

# ISLAM BELIEFS

## Y11 REVISION BOOKLET

Name:

Class:

**The Nature of God and  
Tawhid**

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**Sunni and Shi'a**

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**Angels**

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**Afterlife**

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**Prophethood: Adam**

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**Prophethood:  
Muhammad**

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**Prophethood: Adam and  
Ibrahim**

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**Predestination**

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**Imamate**

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**Holy Books**

# THE NATURE OF GOD AND TAWHID

## A Summary


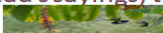





Islam is a monotheistic religion, which means Muslims believe there is only one God (Allah). Belief in one God is called Tawhid. Tawhid is the most central belief in Islam. Muslims believe

Remember TAWHID = Belief in ONE GOD. The supremacy (power) of Allah is greater than any other. Anything that is Allah's will, will happen.

According to the supremacy of God's will, everything happens for a reason! How might this influence a Muslim in times of hardship?

## THE 99 NAMES FOR ALLAH



- Muslims believe God has revealed himself to people through the prophet and the holy books.
- In the  and the Hadith (Muhammad's sayings) there are 99 names of God, which describe something about God's .
- Many Muslims memorise these names and say them aloud when they . Each one helps them feel God's (sounds like )
- Although they believe God is so great he is beyond  understanding, they believe the names  us begin to know what God is like.
- Each day they hear / say the words 'Allahu Akbar' meaning 'God is the '.

Task: Use the images above to fill in the blanks below.

Name	Meaning
	God is present and involved with life on earth and in the universe.
	God is beyond and outside life on earth and the universe.
	Almighty; having unlimited power.
	Benevolent; all loving and all good.
	Showing compassion and forgiveness to humans even though he has the power to punish them.
	God treats everyone fairly without favour or discrimination.
	God is just and fair – he judges human actions and punish the bad / reward the good.
Merciful	Fair
Transcendent	Omnipotent
Justice (Adalat)	Benevolent (Bismallah)
	Immanent

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- In the and the Hadith (Muhammad's sayings) there are 99 names of God, which describe something about Gods .
- Many Muslims memorise these names and say them aloud when they . Each one helps them feel God's
- Although they believe God is so great he is beyond understanding, they believe the names us begin to know what God is like.
- Each day they hear / say the words 'Allahu Akbar' meaning 'God is the .

Task: Use the descriptions to match the names for Allah.

# Sunni and Shia.

## Successorship in Islam

There are two main traditions in Islam: Sunni and Shi'ah. Sunnis make up the majority of Muslims worldwide. The word 'Shi'ah' comes from a phrase meaning 'followers of Ali'. Ali was the Prophet's son-in-law and cousin.

Historically, the different traditions come from a difference of opinion over who was to lead the Muslim community after the Prophet Muhammad's death. Sunni Muslims believed the Prophet's successor should be his father-in-law and friend, Abu Bakr. Shi'ah Muslims supported the Prophet's blood relative, Ali, as his true successor.

Both have relatively valid claims. Many believe that Muhammad told Abu Bakr to succeed him on his deathbed. Shi'a Muslims believe successorship should transfer through relatives.

Despite these historical differences, the two groups share many beliefs. For example, both groups believe in the oneness of Allah, the importance of the Prophet Muhammad and his Sunnah, the Five Pillars of Islam and the Qur'an.

	Shi'a	Sunni
Percentage of followers in Iran.	About 89 percent of Muslims in Iran are Shi'ite Muslims.	About 10 percent of Muslims in Iran are Sunni Muslims.
Percentage of followers in the world	About 15 percent of the world's Muslims are Shi'ites.	About 85 percent of the world's Muslims are Sunnis.

### The six articles of faith in Sunni Islam

These are the six core beliefs of Sunni Muslims.

1. There is only **one God**. 'Allah combines the two Arabic words 'al' (the) and 'ilah' (God).
2. **Angels** communicate the message of God to humans.
3. The Qur'an (meaning recitation) is the most **important writing** and the **highest authority in Islam**.
4. **Muhammad**, whose name means 'highly praised' is the **most important prophet** of God.
5. **The Day of Judgement** is when all humanity will be judged by God and sent to paradise or hell.
6. **The supremacy of God's will** means that God already knows but also makes happen everything that occurs in the world and in human lives.

