

Islam Beliefs

Key beliefs

1.	When was Islam founded?	7 th century
2.	How many gods do Muslims believe in?	One, Allah
3.	What is the Qur'an?	Muslim holy book. Infallible speech of God. 'Kallam Allah'
4.	Whose teachings do Muslims also follow?	Prophet Muhammed
5.	How many traditions is Islam divided into?	Two traditions - Sunni and Shi'a
6.	How many Muslims are Sunni?	Around 85-90%
7.	Who was the founder of Islam?	Muhammad
8.	Who did Allah reveal the Qur'an to?	Muhammad
9.	Who did Muslims have to lead them after Muhammed died?	Muslims chose a new leader (caliph) - the next four caliphs were Abu Bakr, Umar, Uthman and Ali.
10.	Did all Muslims agree on the first caliph?	No - some thought the first three shouldn't be given the role. Others said Ali shouldn't be caliph at all.
11.	What happened after Ali died?	Two groups formed - the Sunnis and the Shi'as. The Sunnis and the Shi'as. Each group followed a different line of caliphs. The Sunnis accepted the next caliph after Ali, but the Shi'as followed Ali's descendants. They have been separate groups ever since.
12.	Do Sunnis and Shi'as share many beliefs?	Yes, but some have different ideas. Their basic beliefs - articles of faith - are slightly different but they share beliefs in Allah, the holy books, prophets and the day of judgement.
13.	What are the six articles of faith in Sunni Islam?	1. Allah is the one and only god (Tawhid) 2. Belief in angels (Malaikah) 3. Belief in holy books 4. Belief in Allah's prophets (Nubuwwah) 5. Belief in the Day of Judgement 6. Belief that Allah knows and decides everything that's going to happen (predestination - al-Qadr)
14.	What are the five articles of faith in Shi'a Islam?	1. Allah is the one and only god (Tawhid) 2. Belief in divine justice (Adalat) 3. Belief in prophet hood (Nubuwwah) 4. Belief in the authority of imams (Imamah) 5. Belief in the Day of the Resurrection (Ma'ad)
15.	What are the two key Sunni beliefs?	1. No one after Muhammad received knowledge from Allah (Muslims should focus on Muhammad and his way of life, rather than paying too much attention to Ali and his sons.) 2. Muslims should be guided by the consensus (majority view) of the community.
16.	What are the five key Shi'a beliefs?	1. Ali was the first true caliph. 2. There are many branches of Shi'a Islam. They share a common belief in the line of imams after Ali. Shi'a imams are leaders and figureheads. They are all descendants of Muhammed. For Shi'a Muslims imam means 'prayer

		<p>leader'.</p> <p>3. The different branches of Shi'a Islam split off from each other after disagreements about the line of imams. The Twelvers are the largest branch, but there are many others.</p> <p>4. Twelver Shi'as believe in a line of 12 imams, the last of whom is in hiding and will eventually return. The Twelvers are led by religious scholars while they wait for the last imam's return.</p> <p>5. Isma'ili Shi'as (often called Seveners) thought the seventh imam should be Isma'il, the elder brother of the one chosen by the Twelvers. The biggest group of Isma'ilis today, the Nizaris, think each imam can select the next and are still led by an imam now, known as Aga Khan.</p>
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Characteristics of Allah and prophets

