

GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES

TOPIC 3

ISLAM BELIEFS

1

DIFFERENT TYPES OF MUSLIMS

SHI'A

- Shi'a Muslims believe that when Muhammad died, his cousin and son in law Ali should have taken over as leader of Islam, but the other 3 caliphs ignored this.
- They refer to their chosen leader as Imam
- Shi'a believe only Imams have authority from Allah to interpret the Quran
- Each must be chosen by the previous one and should be a **descendent of Muhammad**.

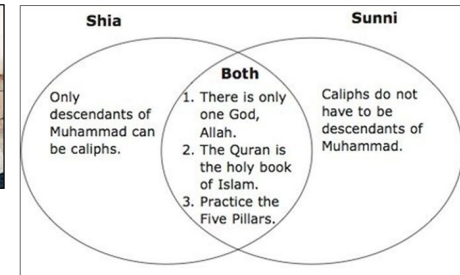
Muhammad was the founder of Islam. After his death, there were disagreements as to who should take over as leader and this is why different groups of Muslims emerged.

SUNNI

- Sunni form the majority of the Muslim population (approx. 90%)
- When Muhammad died, his friend Abu Bakr and 3 other caliphs took over-Sunni Muslims believe this is how it should have been.
- Sunni believe they should look to the Quran and the example of Muhammad for how to behave.
- Sunni Muslims **elect** Caliphs (leaders) to enforce the laws.



Leaders should be descendants of Muhammad



Leaders should be elected by the people

2

SIX ARTICLES OF FAITH – SUNNI ISLAM

	ARTICLE	TEACHING	INFLUENCE	MOST IMPORTANT ARTICLE BECAUSE	ALSO ONE OF 5 ROOTS OF USUL AD DIN
	TAWHID	There is only one God, Allah. Tawhid means that Allah is one. He was not born and cannot die "There is no God but Allah"	Only believe in one God and do not worship idols.	This is what the whole religion is based on.	X
	HOLY BOOKS	The Qur'an is the most important holy book for Muslims. It is the direct word of Allah	Follow the rules in the book as they come from Allah.	It tells Muslims exactly how Allah wants them to live	
	PROPHETS	Prophets are chosen by Allah to deliver his messages.	Listen to the messages of the prophets and look up to them as role models.	These are the people who have had direct contact with Allah or the angels and so should be respected.	X
	THE DAY OF JUDGEMENT	Muslims believe there will be a day of judgement when Allah decides whether they go to heaven (Paradise) or hell based on their deeds	Try to live a good life so that they can go to Paradise when they die.	The outcome of this will determine who a person spends eternity.	X
	ANGELS	Angels pass on the message of God to humans. They record the words and actions of each individual in the book of deeds	Listen to the messages from the angels. Try to live a good life so that they can go to Paradise when they die.	The information gathered by them helps Allah to judge how a person will spend eternity	
	ALLAH KNOWS EVERYTHING	Sunni Muslims believe that Allah knows everything. Humans do have free will, but as Allah knows what their choices will be	Trust that everything that happens to them is part of Allah's plan.	This may encourage Muslims to try to always strive to do the right thing because they believe that Allah knows what they are doing	

FIVE ROOTS OF USUL AD DIN – SHI'A ISLAM

	ARTICLE	TEACHING	INFLUENCE	MOST IMPORTANT BECAUSE	ALSO ONE OF 6 ARTICLES OF FAITH
	TAWHID	There is only one God, Allah. Tawhid means that Allah is one. He was not born and cannot die "There is no God but Allah"	Only believe in one God and do not worship idols.	This is what the whole religion is based on.	X
	PROPHETS	Prophets are chosen by Allah to deliver his messages.	Listen to the messages of the prophets and look up to them as role models.	These are the people who have had direct contact with Allah or the angels and so should be respected.	X
	PHYSICAL RESURRECTION	Shi'a Muslims believe that after death they will be physically resurrected to be judged by Allah.	Try to live a good life so that they can go to Paradise when they die.	The outcome of this will determine who a person spends eternity.	X
	ALLAH IS JUST	Allah is just and wise, cannot do wrong and holds humans accountable for their actions.	Try to live a good life so that they can go to Paradise when they die. Also to treat others fairly.	It reminds Muslims that they must strive to live a good and honest life.	
	IMAMATE LEADERSHIP	The 12 Imams are the leaders of Islam, to be an imam, you have to be from the family of Muhammad.	Respect the teachings of the Imam as they are descended from Muhammad.	This is one of the major differences between Shi'a and Sunni Muslims.	

3

4



Immanent

TEACHING
Allah is **present in and involved** with life on earth-he is very active in the world.

INFLUENCE
Comforts Muslims to know that Allah is with them all the time.

Justice (Adalat in Shi'a Islam)

TEACHING
Allah is just and fair and **judges human** actions. Allah will reward the good and punish the bad.

