

SECTION C=MAJOR WORLD RELIGIOUS-ISLAM



➔ Topic: Cultural Context of Islam

-Mecca

-its a busy and loud town. There are Many different markets. Lots of people come from all over to sell different things. There are many different tribes, religious and political groups. The Leaders of these different groups often fight with each other there is Money & Power. Groups of men drinking and gambling on the streets. People worship many different Gods Over 300 it's hard to know who believes what. Travellers bring money to the area to spend in the markets. They're Buying animals for sacrifice. Arabs - Travellers. Travellers come to pray at the Kaaba - Holy Shrine.

➔ Topic: Muhammad - Founder

-Muhammad is the founder of Islam. He was Born in Mecca. He was a Orphan at oge of 6 and raised by his grandfather, then uncle. He Worked as a shepherd with his uncle. He Married wife Khadija when he was 25 years old. The Night of Power & Excellence he Went to Mount Hira to pray - sad/selfishness/many different Gods. He was Praying to find answers. The Angel Gabriel appeared to Muhammad and revealed God's message to him. Iqraa - Read .He was Chosen as messenger of Allah. He Rushed back to Khadija to tell her the amazing story. Khadija was the first person to accept Muhammad as the messenger of Islam. Muhammad told everyone to stop believing in false God's and only to believe in one true God, Allah. The Night Journey was the night that Khadija died and Muhammad became very sad. He Visited the Kaaba late at night to pray. One night - fell asleep - Angel Gabriel came back. He Woke Muhammad and took him on a journey. Mecca → Jerusalem on a white beast. From Jerusalem up to the heavens where he met and spoke to other prophets and to talk to God. He was Told by God that Muslims should pray 5 times a day. After night journey - began to teach people about Islam and prayer. Lead to violence against Muhammad's followers. Fled to Yathrib to avoid persecution - welcomed here. The Hijra.

➔ Topic: Development of Islam

The Revelations continued with Muhammad for 22 years. Revealing in Arabic. Allah is God in Arabic. Allah → Muhammad → The People Worship the one true God. Muhammad to teach moral laws needed to live good lives. Religion became known as Islam - Peace by submission or obedience to the will of Allah. Followers of Islam are known as Muslim. Muhammad began to preach his message in public and invited people to join Islam.

➔ Topic: A Time Of Persecution

-Muhammad preaching his message in public. He Invited people to join Islam. Rich, Powerful leaders of Mecca were Angry → felt threatened by his preaching and didn't want change. His Message was to stop being greedy and worshipping idols. Tried to bribe Muhammad -that didn't stop him. Muhammad and his followers began to be persecuted and tortured. Muslims continued to have faith. 622 CE local leaders decided to kill the Prophet. Angel Gabriel told Muhammad to leave Mecca. 3 Days later → Medina. The Hijra (Migration) Followers soon journeyed to be with Muhammad. Long time continued to be persecuted. Many died in battles trying to defend themselves. 629CE Muhammad and thousands of Muslims marched back to Mecca. He Went to Kaaba. Cleared it of all idols. It is a Place to worship the one true God, Allah. Forgave all those who had persecuted the Muslims. 632CE Muhammad died in Medina, where he is buried. Lived a simple and holy life.

➔ Topic: The Qur'an - Sacred Text

It was Given to Muhammad by the angel Gabriel. The Angel's words came directly from Allah. Muhammad memorised everything the angel said. He Repeated it word for word to his scribes. Scribes wrote down exactly what Muhammad said and did not add anything to it. Muhammad said that the Qur'an is the final and complete revelation of God's message to the human race. Not all recitations organised at Muhammad's death. Abu Bakr completed the final organised single book. Quran gives Muslims the basic beliefs that unite them. Qur'an described: the binding force between Muslims all over the World. It's Written in Arabic, Original language given to Muhammad. There are 114 Surahs - Chapters. Every Surah except one begins with The Bismillah. The Bismillah = Arabic phrase that translates as "in the name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful..." Each Quran treated with great respect. Wash hands before touching or reading. It is Placed on a special stand to be read. When read, all present must be silent with no eating or drinking until reading is finished. It's Stored on a high shelf and covered from dust. Some Muslims learn all 114 Surahs off - Hafiz. Muslim children learn Arabic so they can read the Qur'an.