**Summarise the six articles of faith in Sunni Islam in thirty words.**

### The five roots of 'Usul al-Din in Shi'a Islam

'Usul al-din' means 'principles of religion.' Just like the roots of a tree keep it alive, for Shi'a Muslims these five principles keep them rooted in Allah.

1. **Tawhid** means that God is one; God is not made up of different persons.
2. **Prophethood** means accepting that Muhammad is God's last prophet, and that Gods revelations through him are true.
3. **God is just and wise**, cannot do wrong, and holds humans accountable for their actions.
4. The **Imamate** means accepting that the twelve Imams are the leaders of Islam and guard the truth of the religion without error.
5. **The Resurrection on The Day of Judgement**, where everyone is brought back to life and questioned on their good and bad deeds.

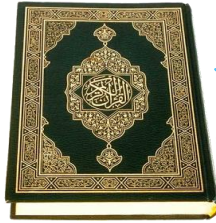
**Summarise the five roots of 'Usul al-Din in Shi'a Islam**

# AFTERLIFE

- **Angels are messengers of Allah sent to deliver important messages. They do this by visiting prophets.**
- **Angels have no free will, they are incapable of sin.**
- **One sits on the shoulder of each person and records all the good deeds a person does and bears witness for them on the Day of Judgement.**
- **Archangels are special angels of higher status than others. There is four in total.**



Israfil is an archangel in Islam. Israfil is the angel of music and is believed to be the chosen angel which will blow the trumpet to announce judgement day (end of times) when bodies will raise from the ground.



Archangel Jibril (Gabriel). Relayed the Qur'an to Muhammad from God. He appeared to Muhammad whilst he was meditating and inspired him with messages from God. God continued to guide Muhammad throughout his life, often by sending messages through Jibril



Archangel Mika'il (Michael) is the angel of Mercy. Rewards good people for doing good deeds. Sends rain, thunder and lightning to earth. Miika'il brings nourishment to the earth through the rain

**"All believe in Allah, His Angels and His Messengers."**

What does this mean?

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

What does this mean?



Which Angel is relayed the Qur'an to Muhammad? \_\_\_\_\_

Which Angel is in charge of the weather? \_\_\_\_\_

Which Angel will announce judgement? \_\_\_\_\_

Which angels decide the fate of the deceased? \_\_\_\_\_



Munkar and Nakir are the angels of judgement. They ask three questions to the deceased in their graves. Who is God? What is your religion? Who is Muhammad? If they answer correctly, the person goes to heaven. If not, they are destined for hell. these angels are described as having solid black eyes, having a shoulder span measured in miles, and carrying hammers "so large, that if all of mankind tried at once to move them a single inch, they would fail".

### Akhirah is Islamic belief in life after death

All Muslims accept that death is not the end and that there is an afterlife which is made possible by the grace and power of Allah. The belief in afterlife is one of the six articles of faith in Sunni tradition and one of the five roots in the Shi'a tradition.

Explain how the images below relate to the day of judgement.



Name five specific actions a Muslim may complete due to belief in Akhirah:

Paradise is a beautiful garden, full of wonderful leaves and flowers, where soothing sounds of birds singing and water running can be heard. The blessed enjoy company of beautiful women and they eat delicious food.

Those who face Hell will face terrible torments of fire and smoke as they face eternal punishments, chained up and burnt by boiling water and painful biting winds.

## THE DAY OF JUDGEMENT

Muslims (followers of Islam) believe that on a day decided by Allah, and known only to Allah, life on earth will come to an end and Allah will destroy everything. On this day all the people who have ever lived will be raised from the dead and will face judgement by Allah. All the people of Earth will be gathered at the Assirat Bridge. Muslims believe that they will remain in their graves until this day. This is the stage of waiting (barzakh). This is the day of judgement. Allah will balance the good deeds a person has done in their life against the bad deeds.

If the good deeds outweigh the bad, the person will go to paradise (Jannah), a place of joy and bliss. They will cross the bridge into paradise.

