



Year 11 AQA GCSE
Religious Studies A
2019 – 2020

Paper 1 – Islamic Beliefs

Name:

Class Teacher:

Contents

Pre-Islamic Arabia.....	3
The Six Articles of Muslim Faith.....	4
The Qur'an and its Authority.....	6
The Nature of Allah	8
Angels in Islam	9
Al-Qadr and human freedom.....	10
Akhirah – Life after Death	11

Pre-Islamic Arabia

The Prophet 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 was born in the desert city of Mecca in Saudi Arabia in 571. He was a deeply spiritual man, and often spent time in meditation on Mount Hira. His main motive for doing this was to avoid festivals which celebrated polytheistic (multiple) Gods, as Muhammad was a monotheist (only believed in one God). The traditional story of the Qur'an tells how one night in 610 he was meditating in a cave on the mountain when he was visited by the angel Jibreel who ordered him to recite. Once Jibreel mentioned the name of Allah, Muhammad began to recite words which he came to believe were the words of God.

The Qur'an

During the rest of his life Muhammad continued to receive these revelations. The words were remembered and recorded, and form the text of the Holy Qu'ran, the Muslim scripture.

Preaching

Believing that God had chosen him as his messenger Muhammad began to preach what God had revealed to him.

The simple and clear-cut message of Islam, that there is no God but Allah, and that life should be lived in complete submission to the will of Allah, was attractive to many people, and they flocked to hear it.

The Hijrah

Muhammad's popularity was seen as threatening by the people in power in Mecca, and Muhammad took his followers on a journey from Mecca to Medina (which prior to the Hijrah had been called Yathrib) in 622. This journey is called the Hijrah (migration) and the event was seen as so important for Islam that 622 is the year in which the Islamic calendar begins.

The return to Mecca

Within ten years Muhammad had gained so many followers that he was able to return and conquer Mecca. This was preceded by three battles – Badr, Uhud and The Ditch. The Muslims fought against the people of Mecca in these battles, and won in Badr and The Ditch, but lost Uhud. From this time on he was generally accepted by the faithful as the true final Prophet of God. He entered the Ka'ba (pictured right) and removed all of the stone idols from it, which he did because he believed that this did not belong to the idols, but belonged to Allah. The Ka'ba is now a central part of Hajj, a pilgrimage that all Muslims are expected to go on at least once in their lifetime (so long as they can afford it) Muhammad continued to lead his community both spiritually and in earthly matters until his death in 632.

The Six Articles of Muslim Faith

The Five Roots of Usul ad-Din in Shi'a Islam

Usul ad-Din means 'the foundations of the faith'. These are the principles underpinning Shi'a belief, and from them come the Ten Obligatory Acts. The Twelver Shi'a (the largest group within Shi'a Islam) who follow this, are encouraged to be able to explain them; what they mean, why they are the five key roots to belief and how to understand how they link to their own religious practice in all its elements. If the five key roots, Tawhid, prophethood and resurrection are all key to Muslim belief. To be a Muslim means to accept them completely without question. If a Muslim rejects the other two (imamate and justice) - then they are still Muslim, just not Shi'a Muslims.

Root	Explanation
Tawhid – 'Oneness'	
Al-Ma'ad – Resurrection	
Adalat – Justice of Allah	
Nubuwwah – Prophethood	
Imamate -Leadership	

The Qur'an and its Authority

Beliefs and Origins	
What the Qur'an contains	
Why is this book so important to Muslims?	

The Torah

The Torah is the revelation given to Musa (Moses) by Allah on Mount Sinai. It was put together by Moses' followers a long time after his death. The Qur'an refers to it as 'guidance and light'

Gospels – Injil

The Injil is the story of Jesus (or Isa, in Arabic). Muslims believe that Jesus was born of a virgin mother, was not the son of Allah, was not crucified, and instead ascended into heaven, and that he didn't die to save people from their sins. They believe that the Gospels contain mistakes.

The Psalms

Psalms are a collection of prayers the Allah. He was a great king, whose people were God fearing and righteous. The psalms contain lessons of guidance for the people and they were recited in song version. Jesus also referred to them

Prophethood and Adam

The angels collected soil, red, white, brown and black, smooth and gritty, soft and hard. It came from mountains and valleys, from dry deserts to green and fertile lands.

Allah honoured Adam. He blew life into his soul. He ordered his angels to bow down before Adam as a sign of respect and honour. His descendants were to be as diverse as the clay he was created from.

What do we know about Adam?	
Why is Adam important in Islam?	
What can Muslims learn from Adam?	

The Nature of Allah

Nature	Explanation
One (Tawhid)	
Omnipotent	
Immanent	
Transcendent	
Beneficent	
Merciful	
Fair	
Just	

Angels in Islam

Jibril – the 'Angel of Holiness'	
Maka'il	
Azrai'l	
Angels of the seven heavens	

AI-Qadr and human freedom

What is AI-Qadr?	
Human Freedom	
Responsibility and accountability	

Akhirah – Life after Death

What happens after we die is one of life's biggest mysteries. Philosophers call it an 'ultimate question', which is one that has no answer that can be empirically tested or even agreed upon. What happens when we die is something some people fear as it is a move into the unknown. There are many possibilities given as 'answers' (resurrection, reincarnation, heaven, hell) whilst others think that death is the end and that is it.

How does Islam explain life after death?	
The 'Angel of Death' in the grave and Barzakh	
The Mahdi	
What does the Qur'an say?	