

Eduqas Religious Studies – Islam Practices



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			
Five Pillars: Shahada 	<p>- The Shahada is the Islamic declaration of faith – it is the most basic element of Muslim belief, it states: 'There is no god but God, and Muhammad is the messenger of God' – this supports the idea of monotheism. Muslims say this phrase when they revert to a Muslim and when they have a baby.</p>		
Five Pillars: Salat 	<p>- Salat is the ritual of five daily prayers which is kept up by observant Muslims. They take place throughout the day and Muslims stop what they are doing to observe them.</p> <p>- The ritual of prayer includes wudu, the washing of face, arms and feet and rakat the act of bending, bowing and prostrating which is part of the prayer and shows submission to Allah.</p> <p>- On a Friday the most important prayer of al-Juma is said, usually in a mosque</p>		
Five Pillars: Zakat 	<p>- Zakat is the act of giving money to those who are poor and in need of assistance, to remind Muslims that wealth is given by Allah and does not belong to them.</p> <p>- Muslims give 2.5% of their wealth every year to charity. Usually this is done in an organised way through a government or charity e.g. Muslim Aid. Sometimes Islamic communities give the money directly to the poor.</p>		
Five Pillars: Sawm 	<p>- Sawm is the act of fasting – not eating and drinking for a set period of time.</p> <p>- During Ramadan Muslims do not eat or drink between sunrise and sunset – this month is determined by the lunar calendar so falls at a different time each year. This is</p> <p>- During this time, Muslims become closer to God by reading the Qur'an, reflecting on spiritual matters and praying more frequently. They empathise with the poor. It helps unite the Ummah (community)</p> <p>- Muslims come together, either as families or larger groups, to break their fast at the sundown meal of iftar.</p> <p>- The end of Ramadan is celebrated by the feasting festival of Eid ul-Fitr.</p>		
Five Pillars: Hajj 	<p>- The Hajj is the pilgrimage to Mecca which all Muslims are bound to make once in their lifetime (if able)</p> <p>- The pilgrimage occurs during a single month and follows a set pattern of rituals including circling the Kabbah seven times, visiting Mount Arafat and stoning the devil</p> <p>- Pilgrims all wear a simple cloth called the ihram as part of their pilgrimage, this ensures all pilgrims appear the same and are not distinguished by wealth</p> <p>- The city of Mecca is only accessible to Muslims</p>		
Jihad 	<p>Greater Jihad</p> <p>-The spiritual struggle with oneself, the desire and commitment to live the perfect Muslim life.</p> <p>-Includes battling laziness, following the 5 pillars, following the path of Muhammad.</p>	<p>Lesser Jihad</p> <p>-The struggle to remove evil from society, occasionally with force.</p> <p>-Must never be aggressive, and Muslims must not attack first</p>	
Festivals 	<p>Id-ul-Adha</p> <p>-The 'Big Id' - the festival of sacrifice. The most important event for Muslims which occurs at the end of Hajj.</p> <p>-Commemorates Ibrahim's willingness to sacrifice his son to Allah</p> <p>-Muslims will celebrate in their communities with food, presents, and a sacrificed animal</p>	<p>Id-ul-Fitr</p> <p>-A three-day celebration at the end of Ramadan (month of fasting) - to thank God for the strength and self-control needed</p> <p>-Muslims will decorate their homes, gather as a community for worship, visit family to share food and gifts and give to the poor (Zakat-ul-Fitr)</p>	<p>Others</p> <p>-Laylut-ul-Qadr (the night of power)</p> <p>-Laylut-ul-Nabi (birth of Muhammad)</p> <p>-Ashura (day of sorrow – mostly celebrated by Shi'a Muslims)</p>