➔ Topic: The Qur'an - Development

-3 Stages to Qur'an Development

<p>1 Muhammad received a revelation from God - became the founder of Islam. Stop believing in false God's belief in one true God.</p>	<p>2 Oral Tradition - Muhammad learned off by heart the revelations he received and preached them to the people word for word</p>	<p>3 Written Tradition - Muhammad told scribes who were learned people, to write down the verses.</p>
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➔ Topic: Islam Documents of Faith

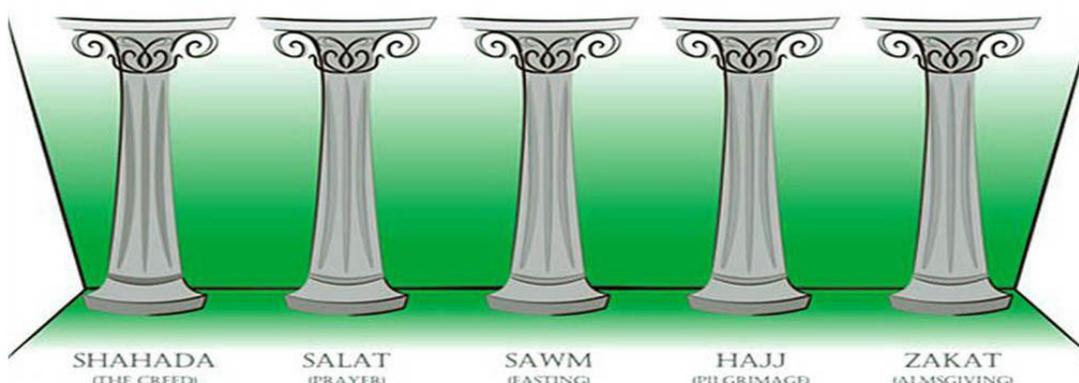
<p><u>The Qur'an</u> A document of faith. It contains information about what Muslims believe. Gives a very detailed account of how Muslims should live their lives. Rules about food, clothing and hygiene. Treated with great care and respect.</p>	<p><u>The Sunnah</u> Collection of traditional, social and legal custom and practice of the Islamic community. About how Muhammad lived his life. Different practices called Hadiths. Contain Muhammad's words, actions and approvals. Not treated the same as the Qur'an it is still given great respect.</p>
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➔ Topic: Islamic Beliefs - Articles of Faith

-6 Articles of Faith - Muslims must believe.- write in more detail

1. One God
2. Angels
3. Prophets
4. Holy Scriptures
5. The Day of Judgement or the Afterlife
6. God's will or fate

➔ Topic: Pillars of Faith - Islamic Moral Code



① Shahada (Creed)

-A statement or declaration of faith. Most religions have a creed. Very strong, affirmative statements of belief... "I statements" - I BELIEVE... I BELIEVE... I BELIEVE

② Salat (Prayer)

(1) wudu=ritual washing that takes place before prayer.

(2) Face The Kabba in Mecca=facing the direction of the Kaaba.usually southeast in this part of the world.

(3) Adhan=call to prayer in a group.

(4) Ra'ka=set of movements in a particular order while reciting verses from the Qur'an.

1. Fajr –Dawn
2. Zuhr – Early Afternoon
(When the sun is about halfway before setting)
3. Asr – Late Afternoon
(Before Sunset)
4. Magrib – Immediately After Sunset
5. Isha – Evening time after darkness has set in.

③ Sawm Fasting

Fasting is part of many religions. Fasting takes place in Islam during the month of Ramadan. This month every year is a time for Muslims to focus on their faith. Every Muslim who is well and has reached puberty is expected to fast and take part in Ramadan. Focus on living good lives, more prayer and reading of the Qur'an.

④ Hajj (Pilgrimage)

Pilgrimage to Mecca. Every Muslim should make the pilgrimage once in their life. 12th Month of Islamic Calendar.Shows how Muslims are willing to give themselves to Allah. All Muslims come together.

⑤ Zakat (Charity)

Sharing the wealth Allah has blessed the followers of Islam with. The act of giving = a prayer itself. Particular focus on Zakat in the month of Ramadan.

➔ Topic: Hajj - Pilgrimage

-Summary of Hajj

- (1) Circle the Kaaba in Mecca 7 times and pray.
- (2) Walk 7 times between the hills of Safa and Marwah and drink from the Zamzam well.
- (3) Travel to Mina, camp and pray. Day of standing on the plain of Arafat.
- (4) Collect pebbles at Muzdalifah.
- (5) Return to Mina and throw pebbles at the three pillars of Satan. Make a sacrifice.
- (6) Return to Mecca and circle the Kaaba again.
- (7) Return to Mina for a few days and stone the pillars again. Farewell tawaf in Mecca.

Topic: Practices & Ritual Events

Birth Rites & Rituals

Keyword: Rites of Passage

Definition: Events used to mark a person's journey through life.

