shia Islam (Usul Al Din)**

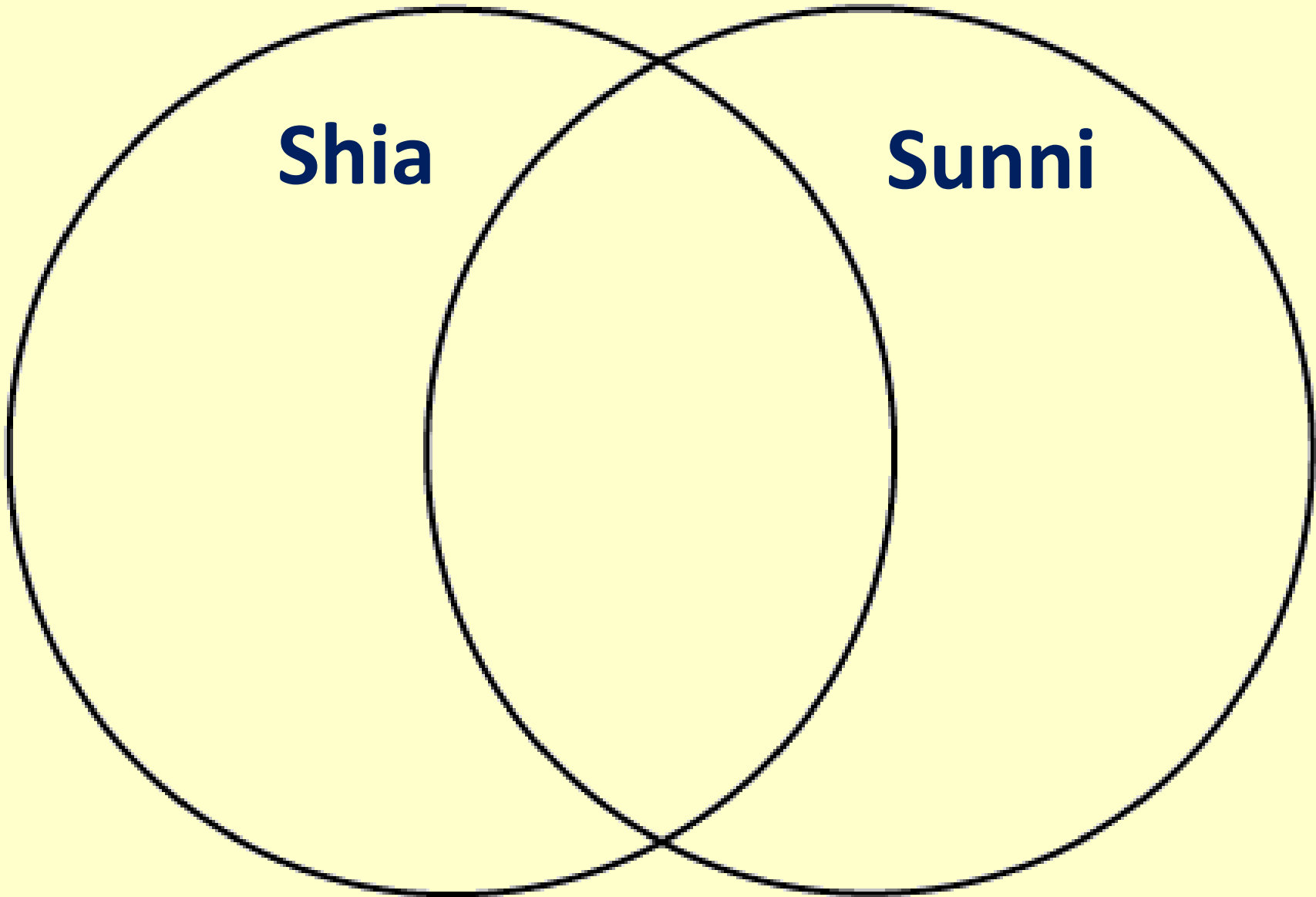
- 1. Tawhid**
- 2. Adalat**
- 3. Prophets (Nubuwwah)**
- 4. Leadership (Imams, Imamate)**
- 5. Akhirah (including Yaw Muddin)**

# Imamate

- Shi'as believe that Muhammad said that some (twelve) imams would succeed him as leader.
- The first 11 led the community
- The 12th, the **mahdi**, disappeared. He will appear again at the end of time.
- Imams must be obeyed because they are appointed by God
- They protect of the faith making sure messages do not become corrupt.







**Shia**

**Sunni**

## **Six articles of faith**

### **Sunni**

- 1. Tawhid**
- 2. Malaikah**
- 3. Kutub**
- 4. Risalah**
- 5. Akhirah**
- 6. Al'Qadr**

## **Five principles of Shia (Usul Al Din)**

- 1. Tawhid**
- 2. Adalat**
- 3. Prophets  
(Nubuwwah)**
- 4. Leadership (Imams)**
- 5. Akhirah**

# Put these statements into your Venn diagram

Allah is the One God

Minority of Muslims

Believe in life after death

Five roots of Islam

Believe Muhammad's successor should be elected

Focuses on the afterlife

5 daily prayers

Ali should be Muhammad's successor

Ramadan

Leaders are divinely appointed

Qur'an is the word of Allah

Abu bakr should have been Muhammad's successor

Caliph's are leaders

Giving money to charity

Leaders are good teachers

Focuses on the power of God

Imams are leaders

Six articles of faith

No images of Muhammad / Allah

Majority of Muslims

No religious hierarchy

Muhammad is the prophet

# Answers:

## 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

# How can these 5 influence Muslims today?

1. Belief in one God shows there is one power for me to follow and obey
2. I must believe Allah is just although it may be hard some times I must trust in this. It helps me come to terms with difficult times.
3. Prophets guide me and give me examples of what I need to do. They are my role models that I try to follow
4. Imams give me guidance and understanding in this modern world and focuses me on the true message
5. I know this life is a test to get to Jannah and therefore I really try to do good.

