

# What you should know:

- Though the main religious tradition of Britain is Christianity, Islam is one of the diverse religious traditions in Britain
- Students should be able to refer to scripture and sources of wisdom and authority where appropriate
- The influence of the beliefs, teachings and practices on individuals, communities and societies
- Common and divergent views within Islam in the way that beliefs and teachings are understood and expressed
- A range of Muslim perspectives, especially Sunni and Shi'a Islam



# Key beliefs:

- The Six Articles of Faith in Sunni Islam
- Five Roots of Usul ad-Din in Shi'a Islam
- Tawhid (oneness of God); Qur'an Surah 112
- 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
- Predestination and human freedom, and its relationship to the Day of Judgement
- Akhirah (afterlife), human responsibility and accountability, resurrection, heaven and hell

# Authority:

- Risalah (Prophethood) including the role and importance of Adam, Ibrahim and Muhammad
- The holy books:
  - Qur'an; revelation and authority of
  - Torah (of Moses)
  - Psalms (of David)
  - Gospels (of Jesus)
  - Scrolls of Abraham and their authority
- The imamate in Shi'a Islam: its role and significance



# Exam Technique

- Q.1:** Definition/identify a key word (1 mark)
- Q.2:** Give two examples or types (2 marks)
- Q.3:** Explain two ways/beliefs/teachings (4 marks)
- Q.4:** Explain two ways and give a quote (5 marks)
- Q.5:** Evaluate the statement. Use FARM and PEE to structure your essay. (12 marks)

- Using FARM:**
- F - For** - Give a Muslim argument to support the statement
  - A - Against** - Give a Muslim argument against the statement
  - R** - Give another **religious** point of view, for or against the statement
  - M - My Conclusion** - Summarise your essay, explaining which view is the strongest and why

# Worship

- ❖ Five Pillars of Sunni Islam
- ❖ 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, direction, ablution (wudu), movements (rak'ahs) and recitations
- ❖ Salah in the home, mosque and elsewhere
- ❖ Friday prayer
- ❖ Jummah
- ❖ Key differences in the practice of salah in Sunni and Shi'a Islam
- ❖ Different Muslim views about the importance of prayer

# Duties and Festivals

- Sawm: role and significance of fasting during the month of Ramadan including, origins, duties, benefits of fasting, exceptions to fasting and their reasons, the Night of Power (Qur'an 96: 1-5)
- Zakah: the role and significance of giving alms including the 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 of pilgrims performed at the 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 and Ashura

## ISLAM: Key Teachings for this Unit

- "Take not life, which God has made sacred, except by way of justice and law."
- The greatest sin is to take a life without just reason
- "God is closer to you than your jugular vein"
- Followers should do what is 'Sunnah' (i.e. if Muhammad did it, then it's good and his examples should be followed)
- The world and all its diversity is Allah's design
- Khalifah role - Muslims should care for (be stewards) of the earth
- Allah will reward us in Paradise for our good deeds
- The Ummah (brotherhood) is the Muslim community or brotherhood. It shows our responsibility to others

# Key Words

- Ablution:** Ritual washing. The Arabic term is 'wudu'.
- Adalat:** The concept of justice in Shi'a Islam
- Adam:** One of the prophets of Allah. The father of humankind. He built the Ka'aba.
- Allah:** The Islamic name for God. There are 99 Beautiful Names of Allah.
- Akhirah:** Belief in life after death, heaven (Jannah) and hell (Jahannam)
- Angels:** They are spiritual beings created from elements of light. They gave God's messages to the prophets and watch over humans.
- Arafat:** A plain near to Makkah where pilgrims gather to worship, pray and ask forgiveness. This takes place on the ninth day of the Islamic month, the day before Eid ul-Adha
- Ashura:** Festival in Shi'a Islam on 10<sup>th</sup> Muharram. Shi'a remember the martyrdom of Hussein (Muhammad's grandson). It is also a day of repentance for sins in the belief that they will be forgiven.
- Beneficence:** Literally 'doing good'. One of the 99 Beautiful Names of Allah. It refers to the generosity that Allah shows to humans
- Day of Judgement:** The day when Allah will decide about individual deeds, good and bad, and on reward and punishment
- The Five Pillars:** Observed by Sunni Muslims which support the development of good character, attitudes and behaviour (e.g. salah)
- Five Roots of Usul ad-Din:** The foundations of faith in Shi'a Islam: Tawhid, Adalat, prophethood (nubuwwah) and imamate (leadership)
- Friday prayer:** Jummah; Takes place in the mosque where a sermon (khutbah) is heard
- Gospel:** Meaning 'good news' about Isa (Jesus), one of the prophets in Islam. It was written down by his disciples.
- Hajj:** Annual pilgrimage to Makkah, that all Muslims must do at least once in their lives, unless prevented for wealth or health reasons
- Human accountability:** Belief that everyone must take responsibility for their actions and will be questioned on the Day of Judgement
- Human responsibility:** Humans are responsible for most of what they do because they have free will and so will be accountable on the Day of Judgement
- Ibrahim:** One of the prophets of Allah. He rebuilt the Ka'aba
- Id ul-Adha:** Celebration of the prophet Ibrahim's willingness to sacrifice his son for Allah. It comes at the end of hajj.
- Id ul-Fitr:** Celebration at the end of Ramadan and marks the end of fasting
- Imamate:** The belief that Allah is close to humanity and involved in the world
- Jibril:** The most important of the angels, who spoke with many prophets. Jibril dictated the Qur'an to Muhammad. On Judgement Day he will assist with the weighing of a person's deeds.
- Jihad:** 'to struggle' or 'strive'; can be greater jihad (struggle in every day life, e.g. to observe Ramadan) or lesser jihad (defence of Islam)
- The Ka'aba:** The black covered cube-shaped building in the centre of the grand mosque in Makkah. All Muslims face towards it when they pray
- Shi'a Islam:** Muslims who believe in the successorship of Ali. 'Shi'a' comes from the phrase 'Shiat Ali', which means 'partisans of Ali' or 'followers of Ali'
- Khums:** A 20% tax on surplus wealth that is given to the poor and Muslim leaders
- Sunni Islam:** Muslims who believe in the successorship of Abu Bakr, Umar, Uthman and Ali
- Tawhid:** The oneness and unity of Allah. Islam is a monotheistic religion
- The Ten Obligatory Acts:** Requirements for Shi'a Muslims, including salah, sawm, zakah, hajj and jihad (also duties for Sunni) but also another five
- Torah:** Known as the Tawrat, given to Musa (Moses) by Allah on Mt Sinai
- Wudu:** Ablution, ritual washing before salah and when purification is needed
- Zakah:** The third of the Five Pillars. It consists of the giving of alms (charity) to purify those who give it and to purify the rest of their money

# Islam: Beliefs & Practices