If the bad things outweigh the good, then the person will be punished in hell (Jahannam). They will fall off the bridge. When Allah is making a judgement, even a person's intentions are taken into account.

## PROPHETHOOD AND ADAM

*Prophets bring the message of Islam to people. The belief in prophets and their importance is known as Risalah.*

*Risalah = Channel of communication between Allah and his creation.*

*Angels are often used to relay messages from Allah to the prophets. EG- Jibril to Muhammad.*



Adam is believed to have been created by God from dust of the ground, he is regarded as the father of the human race and so is treated with reverence and great respect. God gave him understanding and Adam in turn passed on his knowledge to the rest of the human race. He is the father of mankind. He was the first person to learn to plant seeds, harvest crops and cook food.

God told the angels to bow down to Adam out of respect. Iblis (satan) refused.

He was banished out of Paradise and he vowed to tempt humans to sin against Allah



Use five adjectives to describe Adam's importance: \_\_\_\_\_

Suggest why Muslims may be influenced by the story of Adam and Iblis:

Why might Muslims be influenced by the actions of Muhammad (hint-stewardship)

### Who is Ibrahim?

Ibrahim is the Arabic name for the prophet Abraham. Muslims believe that he fulfilled all the tests and commands given to him by God, so he was promised to be the father of all nations.

He is also important in Judaism and Christianity this is why these three religions are called the 'Abrahamic' religions. Muhammad is also believed to be a descendant of Abraham through his first son Ishmael.

**“And when Abraham said, ‘My Lord, show me how You give life to the dead.’ [ Allah ] said, "Have you not believed?'. He said, ‘Yes, but [I ask] only that my heart may be satisfied.’ [ Allah ] said, ‘Take four birds and commit them to yourself. Then [after slaughtering them] put on each hill a portion of them; then call them - they will come [flying] to you in haste. And know that Allah is Exalted in Might and Wise.’**

*Qur'an 2:260*

- **What can Muslims learn from this story?**
- **Which key beliefs does it link to?**

**Create a DEVELOPED point.**

*Muslims can learn from the story of Ibrahim and the four birds...*

*This links to the key beliefs of...*

Write down three ways Ibrahim may be considered a role model:

Write down three ways Muslims may be influenced by his actions:

### HAJJ JOURNEY

It is said that Ibrahim (AS) had a dream one night, in which Allah (SWT) told him to sacrifice Ismail, his beloved son. At first Ibrahim (AS) thought it was the devil playing tricks on him and he immediately disregarded it. However the following night, the same dream occurred again commanding him to do the same. Ibrahim (AS) then came to realise that this was no fluke and in fact, a message from Allah (SWT).

Ibrahim (AS) loved his son, Ismail (AS). Yet he was fully prepared to follow Allah's (SWT) command and do as He instructed. He took his son to Mount Arafat along with a knife and rope. Upon reaching there, he told his son about his dream and what Allah SWT had commanded him to do. Being an obedient son, Prophet Ismail (AS) immediately obliged and asked that his hands and legs be tied so that he may not struggle and that his father blindfold himself so that he won't have to witness him suffer.

Ibrahim (AS) did as Ismail (AS) had said. Blindfolded and with the knife in his hands, he did as Allah SWT had asked of him. When he took the blindfold off, to his surprise, he saw the body of a dead ram in front of him. Ismail (AS) was completely unharmed standing right next to him. At first he thought that something had gone horribly wrong and that he had disobeyed the order of his Creator. But then he heard a voice telling him that Allah (SWT) looks after his followers and that he need not worry.

Ibrahim (AS) and Ismail (AS) had just passed a difficult test from Allah SWT.

Since then, every year, during the month of Dhul Hijjah, Muslims from around the world perform Qurbani to remember what Ibrahim did. Muslims sacrifice animals (preferably a goat, cow or camel) in memory of the deed.

Muslims are taught to follow Allah's command without pause.

Task: Summarise the story in thirty words:

## PROPHETHOOD: MUHAMMAD

Muslims believe that Islam is a faith that has always existed and that it was gradually revealed to humanity by a number of prophets, but the final and complete revelation of the faith was made through the Prophet Muhammad in the 7th century CE. Muhammad is therefore known as the seal of prophets (final).

