



**CHESTERTON
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

AQA 9-1 GCSE Religious Studies

Islam: basic facts to know about practices

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

This booklet includes a section about pre-destination and life after death – this is part of the beliefs and teachings unit of the course.

Worship:
Five Pillars of Sunni Islam and the Ten Obligatory Acts of Shi'a Islam
Shahadah: declaration of faith and its place in Muslim practice
Salah and its significance: how and why Muslims pray including times, directions, ablution (wudu), movements (rak'ahs) and recitations; salah in the home and mosque and elsewhere; Friday prayer (Jumma); key differences in the practice of salah in Sunni and Shi'a Islam, and different Muslim views about the importance of prayer
Duties and festivals:
Sawm: the role and significance of fasting during the month of Ramadan including origins, duties, benefits of fasting, the exceptions and their reasons, and the Night of Power (Qur'an 96:1-5)
Zakah: the role and significance of giving alms including origins, how and why it is given, benefits of receipt, Khums in Shi'a Islam
Hajj: the role and significance of the pilgrimage to Makkah including origins, how hajj is performed, the actions pilgrims perform at sites including the Ka'aba at Makkah, Mina, Arafat, Muzdalifah and their significance
Jihad: different understandings of jihad; the meaning and significance of greater and lesser jihad; origins, influence and conditions for the declaration of lesser jihad
Festivals and commemorations and their importance for Muslims in Great Britain today, including the origins and meanings of Id ul-Adha, Id ul-Fitr, Ashura
From the beliefs and teachings unit:
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.

Five pillars of Sunni Islam

1. Shahadah – declaration of faith
2. Salah – ritual prayer
3. Sawm – fasting during Ramadan
4. Zakah – charitable giving (2.5%)
5. Hajj – pilgrimage

Ten obligatory acts of Shi'a Islam

6. Salah – ritual prayer
7. Sawm – fasting during Ramadan
8. Zakah – charitable giving (2.5%)
9. Khums – 20% tax on wealth
10. Hajj – pilgrimage
11. Jihad – struggle to maintain the faith and defend Islam
12. Amr bil-Maruf – encouraging people to do good
13. Nahi Anil Munkar – discouraging people from doing bad
14. Tawalla – showing love for God and people who follow the straight path
15. Tabarra – disassociating with the enemies of God and the prophet

Shahadah

16. 'I bear witness that there is no God but Allah and Muhammad is the prophet of Allah.'
17. Shi'a may add 'and Ali is the friend of God' to the end of the Shahadah.
18. The Shahadah should be the first thing a Muslim hears when they are born and the last thing they say before they die.
19. To become a Muslim, a person must sincerely recite the Shahadah in front of Muslim witnesses.

Salah

20. Muslims perform ritual washing (wu'du) before salah to make them spiritually clean.
21. Sunni Muslims pray 5 times a day; Shi'a Muslims pray all 5 prayers but in 3 blocks.
22. Muslims pray because God commanded them to do so – He told Muhammad that humans must pray 5 times a day.
23. The prayers are fajr, suhr, asr, maghrib and isha.
24. Muslims face the Ka'aba to pray.
25. In a mosque, the mihrab indicates the direction of Makkah. It is a small niche in the qiblah wall that faces Makkah.
26. Prayers in the mosque are led by an imam who is positioned at the front of the congregation, facing the mihrab.
27. Prayers are made up of a number of rak'ah – sequences of actions and recitations.
28. Each rak'ah includes prostration – kneeling with forehead, nose, hands, knees and toes touching the floor.
29. Prostration shows complete obedience to God.
30. Shi'a Muslims put their forehead on a clay tablet (turbah) when they are prostrating.
31. Jumma prayer is a special prayer that is held at midday on a Friday. Men are expected to attend the mosque for Jumma prayer.

Sawm

32. Ramadan is the most important month in the Islamic calendar as it is when the angel Jibra'il started to reveal the Qur'an to Muhammad.
33. Muslims focus on their faith during Ramadan by fasting during the daylight hours, studying the Qur'an, giving to charity and doing all they can to please God.

34. The command to fast was revealed to Muhammad and is in the Qur'an: "It was in the month of Ramadan that the Qur'an was revealed as guidance for mankind... so any one of you who sees in that month should fast."
35. The fast is broken at sunset with an iftar meal. This is often shared with family and friends.
36. Children, people who are ill, travellers and women who are pregnant, breastfeeding or on their period can be excused from fasting.
37. The self-discipline that is required to fast shows obedience and dedication to God.
38. Muslims will try to stay up all night on the Night of Power (exact date unknown, but an odd-numbered day in the second half of the month) as this is when the angel Jibra'il first appeared to Muhammad.
39. The Qur'an states that 'The Night of Glory is better than a thousand months.'

Zakah

40. Zakah is also known as charitable payment or almsgiving.
41. Zakah requires Muslims to give 2.5% of their wealth to charity every year.
42. Zakah helps Muslims to purify their souls by removing selfishness and greed
43. The Qur'an makes it clear that Zakah is a duty for Muslims.

Khums

44. Shi'a Muslims also pay khums – a tax of 20% on their wealth.
45. Half of the payment goes to Shi'a religious leaders and the other half is given to charity to help the poor.