INFLUENCE
Encourages Muslims to follow the rules of their religion so that Allah will reward them when they die.



5



WHAT ARE ANGELS?

Angels are spiritual beings believed to act as messengers of god. They are part of the unseen world, created by God from light.

ANGELS

TEACHINGS ABOUT ANGELS - WHAT DO THEY DO?

- Speak to the prophets and give them messages from Allah.
- Protect people from harm – Guardian angels.
- Record things that people do in the book of deeds – this is passed to Allah when a person dies and He uses it to judge them.
- Remove the souls from people when they die. This is done gently if the person has led a good life or painfully if they have not.
- Escort people to Paradise.
- Guard the gates of Hell.
- Blow a trumpet to signify the end of the world.



"Each person has angels before him and behind, watching over him by God's command"

Transcendent

TEACHING
Allah is **outside of the world** and everything he created-he is bigger than these things and is merely looking in.

INFLUENCE
Makes Muslims believe that Allah is unlike anything in the world.

THE NATURE OF ALLAH

i am KIND.

Fairness

TEACHING
Allah **treats everyone fairly**, without favour or discrimination, and requires that they do the same to their fellow human beings. He will judge people with fairness on Judgement Day

INFLUENCE
Encourages Muslims to follow Allah's example and treat people fairly.



Omnipotent

TEACHING
Allah is **all powerful** and almighty. Allah is the creator and owner of all things.

INFLUENCE
Makes Muslims believe that Allah can do anything.



Benevolent

TEACHING
Allah is benevolent, **all kind and all loving**.

Suffering clearly exists but it is a test to see how humans respond even if it is beyond human understanding.

INFLUENCE
Encourages Muslims to feel that Allah loves them and that suffering is a test.

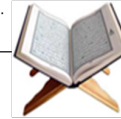
Merciful

TEACHING
Allah shows compassion and **forgiveness**. Allah will forgive his followers as long as they are truly sorry for what they have done wrong.

INFLUENCE
Encourages Muslims to follow Allah's example and forgive people.

JIBRIL

(Gabriel in Christianity and Judaism), who delivered Allah's message to prophets, and revealed the Qur'an to Muhammad.



MIKA'IL

(Michael), who is in charge of rainfall and sustenance (the nourishment people need to live).

Mika'il is responsible for rewarding those who live good lives and for humankind's needs such as ensuring they have enough water and that crops grow.

HOW DOES BELIEF IN ANGELS INFLUENCE MUSLIMS TODAY?

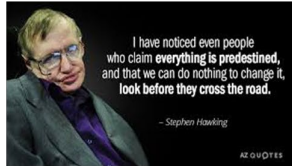
- 1, Encourages people to behave as they believe the angels are watching them.
- 2, Makes people feel comforted as they believe they have guardian angels protecting them from harm.

6

PREDESTINATION

WHAT IS IT?

The idea that God knows and determines everything that will happen in the universe, including what will happen to people in their lives.



"Only what God has decreed will happen to us."

TEACHINGS ABOUT PREDESTINATION - WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO MUSLIMS?

The Qur'an teaches that Allah knows everything that is going to happen in a person's life.

Muslims do not believe that God forces them to do things but instead he simply knows what choices they will make.

This means that people still have free will and can make their own choices.

Free will is important to Muslims as on the Day of Judgement they are accountable for the choices that they have made – you cannot be punished or rewarded for choices that you didn't make yourself.



HOW DOES BELIEF IN PREDESTINATION INFLUENCE MUSLIMS TODAY?

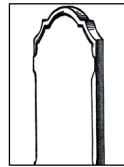
1, For many Muslims, a belief in predestination can be a comfort in times of struggle and upset as they see it as all part of a larger plan by God and not just senseless pain.

2, Makes them mindful of their behaviour as they understand that they are responsible for their own actions - you cannot be punished or rewarded for choices that you didn't make yourself.

7

LIFE AFTER DEATH

TEACHINGS ABOUT LIFE AFTER DEATH



Muslims believe that when a person dies, they will be questioned about their faith by two angels while lying in the ground in a state of semi-conscious existence.



On the Day of Judgement, an angel will blow a trumpet.

The world will be destroyed and a new world will be created.



Everyone who has ever lived will be raised from the dead (resurrected) and judged by Allah.

They will be given the Book of Deeds with all their actions from their life.



If people have done good deeds and believed in God, they will go to Paradise.

Those who have done wrong and not shown that they are sorry will go to Hell.



God sorts the Good from the bad by making them cross the narrow bridge that goes across the fires of hell.

Good people are transported quickly and enter Paradise.

HOW DOES BELIEF IN LIFE AFTER DEATH INFLUENCE MUSLIMS TODAY?

1, Encourages them to keep faith with Allah, as without this, they cannot enter Paradise.

2, Encourages them to follow the rules of their religion and try to be a good person as otherwise they won't enter Paradise.