### Questions:

What qualities of Muhammad suggest why he was chosen to be the final prophet

Explain the process of revelation:

Why is the revelation of the Qur'an so important to Muslims today?

What does the quote tell us about Muhammad:

*“Muhammad is not the father of any one of you men; he is God's Messenger and the seal (last) of the prophets .”*

Explain how the quote by Muhammad advises Muslims to consider him:

*“Do not give me superiority over other Prophets”*

In what ways might Muslims be influenced by his actions?

Muhammad's father was a trader who died shortly before Muhammad was born. His wife was called Aminah and she was upset at his death as she waited to give birth. She had a dream where she heard a voice tell her she would have a baby boy and to call him Muhammad (which means 'the Praised One').

Muhammad lived with other people in the desert until he was 3, as was custom at the time. He then lived with his mother. She took him on a trip when he was 6 but she died on the return journey.

Muhammad was an orphan at 6 years of age. Muhammad's grandfather adopted him, and they became very close, until he too died. Once again, Muhammad was adopted by a family member – his uncle Abu Talib, a merchant trader like his father. Abu Talib treated him like his own son.

### Growing Up

Muhammad spent much time alone as he worked as a shepherd. This gave him time to think. By the age of 25, Muhammad was known as an honest and reliable person by the people in Makkah, and had become a trader. He became known as 'Al-Amin' (the Trustworthy).

A beautiful and wealthy widow called Khadijah heard about Muhammad's good reputation and asked him to take her goods with him to sell on one of his journeys. He agreed to do this and was very successful. This impressed Khadijah, as well as his honesty. A go-between approached Muhammad and asked him to marry Khadijah on her behalf. Muhammad respected Khadijah immensely and was delighted to become her husband.

### Revelation

Muhammad often went to a cave on Mount Hira, away from the hustle and bustle, to think. At the age of 40 Muhammad had a powerful experience at the cave. One night, when he was alone at the cave, the Angel Jibril (Gabriel) appeared to him in the form of a man and said, "Read!"

Muhammad replied, "I cannot read!"

The angel squeezed him tightly and Muhammad thought he would suffocate. This happened three times. On the third occasion the angel said,

*“Read: In the name of your Lord who created!*

Muhammad was shocked and scared by what had happened. He ran home to his wife, Khadijah. She helped him to calm down and he told her all about the experience. Khadijah believed him straight away and this made Muhammad feel much better. Muhammad relaxed and fell into a deep sleep.

While he was sleeping, Khadijah went to speak with her cousin, Waraqah ibn Nawfal. He was very wise and told Khadijah that Muhammad had been chosen by God to be the prophet of the people.

Muhammad made several more visits to the cave at Mount Hira. Here he received more messages from the Angel Jibril. The messages were from God to all of humanity. These messages were later written down by the people who listened to Muhammad and are now known as the Qur'an.



## PREDESTINATION.

Some Sunni Muslims believe God has already determined everything which will happen in the Universe. He has written down EVERYTHING that will happen in the universe in the book of decrees; including what happens in our lives. This belief makes God's OMNIPOTENCE and OMNISCIENCE much more important than human freedom. God is powerful (omnipotent) and controls the universe – he therefore knows everything about it.

Summarise this Sunni Muslim belief

KEYTERMS TO INCLUDE: Book of decrees, predestination, determined, freedom, omniscience

How might this impact Muslim beliefs about judgement day/life after death?

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. This means that people still have freewill, so they can make choices.

This is because God is OUTSIDE of time. He is not ruled by the laws of which humans are because he is a supernatural force.

For God, there is no past no present and future – for him it's as though everything has happened.

God knows what we will CHOOSE to do before we do it, but we still show FREE-WILL.

This is because he knows us well enough to know what we will CHOOSE before we have chosen it.

Summarise this Shi'a Muslim belief:

KEYTERMS TO INCLUDE: Time, freewill, present, supernatural

Explain whether these quotes link to Sunni or Shi'a Muslim beliefs about predestination:

- 'Only what God has decreed will happen to us. He is our master.'
- 'Those who believe do good good deeds and will have their reward (salvation)'
- 'When they went wrong, Allah let their hearts go wrong.'