Hajj

46. Hajj remembers the actions of the prophet Ibrahim and his family.
47. Hajj starts and ends in Makkah. It takes place over 5 days.
48. Every Muslim is expected to complete Hajj at least once in their lifetime.
49. "Pilgrimage to the House is a duty owed to God by people who are able to undertake it." (Qur'an)
50. Before Hajj begins, pilgrims must enter a state of ihram (purity). This involves ritual washing, praying and wearing ihram clothing.
51. Hajj starts with pilgrims circling the Ka'aba 7 times anti-clockwise.
52. Then they walk 7 times between the hills of Safa and Marwah to remember Hajira's search for water and the appearance of the well of Zamzam. They collect water from the well.
53. Pilgrims then travel to Arafat and spend the whole afternoon standing and praying in the hot summer sun.
54. The standing at Arafat is a reminder of what judgement will be like.
55. God is believed to forgive the sins of everyone who stands at Arafat, providing they are sincerely sorry for what they have done.
56. Pilgrims walk to Muzdalifah where they spend the night. They collect pebbles.
57. The next day, at Mina, they use these pebbles to stone the three stone walls called the Jamarat. These represent the devil.
58. If they can, pilgrims then sacrifice an animal (or have an animal sacrificed in their name) as part of the celebration of Id ul-Adha. The meat is given to the poor.

Jihad

59. Jihad refers to the struggle against evil.
60. Greater jihad is the inward, personal struggle to live according to the teachings of Islam.
61. 'This is my path, leading straight, so follow it, and do not follow other ways.' (Qur'an)

62. Lesser jihad is the outward, collective struggle to defend Islam from threat.

63. Greater jihad involves

- a. Observing the 5 pillars / 10 acts
- b. Studying the Qur'an
- c. Putting God above everything else
- d. Avoiding temptations such as alcohol and drugs
- e. Avoiding negative traits such as greed and jealousy
- f. Helping and caring for those in need

64. Conditions for lesser jihad (holy war):

- a. Approved by a religious leader
- b. Fought in self-defence in response to a threat
- c. Not used to gain territory or wealth
- d. Not used to convert people to Islam
- e. Fought only after all peaceful methods have been tried and failed

Id ul-Fitr

65. Id ul-Fitr is the festival that celebrates the end of Ramadan.

66. Muslims celebrate by gathering together in mosques or large outdoor areas to say special prayers and listen to a sermon.

67. The sermon is usually about forgiving disputes and focusing on helping the poor.

68. Muslims decorate their homes, wear special clothes, eat special foods and exchange gifts and cards.

69. Id ul-Fitr is a way for Muslims to give thanks to God for giving them the strength to complete the fast.

70. The Qur'an was first revealed during Ramadan so it is also a way for Muslims to thank God for giving his wisdom and guidance in the Qur'an.

Id ul-Adha

71. Id ul-Adha is the festival that celebrates Ibrahim's willingness to sacrifice his son.

72. This reminds Muslims about the importance of showing complete obedience to God.

73. It also celebrates the completion of Hajj. It allows Muslims all over the world to connect with people on Hajj, even if they are not able to be there themselves.

74. Special prayers are held in the mosque and the sermon is usually about sacrifice.

75. Muslims visit family and friends and enjoy meals together.

76. If they are able to, Muslims will slaughter an animal.

77. Some of the meat is shared with family and friends and some is given to the poor.

Ashura

78. The Day of Ashura is an important Shi'a festival that remembers the death of Hussayn at the battle of Karbala.

79. Hussayn was the son of Imam Ali and the grandson of Muhammad.

80. Many Shi'a Muslims observe Ashura by taking part in re-enactment plays about Hussayn's death or in public expressions of grief and mourning.

81. Some Shi'a Muslims will beat themselves with chains to draw blood – this is to help them connect to Hussayn's suffering.

82. Other Shi'a Muslims will donate blood instead.

Predestination

83. Pre-destination is the idea that God knows or determines everything that will happen in the universe.

84. 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.

85. 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.
86. 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)
87. 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)

The Day of Judgement

88. When God's purpose for the universe has been fulfilled the world will be destroyed.
89. Muslims believe that, on the Day of Judgement, God will judge them for everything that they have done during their lifetime and reward or punish them as a result.
90. Everyone who has ever lived will be raised from the dead (resurrected).
91. If they are given their book of deeds in their right hand, they are going to heaven; if they are given the book in their left hand, they are going to hell.

Life after death

92. Muslims believe in Akhirah – life after death.
93. They believe that, after death, they enter a state of waiting until the Day of Judgement. This is called Barzakh.
94. While they are waiting in the grave, God sends two angels to question them.
95. Depending on their answers, they will then either see the rewards that are waiting for them in heaven or the punishments that they will have to endure in hell.
96. Belief in Akhirah encourages Muslims to take responsibility for their actions because they know that God will hold them accountable for what they have done.
97. Belief in Akhirah gives hope to Muslims who suffer as they know that there is something better to look forward to.
98. Belief in Akhirah also helps Muslims to accept unjust situations because they know that God will provide justice in the afterlife.