○ **Simple Rites for Birth/Welcoming a child into the faith.**

- 1st - Words of Islamic Creed & Adhan (Call to Prayer) whispered into the ear of the baby.
- 2nd - Taste - First taste should be sweet, date juice on gums by parents shortly after birth. Tahnik - Taste 7 Days After Birth - Naming Ceremony - Boys and Girls.
- After Naming Ceremony - Boys = Circumcised.
- Some shave off the hair of babies, weigh and donate equal silver to charity.
- Lastly - Aqeeqah - Sheep slaughtered as a sacrifice in celebration

Death rites

. Those left behind should be patient & remember Allah is the one who gives life and takes it away. Dead body is washed. Body is wrapped in 3 white sheets and buried as soon as possible.

- Body laid to rest on the right side facing Mecca. Body moved to the funeral site.
 - Community gathers and the Imam stands in front of the person who has died.
 - Special funeral prayers are said, mostly in silence. Prayers held outdoors.
 - Belief - when a Muslim dies they go to Heaven or Hell.
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Topic: Ramadan

Ramadan is the month associated with fasting for Muslims. Ramadan is a hard month as Muslims will have a light breakfast before the sun rises and then a meal when the sun sets- Fasting in between. Ramadan is not just about fasting, but about focusing on your whole faith. Time of the year changes every year – not a set date.

Topic: Islamic Place of Worship

The Islamic Place of worship is called a Mosque.
Mosques come in all shapes and sizes but they have many features in common.
Men must go to the Mosque on Friday. Friday is the Islam Holy Day.

NB=holy days across 3 major world religions

friday=islam holy day

saturday=jewish holy day

sunday=christian holy day

Topic: Common Characteristics of A Mosque

No Seats - Space to perform rakat. Floor covered with thick carpet.
Shoe Racks - Everyone must remove their shoes on entering the prayer hall. A sign of respect.
No pictures or statues - forbidden to worship anyone but Allah. Disrespectful to try to represent Allah with a picture or image. Remember story of Muhammad going to the Kaaba in a rage and destroying the idols

Topic: Features of A Mosque

Feature	Description
Mihrab	Hollow or Alcove in one of the walls of the prayer hall. Sometimes the Imam will stand in the hollow to deliver prayers. If Muslims face the Mihrab when praying they will be facing Mecca.
Qibla Wall	The wall of the Mosque that faces Mecca. This is the wall the Mihrab is in.
Minbar	Pulpit where the Imam also stands to give sermons or prayers.
Washing Area	All Mosques must provide an area for Wudu. In hotter climates the Wudu area could be outside.

Topic: Imam

Key Person in Islam: Imam : Imam leads Islamic prayer and services but may also take on a larger role in providing community support and spiritual advice.

Imam is selected by the community as someone considered to be very knowledgeable and wise.

He must know and understand the Qur'an and be able to recite it correctly. Imam means - "to stand in front of" in Arabic referring to his position in front of worshippers during prayer.

Leads Islamic worship.

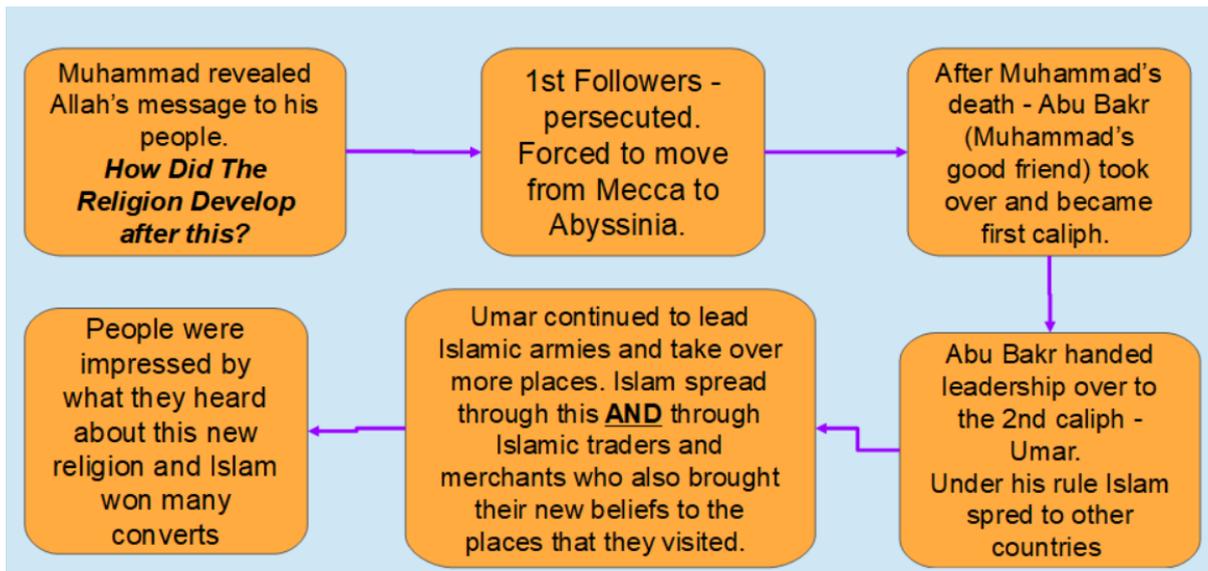
Provides support and spiritual guidance to his community.