## IMAMATE

Shia Muslims believe the successorship should be passed down family lines. Each Imam was the son of the previous Imam, with the exception of Husayn ibn Ali, who was the brother of Hasan *ibn* Ali.

The Twelve Imams are exemplary human individuals who not only rule over the community with justice, but also are able to keep and interpret Shari'ah law and the meaning of the Qur'an.

Muhammad and the Imam's words and actions are a guide and model for the community to follow; as a result they are free from error and sin. They were chosen by divine decree from Allah or through the Muhammad. The twelfth Mahdi Muhammad ibn al-Hasan went missing. The Shi'a believe that as a young boy, he was hidden in a cave under his father's house in Samarra to avoid persecution. He disappeared from view, and according to Shi'a belief, has been hidden by God until he returns at the end of time. This is what Shi'as call the Major Occultation. The Shi'a believe this Twelfth Imam, or Mahdi or Messiah, is not dead and will return to revive the true message of Islam. His disappearance marked the end of the leadership of the direct descendants of the Prophet.

In the absence of the Mahdi, the rightful successor to the Prophet, the Shi'a community was led, as it is today, by living scholars usually known by the honourable title Ayatollah (leader), who act as the representatives of the Hidden Imam on earth. Shi'a Muslims have always maintained that the Prophet's family are the rightful leaders of the Islamic world.

Rank	Imam	Birth & Death	Manner of Death
1	Ali ibn Abu Talib	600–661	Assassinated
2	Hasan ibn Ali	624–680	Poisoned
3	Husayn ibn Ali	626–680	Beheaded
4	Ali ibn Husayn	658(?)–712	Poisoned
5	Muhammad ibn Ali	677–732	Poisoned
6	Ja'far ibn Muhammad	702–765	Poisoned
7	Musa ibn Ja'far	744–799	Poisoned
8	Ali ibn Musa	765–817	Poisoned
9	Muhammad ibn Ali	810–835	Poisoned
10	Ali ibn Muhammad	827–868	Poisoned
11	Hasan ibn Ali	846–874	Poisoned
12	Muhammad ibn al-Hasan	868?–?	Still living "in occultation"

How might this belief impact Shi'a Muslims today?

*What is an Imam?*

*What do Shi'a Muslims believe happened to the 12<sup>th</sup> Mahdi?*

*When do they believe he will return?*

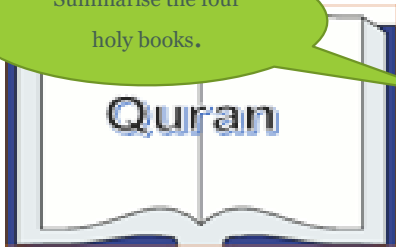
*What is the major occultation?*

*How has this impacted the successorship of Imams today?*

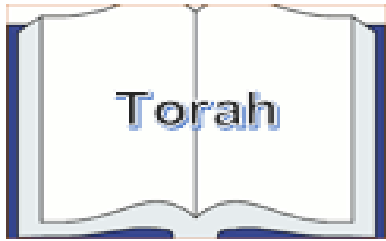
# HOLY BOOKS

The Qur'an is the most holy book as it has the highest source of authority. It contains the law, practice and major beliefs. It was revealed to Muhammad by the angel Jibril over the course of 22 years. He learned these revelations by heart and told them to his followers. Scribes later wrote these down. These writing were then compiled to stop the messages from getting changed/distorted as Islam began to spread.

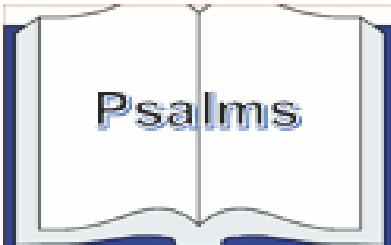
Summarise the four holy books.



Blank lined box for summarizing the Quran.



Blank lined box for summarizing the Torah.



Blank lined box for summarizing the Psalms.



Blank lined box for summarizing the Gospel.

How do Holy books influence a believers life? (what can they learn?)