1.	Is Islam a monotheistic religion?	Yes, Muslims believe in one god, Allah. They believe in many prophets.
2.	What four reasons suggest that Tawhid is central to Islam?	The word Allah means the one (ie the only god); saying Allah is the only one is the first part of the shahadah; shirk (believing in other gods is the worst sin) and according to the hadith Muhammad said that when telling non-Muslims about Islam, the first thing Muslims should mention is Tawhid.
3.	What are the 6 characteristics of Allah?	Allah is merciful, omnipotent, benevolent, just, immanent and transcendent.
4.	How did Allah get messages to humans?	Via angels who then gave messages to human prophets (rasuls).
5.	How many prophets were mentioned in the Qur'an?	25 (some believe there have been 124 000 in total).
6.	Do Muslims believe all prophets are equal to each other?	Yes 'we make no distinction between any of them.' (Qur'an 2:136)
7.	What do Muslims believe Prophets did?	Perform miracles to prove they were really prophets.
8.	Who was the first Prophet?	Adam (he was also the first man). He was considered to be the first Muslim. Some believe he built the Ka'aba.
9.	Was Ibrahim a prophet?	Yes. He proved his faith by being willing to sacrifice his own son Isma'il.
10.	Was Isma'il a prophet?	Yes. He helped build the Ka'aba.
11.	Who was Musa?	The only prophet Allah spoke to directly rather than through an angel.
12.	Who was Muhammad?	A prophet. One day when meditating, Allah sent angel Jibril with a message. 'Iqra' being the first word.
13.	Was Muhammad scared at first?	Yes! But as more messages came, Muhammed started to share the messages with others.
14.	What were Muhammad's first messages about?	People should worship one God and people will be judged according to their behaviour. Later, he preached about how Muslims should live their lives.
15.	Where were these messages written?	The Qur'an - seen by Muslims as a miracle, the final revelation from Allah. Written after the Prophet's death, spread through oracy at first (word of mouth) which is where the tradition of hafiz comes from.
16.	Who was called 'seal of the prophets'?	Muhammad. Most Muslims believe he is the last prophet there will be. He is believed to have been a wise leader who brought communities together and performed several miracles.
17.	Is Muhammad regarded as a role model?	Yes, especially as he is believed to be the last prophet! He is infallible.

18.	Is the Qur'an regarded as the most important holy book?	Yes, because Muslims believe it's a complete record of Allah's exact words to Muhammad 'he revealed to His servant what he revealed. The heart did not lie about what it saw.' (Qur'an 53:10-11)
19.	What does the Qur'an tell Muslims about?	How to live their lives and how to please Allah? Key themes: Judgement Day, 5 pillars etc.
20.	Do Muslims learn Arabic?	Many do so that they can read the Qur'an. If it is written in a different language, it could lose its meaning. It was written in Arabic because that is the language the prophet spoke, the speech of Allah is 'Kallam Allah.'
21.	Is there often dispute over how to interpret the Qur'an?	Yes, when it comes to teachings on e.g. Jihad and how to interpret for modern living because so much has changed since it was written.
22.	How is the Qur'an organised?	114 surahs (chapters) made up of ayats (verses). The surahs are in order of length - longest first, shortest last with the exception of surah 1, a short statement of Muslims' basic beliefs.
23.	What five things do Muslims do to treat the Qur'an with great respect?	1. Ornately decorate it. 2. Keep it wrapped up. 3. Wash hands before touching it. 4. Keep it on a higher shelf than all other books. 5. Place on a special stand when they read it.
Other holy books and Allah's Messengers		
1.	Were there other holy books (other than the Qur'an)?	Yes - they were revealed to the other prophets
2.	Do Muslims believe the other holy books are accurate?	They only believe the Qur'an exists in its original form. They believe the other books have been edited over time. (distorted)
3.	What is the Tawrat?	This is the book given to Musa. It's the main Jewish holy book and includes the 10 commandments (basic rules for a religious life.)
4.	What is the Zabur?	This is the book given to Dawud. Many believe it is linked to the Psalms of David in the Christian Bible and the Jewish Tenakh.
5.	What is the Injil?	This is the book given to Isa. This book prophesises the coming of Muhammed.
6.	What is the Hadith?	These are reports of Muhammad's words and actions recorded by his followers. They're not in the Qur'an - they weren't revealed by Allah. They guide Muslims. Quran says what. Hadith says how.
7.	What is the Sunnah?	This sets of Muhammad's way of life, as recorded by the hadith. Following the Sunnah is following the role model of the prophet.
8.	What is the purpose of the Hadith and Sunnah?	Gives valuable advice in addition to the Qur'an esp on issues concerning daily life. Some Muslims believe it better to use the Qur'an because the hadith might not be reliable.
9.	What do Shi'a Muslims follow?	They follow the hadith (sayings) of the imams, especially those of Ali.
10.	What is the purpose of angels?	To follow Allah's orders and communicate with humans, often via the prophets. In heaven, they praise and guard his throne. They welcome humans into paradise.
11.	What are angels like? (6 points)	Genderless. Made of light. Have wings. Immortal. Don't have free will. Not capable of sin. (infallible)
12.	What do angels do?	Record good and bad deeds for judgement day. Protect people from danger and evil.
13.	Name an important angel.	Jibril. He revealed Allah's words (Qur'an) to Muhammed. He also revealed messages to other prophets. He is known as the angel of revelation.
14.	Name other angels and their responsibilities.	Mika'il - asks Allah to forgive people's sins. Izrail - angel of death who takes souls from people's bodies when they die.

