



AQA 9-1 GCSE Religious Studies

Islam: basic facts about beliefs and teachings.

You must learn all of the facts and the Qur'an verses that have been listed.

Key beliefs:
The six articles of faith in Sunni Islam and five roots of Usul ad-Din in Shi'a Islam, including key similarities and differences.
The Oneness of God (Tawhid), Qur'an Surah 112.
The nature of God: omnipotence, beneficence mercy, fairness and justice (Adalat in Shi'a Islam), including different ideas about God's relationship with the world: immanence and transcendence.
Angels, their nature and role, including Jibril and Mika'il.
Pre-destination and human freedom and its relationship to the Day of Judgement.
Life after death (Aakhirah), human responsibility and accountability, resurrection, heaven and hell.
Authority:
Prophethood (Risalah) including the role and importance of Adam, Ibrahim and Muhammad.
The holy books: Qur'an: revelation and authority; the Torah, the Psalms, the Gospel, the Scrolls of Abraham (suhuf) and their authority.
The imamate in Shi'a Islam: its role and significance.

Articles of faith and roots

Six articles of faith in Sunni Islam – these are the 6 central beliefs of Sunni Islam.

1. Tawhid – the oneness of Allah ('Allah' means God in Arabic)
2. Angels
3. Holy Books – Qur'an, Tawrat, Zabur, Injil, Suhuf
4. Al-Qadr – the supremacy of Allah's will
5. Day of Judgement
6. Prophets

Five roots of Shi'a Islam (Usul ad-Din) – these are the 5 central beliefs of Shi'a Islam.

7. Tawhid – oneness of God
8. Adalat – justice of Allah
9. Nubuwwah – prophethood
10. Al-Ma'ad – resurrection
11. Imamate – leadership through the Prophet's family line.

Tawhid

12. Tawhid means belief in one God, Allah.
13. Surah 112 says "He is God the One, God the eternal. He begot no one nor was He begotten. No one is comparable to Him."

Characteristics of Allah

14. Omnipotent – all-powerful
15. Omniscient – all-knowing
16. Beneficent – kind and compassionate
17. Transcendent – beyond human experience or comprehension
18. Immanent – active in the world
19. Merciful – shows compassion or forgiveness towards people
20. The Shi'a term for Allah being just and fair is 'adalat'.

Angels

21. Jibril was the first thing to be given life by Allah.
22. Angels are made of light.
23. They can appear in human form.
24. They do not have free will. (this means – see no 25)
25. Angels always obey Allah and complete his tasks.
26. Angels watch over humans.
27. They record all thoughts and actions for Judgement Day.
28. Angels bring peace to believers and fear to non-believers.
29. On Judgement Day, Jibril and Mika'il will help with the weighing of people's actions.
30. The Angel of Death takes the soul at death. Others question each soul as it waits for Judgement Day.
31. Israfil will blow a trumpet to signify the end of the world.
32. Jibril dictated the Qur'an to Muhammad.
33. Jibril has delivered many messages to Prophets.
34. Jibril always brings good news.
35. Jibril is mentioned in the Qur'an and the Hadith.
36. Mika'il is the given of rain and sustenance.
37. Jinn are spirits or demons.

Predestination

38. Pre-destination is the idea that God knows or determines everything that will happen in the universe.
39. Most Muslims believe that pre-destination means God knows everything that will happen, but people still have free will and can make their own choices.
40. Most Muslims believe that they are responsible for their own actions and that they will be rewarded or punished for them by God on the Day of Judgement.
41. Some Sunni Muslims believe that God has already determined everything that will happen in the universe.
 - a. They believe that everything has already been written down in a Book of Decrees.
 - b. They think that God's will is so powerful that it can make anything happen and, because God created people, they must act according to His will.
 - c. 'Only what God has decreed will happen to us.' (Qur'an)
42. In contrast, many Shi'a Muslims believe that God knows everything that is going to happen but this does not mean that He decides what is going to happen
 - a. They use Surah 13:11 from the Qur'an to support the view that people have the free will to change their future.
 - b. 'God does not change the condition of people for the worse unless they change what is in themselves.' (Qur'an)