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For Muslims the Qur'an has supreme authority. It is a timeless book. It was revealed to Muhammad in Arabic and when recorded in Arabic it is infallible as this is the exact word of Allah.

The Qur'an also mentions a further four books that contain the words of God and His guidance. These have been altered over time so are not considered to be an exact record.

These four further texts pre-date the revelation of the Qur'an. Many Muslims believe they have been corrupted so do not have the same authority as the Qur'an.

The Torah:

Revealed to Moses (Musa): Muslims believed it is the first five books of the Bible. It is important as it contains many of the early laws and may be used for guidance.

The Psalms:

Revealed to David: The Psalms are considered to be Holy songs of praise. Many Muslims read or sing these to worship Allah; they often contain messages of grief, sorrow and happiness.

The Gospel: Revealed to Jesus (Isa). Muslims believe the gospel of Jesus was lost, but some truths remain in the gospel stories of Jesus. Muslims consider Jesus a great prophet and a role model for kindness, fairness and love.

# EXAM QUESTIONS

## Tawhid and the Nature of God

Which of the following refers to the Muslim belief in one indivisible God? (1m).

- a. Sunnah    b. Eternal    c. Polytheism    d. Tawhid

Name two of the 99 names for God. (2 marks)

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Explain two ways Muslims may be influenced by the nature of God (4 marks)

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Explain two contrasting Muslim beliefs about Tawhid. Refer to scripture in your response. (5 marks)

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**Sunni and Shi'a**

Which of the following is the largest denomination in Islam? (1m)

- a. Sunni    b. Shi'a    c. Muslims    d. Tawhid

Name two differences between Sunni and Shi'a Islam (2m)

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Explain two ways Shi'a Muslims may be influenced by the five roots of 'Usul ad-Din. (4m)

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Explain two contrasting Muslim beliefs about the six articles of faith. Refer to scripture in your answer. (5 marks)

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**Angels**

Which of the following is not an angel?

- b. Jibril      b. Abraham    c. Israfil      d. Mikail

Name two characteristics of angels. (2m)

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Explain two ways that beliefs about angels may influence Muslims today. (4m)

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Explain two Muslim beliefs about the angels. Refer to scripture in your response. (5 marks)

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**Predestination and Akirah**

Which of the following refers to life after death? (1m)

- c. Tawhid
- b. Risalah
- c. Akirah
- d. Zakah

Name two ways in which a Muslim would describe heaven (2m)

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Explain two ways that Muslims may be influenced by belief in life after death. (4m)

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Explain two contrasting Muslim beliefs about predestination. Refer to scripture in your response. (5 marks)

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**Prophethood**

Which of the following refers to the Islamic belief in prophethood? (1 mark)

- d. Akirah    b. Tawhid    c. Revelation    d. Risalah

Name two prophets mentioned in the Qur'an (2 mark)

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Explain two ways that Muslims may be influenced by the prophet Ibrahim. (4 marks)

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Explain two Muslim beliefs about the prophet Muhammad. Refer to scripture in your answer. (5 marks)

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**Prophethood continued**

Which of the following prophets is believed to be the father of humankind?

- a. Ishmael      b. Abraham      c. Adam      d. Muhammad

Describe two reasons Muhammad was chosen as the final prophet. (2m)

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Explain two ways that Muslims may be influenced by the prophet Muhammad. (4m)

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Explain two religious beliefs about the revelation. Refer to scripture in your answer. (5 marks)

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**Holy books:**

Which of the following is the name of the holy book which was revealed to Moses? (1m)

- b. Gospels      b. Qur'an      c. Hadith      d. Torah

Name two aspects of Muhammad's revelation. (2m)

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Explain two ways that Muslims may be influenced by the Gospels. (4m)

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Explain two Muslim beliefs about Holy books. Refer to scripture in your answer. (5 marks)

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**Imamate**

Which of the following refers to the name of a Muslim leader? (1m)

- c. Imam      b. Priest      c. Muhammad      d. Mahdi

Name two roles of an Imam (2m)

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Explain two ways that Muslims may be influenced the belief in the Imamate(4m)

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Explain two contrasting Muslim beliefs about the succession of Muhammad. Refer to scripture in your response (5 marks)

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