Topic: Islamic Symbols

*In Islam - No Symbols allowed -
Muhammad cleared the Kaaba
of symbols.*

Certain shape seen on top of most Mosques
Crescent Moon and a Star
Symbolises that Islam follows a calendar based on the moon and the five points of the star also represent the Five Pillars of Islam

Topic: Islamic Development & Expansion



Topic: Islamic Schism

Schism - Means Split or Divide in a Religion.

Not unique to Islam!

Sunnis and Shi'as share the same main beliefs of Islam.

Important to note: Most Muslims consider themselves Muslim and do not belong strictly to any particular group.

Sunni = Larger Group

Shi'a = Smaller Group

Topic: Sunni Muslims Beliefs

All four of the original caliphs, including Ali, were properly chosen. The followers of Ali were wrong to break away as they did.

No one since Muhammad has received any special wisdom from Allah.

Muslims should be guided by the consensus (i.e. overwhelming majority view) of the whole community, which includes both scholars and the laity.

The main pilgrimage site is Mecca.

The Qur'an is the complete and unaltered record of all that Allah revealed to Muhammad

Topic: Shi'a Muslims Beliefs

Ali was the only true caliph after Muhammad.

Anyone who takes over leadership must come from the same family as Muhammad.

Leadership should have passed to Muhammad's cousin Ali bin Abu Talib after his death.

Ali and the Imams (i.e. the title given to Shi'a leaders who succeeded him) were all given special wisdom by Allah. This guaranteed their actions were correct.

Kerbala is almost as important a pilgrimage site as Mecca.

The text of the Qur'an was changed in some places by Sunnis.

Topic: Muslims in Ireland

Approx 45,000

Muslims in Ireland today.

Original Mosque

→ South Circular Road.

New Mosque built in Clonskeagh including first Muslim primary school.

Outside of Dublin:

Ballyhaunis, Co. Mayo

Topic: Lifestyle - Prayer (See notes on Salat)

Daily lifestyle affected by religious beliefs.

Muslim day centres on prayer.

Other religions do not have strict rules about prayer.

Topic: Lifestyle - Food

Certain things are
HARAM → Forbidden e.g. Alcohol and pork.
Muslim must eat food that is
HALAL → Allowed
Halal meat is meat from an animal that has been killed in a certain way...
So all the blood can drain out of the animal.
A prayer must be said before an animal is slaughtered in order for it to be halal.

Topic: Lifestyle - Clothes

Men and Women are expected to dress Modestly and Simply.
Do Not wear anything loud or too revealing.
Hijab → Piece of material folded placed over the head and fastened under the chin as a head scarf.
Burqa → Type of veil and body covering, covers all of the body except the eyes. Worn over normal clothes.
Thobe → Long robe worn by Muslim men. Top usually takes the shape of a shirt but is ankle length and loose.

Topic: Community Structure

Christianity	Islam
Pope	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● The leader of the community is called the Imam.● Any Muslim can become an Imam.● → Must lead a good life.● → Usually well educated.● → Usually has great knowledge of the Qur'an.● Selected by the Muslim Community.● Main role = to lead prayers and help Muslims understand their faith.
Cardinals	
Bishops	
Priests	
These men are not allowed to marry and must take special vows.	

Topic: Dialogue (The interfaith kind!)

Islam & Christianity

→ A lot in common.

Two communities have worked hard to build a relationship based on respect & understanding.

Leaders visiting each other's place of worship.

Coming together in times of trouble e.g. 9/11

Worked on educational programmes together.

Topic: Key Terms

Caliph: Chief Muslim civil and religious leader.

Hafiz: Person who can recite the Qur'an from memory.

Muhammad: Messenger of Islam

Imam: Leader of the Islamic community.

Ramadan: Month of fasting.

Mosque: Islamic place of worship

Schism: Split or divide in a religion.

Prophet/Messenger: Person called by God to receive an important message and to preach it to the people.

Cultural Context: How people lived in a particular place at a particular time.

Halal: Things that an Islam person is allowed to eat.

Haram: Things that are forbidden in Islam.

Revelation: A vision, dream or voice through which God makes himself known to a person and reveals or presents information to them.

Rites of Passage: Events used to mark a person's journey through life.