Prophets

43. Risalah means communication between Allah and humanity.
44. Belief in risalah implies a belief in the prophets as they are messengers of Allah.
45. 25 prophets are mentioned by name in the Qur'an, there are 124,000 altogether.
46. The first prophet was Adam.
47. Adam was created out of dust and given the spirit of God to make him alive.
48. Adam was given Hawwa, a woman, for company.
49. Adam was the 'caretaker' of the earth.
50. Adam was taught everything by Allah.
51. Allah told all the angels to bow down before Adam as he was knowledgeable, but Iblis refused to do this
52. Adam and Hawwa disobeyed Allah and so they were banished to earth from the Garden of Eden.
53. Adam was taught how to bury the dead.
54. Adam was taught the food laws.
55. Adam built the original Ka'aba.
56. Prophet Ibrahim rejected the idea of idol gods and statues.
57. Allah sent a miracle to save Ibrahim when people tried to burn him.
58. Ibrahim was married to Hajar, with whom he had a son called Ismail.
59. Allah tested Ibrahim's faith by asking him to sacrifice his son. Ibrahim was willing to sacrifice his son, so Allah was pleased and sent a ram for sacrifice instead.
60. Prophet Ibrahim rebuilt the Ka'aba with Ismail to thank Allah for giving them the Zamzam Well when they ran out of water in the desert.
61. Jesus was an important prophet of Allah.
62. The Imamate is one of the five roots of Shia Islam. (see fact 11)
63. The Imamate are important because they protect the Muslim religion and continue to guide Muslims in the modern world.

Prophet Muhammad

64. Muhammad grew up in the city of Makkah.

65. As a young man, Muhammad married an older woman who gave him the responsibility of running her business. Her name was Khadijah.
66. Muhammad received the revelation of the Qur'an from Jibril. He was praying in a cave on Mount Hira outside Makkah when he received the first revelation on the 'night of power'.
67. Muhammad went on a night journey during which he went to Paradise and was taught how to pray.
68. Muslims don't make images of the Prophet Muhammad because they don't want people to get confused and worship the prophet instead of the one God, Allah.
69. When Muhammad died, a minority group of Shi'a rejected the rule of the caliphs and followed the family of the prophet.
70. Muhammad was the final prophet of Allah. There can be no other genuine prophets after Muhammad.

The Holy Books

71. The Qur'an is the holy book of Islam. It is the actual word of Allah and is without error.
72. The Qur'an contains direct guidance from Allah.
73. The Qur'an was revealed to Muhammad by the Angel Jibril.
74. The Tawrat (Torah) are the revelations given to Musa (Moses) by Allah.
75. The Tawrat have been lost and no longer exist in their original form.
76. The Qur'an talks about the Tawrat as being 'guidance and light'. It is not considered to be the direct word of Allah.
77. Muslims believe that Prophet Ibrahim received revelations on the first day of Ramadan and they came in parable-like stories covering issues of worship, reflection and building livelihoods. These stories are known as the Suhuf (scrolls of Ibrahim).
78. The Zabur (Psalms) are collections of prayers and poems by Dawud the great King.
79. Allah gave them as a form of guidance for humanity which Dawud then recited as songs and poems.
80. A version of the Zabur is found in the Bible.
81. The Injil (Gospel) is an account of Jesus' life.
82. The Gospels are mentioned in the Qur'an.
83. Muhammad learned and taught from them so this gives them importance but they are not as important as the Qur'an.
84. The Tawrat, Suhuf, Zabur and Injil are important sources of authority for Muslims today because the Qur'an refers to all four of them.
85. These scriptures are important because Muhammad knew them and taught from them, and they are linked to well-respected prophets of Islam.
86. The Qur'an is the most important scripture because it is the perfect revelation – the word of God, unchanged.

Hadith and Sunnah

87. The Hadith is the written sayings of the Prophet Muhammad.
88. The Sunnah is the practices, customs and traditions of the Prophet Muhammad. (How Muhammad lived as a result of what he knew about Allah).

Key verses from the Qur'an

- 4:59 You who believe, obey God and the messenger.
- 64:11 Misfortunes can only happen with God's permission.
- 57:4 He is with you wherever you may be.
- 35:1 Praise be to God, creator of the heavens and earth.
- 13:11 Each person has angels before him and behind, watching over him by God's command.
- 2:31 He taught Adam all the names [of things], then He showed them to the angels.
- 33:40 [Muhammad] is God's messenger and the seal of the prophets.
- 6:103 No vision can grasp Him...He is above all comprehension.