






Eduqas Religious Studies – Islam Beliefs



Key Concepts			
Tawhid	'Oneness' in reference to God. The basic Muslim belief in the oneness of God	Prophethood (Risalah)	The term used of the messengers of God, beginning with Adam and ending with Prophet Muhammad
Halal (permitted)	Actions or things that are permitted (allowed) within Islam, such as eating permitted foods	Haram (forbidden)	Any actions or things which are forbidden within Islam, such as eating forbidden foods
Jihad	Means 'to strive'. There are two forms of jihad. The greater jihad is the daily struggle and inner spiritual striving to live as a Muslim. The lesser jihad is a physical struggle or 'holy war' in defence of Islam	Shari'ah (Straight Path)	A way of life; Muslims believe God has set out a clear path for how Muslims should live. Shari'ah law is the set of moral and religious rules that put the principles set out by the Qur'an and the Hadith into practice
Mosque (Masjid)	A 'place of prostration' for Muslims, it is a communal place of worship for a Muslim community	Ummah	The belief that life is precious, or sacred. For many religious believers, only human life holds this special status.

Key Ideas		
Sunni/Shi'a Denominations 	Sunni -Forms the majority of Muslims in the world (87-90%). After the death of Prophet Muhammad , his close friend Abu Bakr was chosen to become the next leader. They believe religious guidance can only come from God through holy books. Their 6 central beliefs are called the Six Articles of Faith : -Allah, Malaikah, Holy Books, Risalah, Akhirah, Al-Qadr	Shi'a -Forms only 10-13% of the world. They believe Ali, Muhammad's cousin and son-in-law should have become the next leader (khalifah). They believe God guided Muhammad to appoint Ali. The leadership of the Muslim community had continued through Imams who are descendants of Muhammad. Their central beliefs are called the 5 Roots : -Prophethood, Justice of God, Resurrection, Leadership, Oneness of God
Nature of God 	Tawhid Single most important belief in Islam – the oneness of God (Allah) - Muslims are monotheistic. Allah is seen as: merciful, beneficent, transcendent, omniscient, creator, a judge	Shirk Shirk is when someone worships something other than God. This includes images of both Allah and Muhammad. They would not agree with the idea of the Trinity.
Risalah 	The channel of communication between Allah and humans is called Risalah – the prophets deliver the messages. It's believed each community over time has had its own prophet to bring God's message. Prophets include: Adam (father of the human race), Ibrahim (the first monotheist), Isa (Jesus, the second most important prophet). The Prophets have delivered all of the Kutub (holy books) e.g. the Injils (the Gospels) and the Tawrat (the Torah) Muhammad Born in Mecca in 570 CE – he was an illiterate orphan raised by his Uncle. He was known as being trustworthy and honest. He was concerned about the corruption and cruelty witnessed in Mecca . Angel Jibril came to him with the words of God and allowed Muhammad to be able to read them. These messages came over the next 23 years and formed the Qur'an (the Muslim holy book). Muslims will also use the Hadith (the sayings of Muhammad) to guide them in their life. Muhammad travelled with this message to Madinah where idol worshiping was rife (the Hijrah). He was able to establish Islam as the permanent religion of both Madinah and Mecca and the Ka'ba was cleansed of idols and rededicated to Allah.	
Malaikah 	Angels are seen as heavenly, immortal beings, God's first creation. They are made from light and are God's messengers, meaning they cannot sin and have no free will , they must do Allah's bidding. There are countless angels but some mentioned in the Qur'an include: - Jibril – angel of revelation - Mika'il - keeps the devil out of heaven - Israfil – blows the trumpet on judgement day - Raqib & Atid – records a person's deeds throughout their life - Munkar & Nakir – judging angels who will question Muslims faith after their death	
Akhirah 	This life is a test for Akhirah (afterlife) . Signs of the end of the world include: swearing, drinking, dishonesty, rejection of Islam. On the Day of Judgement , Muslims will be raised from their waiting state (Barzakh) and will be judged on their actions to decide whether they go to Janna or Jahannam. They must walk across the Bridge of As-Sirat , which is as thin as hair. If they fall, they have been judged to go to Jahannam.	
	Janna Paradise - a state of joy and happiness. For those who have lived faithful and moral lives. There will be beautiful gardens, delicious food, comfort	Jahannam A state of torment/ suffering for those who were wicked and God has damned. Boiling water, scorching fire, black smoke. Separated from God.