



Year 11 AQA GCSE
Religious Studies A
2019 – 2020

Paper 1 - Islamic Practices

Name:

Class Teacher:

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The Five Pillars of Islam

The Five Pillars are central to Muslim practices, and they have a great impact on daily life. Muslims believe that they support the main principles and beliefs of Islam, just as pillars are used to support a building.

They can be seen as key to living a perfect Muslim life. They help to give Muslims an identity as one community who share a faith, and enable them to show their obedience and dedication to God. The Five Pillars are:

1st Pillar

2nd Pillar

3rd Pillar

4th Pillar

5th Pillar

Prayer inside a mosque

Type of Prayer	Explanation
The rak'ah	<p>The daily prayers are made up of a number of rak'ah. This is a set sequence of actions and recitations. For example, the morning prayer is made up of two rak'ah and the night prayer is made up of four rak'ah. The rak'ah changes slightly depending on which prayer it is used in, and whereabouts it occurs in the overall sequence, but it includes the following basic actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While standing, Muslims recite the first chapter from the Qur'an. • While bowing, Muslims say in Arabic 'Glory be to my Lord who is the very greatest' three times. The bowing positions shows that they believe God to be great. • Returning to the upright position, they make a recitation, praising God. • They then kneel with their forehead, nose, hands, knees and toes touching the floor. This is called prostration and shows complete obedience to God. They recite 'How perfect is my Lord the most high'. • Muslims then sit while reciting 'God is the greatest', and after pausing for a few seconds prostrate themselves once more while repeating 'God is the greatest'. <p>Once the required number of rak'ah is completed, in a kneeling position Muslims turn their face to the right and then to the left, reciting in Arabic 'Peace be upon you, and the mercy and blessings of God'.</p> <p>Personal prayers (Du'a prayers) may be added on at the end of the final rak'ah. These do not have to be in Arabic and do not follow any set form. Muslims believe that God answers their prayers in the way that God know is best for them.</p>
Jumma Prayers	<p>The midday prayer every Friday is considered to be special, and is called the Jumma prayer. All male Muslims are expected to attend a mosque for this prayer, and women may do so if they wish. Once the prayer is complete, the imam will deliver a sermon that reminds Muslims of their obligations and duties to God. Although Friday is not a day of rest, Muslims must leave their work or close their business in order to attend the Jumma prayers, and then return to work afterwards.</p>

Prayer at home	Muslims are allowed to pray at home. They must perform wudu before prayer, but they do not need a special room in their home to pray. Provided the room is clean, it is suitable. Many Muslims will use a prayer mat, which they position so it is facing Makkah, in the same way as it would in a mosque. Muslim women in particular can find it useful to pray at home, especially if they have children to look after.
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The Significance of Prayer

Sawm: fasting during Ramadan

Things done for Sawm	Explanation
Fasting	

Exceptions to fasting	
Charity	

The Night of Power

Zakah – Giving to charity

	Explanation
What is Zakah?	

Dangers with zakah	
How is it given?	

Hajj – Pilgrimage to Makkah

Hajj is the pilgrimage to Makkah. It takes place in the last month of the Muslim calendar (Dhu al-Hijjah). All Muslims should go at least once in their life time, or every time they can afford it.

Stage	What happens
1	
2	
3	
4	

5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	

The Significance of Hajj

Eid ul-Fitr

Eid ul-Fitr takes place at the end of Ramadan and signifies the end of fasting. The importance of the Eid festival is the same for Sunni and Shi'a Muslims, but the Eid prayers vary slightly.

What do Sunni Muslims do during the festival?	
What do Shi'a Muslims do during the festivals?	
How is this festival celebrated?	
How important is this festival?	
Misuse of the festival	

In terms of looking ahead, the actions of Ramadan have bettered those who have fasted, the harder part is to maintain that state throughout the next year. Muslims believe Allah knows that people wander from His path, hence Ramadan is annual as a reminder. Eid celebrates achievement and betterment, so these ideas should continue so as to make the community a better ummah and improve each Muslim's prospects for a good afterlife.

Eid ul-Adha

What/when is this festival?	
Why is this festival celebrated?	
How is this festival celebrated?	

The Sunnah of Eid	
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The festival of Ashura

What is Ashura?	
Sunni Belief	
Shi'a Belief	

How the
Shi'a
observe
Ashura

Jihad

Jihad

Greater
Jihad

Lesser
Jihad

Rules for the Lesser Jihad	