ENTRY INTO PARADISE

Muslims believe that entry into Paradise depends upon whether people have had faith in Allah and whether they have followed the rules of their religion.

"Those who believe, do good deeds, keep up the prayer will have their reward with their Lord."

"Falsehood shall never come to it"

HOLY BOOKS

TEACHINGS ABOUT THE QUR'AN

Muslims believe that the Qur'an is the word of God, which was revealed to Muhammad by the angel Jibril over a period of around 22 years. It is considered to be the direct words of Allah and so is infallible (without fault).

Muslims are encouraged to read the Qur'an in Arabic so that they get the true meaning of the words.



8

WHY IS THE QUR'AN THE MOST IMPORTANT?

- 1, Direct word of Allah
- 2, It is the book that organised the religion

WHY ARE THE OTHER BOOKS PROBLEMATIC?

- 1, They have been changed so are not reliable
- 2, Some are lost so we don't know what is in them

Despite these problems, these books still have some importance as Muhammad himself read them to learn about Allah.

HOW DOES BELIEF IN THE IMPORTANCE OF THE QUR'AN INFLUENCE MUSLIMS TODAY?

- 1, Encourages them to follow the rules in it as this is how Allah wants them to live.
- 2, Encourages them to treat the book with respect, eg not leave it on the floor as it is the direct word of Allah

Muslims believe that there are other holy books that have been revealed by God.

THE TORAH (TAWRAT)

Muslims believe the Torah was given to Moses (Musa). It is mentioned 18 times in the Qur'an.

THE SCROLLS OF ABRAHAM

They are referred to in the Qur'an but have been lost and no longer exist. They are thought to have been the earliest scriptures in Islam, which were revealed to Ibrahim.

THE PSALMS (ZABUR)

The Psalms were revealed to David, and are mentioned 3 times in the Qur'an.

THE GOSPEL (INJIL)

A book divinely revealed to Jesus (Isa). It is thought that this Gospel has been lost but that some of its message is still found in the Bible.

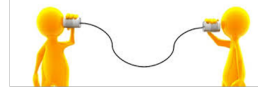
PROPHETS

WHAT IS A PROPHET?

A messenger from God. Muslims believe that God has chosen many prophets to bring the message of Islam to people. This belief is known as **RISALAH**.

9

"Every community is sent a messenger"



HOW DOES BELIEF IN THE PROPHETS INFLUENCE MUSLIMS TODAY?

- 1, Encourages them to follow the example of the prophets and by obey the rules of their religion.
- 2, Encourages them to listen carefully to the messages of the prophets as they believe that they come directly from Allah.

TEACHINGS ABOUT THE PROPHETS - WHY ARE THEY IMPORTANT?

- 1, They provide a method of communication between Allah and human beings.
- 2, In order for Muslims to know how to live in the way Allah desires, it was necessary for instructions to be passed on to people by the prophets.
- 3, When humans forgot, misunderstood or changed Allah's message, he sent prophets to call them back to the right path.

Muslims believe that the prophets and messengers are important role models to follow, as they were very good people who lived according to God's will.

Muhammad is the most important prophet in Islam

YES	NO
He was the one chosen to receive the Qur'an – book that shaped the religion.	Adam – was actually created by Allah himself and was the first prophet.
He was the last prophet (seal of the prophets).	Ibrahim – was willing to sacrifice his own son for Allah (he was more committed)
He is the only one mentioned in the Shahadha (declaration of faith).	

PROPHETS

10

ADAM



IBRAHIM



MUHAMMAD



What do Muslims believe he did?	First man created by God – meant to be the caretaker of the earth. Given knowledge by Allah. Tempted by Iblis to disobey God (apple from tree of knowledge). On earth, Allah sent guidance so that Adam could teach people about Allah.	Came to realise that statues of Gods were worthless. Allah spoke to him and called him to be a prophet. Began destroying statues and preaching about the dangers of idol worship. Allah asked him to sacrifice his son Ishmail, he agreed because he trusted Allah. It turned out that this was only a test of faith and Ishmail was spared and a sheep sacrificed instead as a celebration	Spoke out against the importance of not worshipping idols and believing in many Gods. Was visited by the angel Jibril who passed on the Qur'an to him and this organised the religion. Spread Islam to others and fought many battles trying to defend it.
What can Muslims learn from him?	The importance of avoiding temptation. The importance of preparing for the Day of Judgement as this life is only temporary.	The importance of not worshipping idols. The importance of being prepared to make sacrifices for Allah.	The importance of only worshipping one God. How to be a good Muslim (not only did he pass on the Qur'an but he was also well known for being honest and a good father).
Why is he important?	First man and prophet. Only prophet directly created by Allah (creation story says Allah made him from the dust of the earth).	Was willing to make sacrifices for Allah.	Was given the Qur'an – this organised the religion. Last prophet chosen – 'Seal of the Prophets'

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