Life after death, day of judgement and afterlife

1.	Do Muslims believe in judgement?	Yes - believe Allah will judge their behaviour. This is evidence of Allah being Just.
2.	What is Al-Qadr (predestination)?	Idea that Allah knows our destiny before us. Humans see time as a straight line, Allah sees in as a circle, so it is not that we as humans do not possess free-will, it is that Allah has seen our destiny before us. Pre (before) destination (where we are going) for some Allah wills everything, so we can only do what Allah has chosen for us. (Sunni)
3.	What do Sunnis believe about judgement?	Allah knows all that is going to happen before it happens. Humans chose actions but Allah made it impossible for them to pick what they should not be doing. Some think once someone's chosen to act, the act becomes theirs so they can be judged for it.
4.	What do Shi'as believe about judgement?	They focus more on free will. They often believe Allah has ultimate control & power to change things if he wants but people determine their own lives.
5.	Is predestination a good thing for Muslims?	For many, yes! They feel comforted especially if something bad happens. Feel that because it is part of Allah's plan - it is fine.
6.	What is Yawm ad-Din?	This is the day of Judgement. Allah decides how people will spend the afterlife based on their behaviour during their lives.
7.	What happened on Yawm ad-Din?	Allah will judge all (not just Muslims) - dead will be resurrected and all given a record of their good & bad deeds.
8.	Is judgement important to Muslims?	Yes! Encourages them to live lives in a good way. For Muslims intentions are also important - if you intend to do something good it counts. If you intend to do something bad and don't do it - it doesn't count.
9.	What is Al-Akhirah?	This means afterlife - a key part of Islam. Muslims go there after the Day of Judgement.
10.	What is the reward for good people?	Entry into Jannah (paradise). The Qur'an refers to this as 'Garden of Pleasure' (Qur'an).
11.	What is the punishment for bad people?	Jahannam - hell. The Qur'an describes this as a place of scorching fire and boiling water. Allah is merciful, so a Muslim may eventually leave here and go to paradise.
12.	What is barzakh?	The Qur'an sometimes mentions a 'barrier' between this and the next world where people's souls stay from the time they die. Many Muslims focus more on paradise and hell rather than barzakh.

1.	He is God the one, God the eternal. He begot no one now was He Begotten. No one is comparable to Him. Quran 112:1-4
2.	You who believe, obey God and the Messenger. Quran 4:59
3.	Muhammad is not the father of any of your men, but the Seal of the Prophets (Qur'an 33:40)
4.	There is no God but Him, the Creator of all things, Quran 6:102
5.	They will find everything they ever did laid out in front of them Quran 18:49
6.	They will dwell amid scorching wind and scalding water in the shadow of black smoke. Quran 56:42
7.	And he is with you wherever you may be (57:4)
8.	Nothing there is like Him (42: 11)
9.	He taught Adam all the names (of things) Quran 2:31
10.	...I am going to create a human out of clay...so when I have made him, and breathed life into him....(Qur'an 38: 71-72)
11.	He who is the All-knowing, the All Powerful, able to do anything (Surah 30:54)
12.	None can change His words for He is the one who hears and knows all (Surah 6:115)
13.	Every community is sent a messenger. Quran 10:47
14.	God took Abraham as a friend. Quran 4:125
15.	This is the scripture in which there is no doubt. Containing guidance for those who are mindful of God Quran.
16.	This is truly a glorious Quran (written) on a preserved Tablet. Quran 85:21-22
17.	The Night of Glory is better than a thousand months. Quran 96:1-5

How to answer exam questions successfully in R.E

Question 1 – worth 1 mark. This will always be multiple choice and you circle the correct answer.

Question 2 - worth 2 marks. This will always ask you to give or state 2 things. This could be answered in bullet-points or a couple of words.

Question 3 – worth 4 marks. This will always ask you to explain two ways/beliefs or contrasting beliefs. Contrasting means different. It should be answered in roughly 4 sentences:

- 1 Point
- 2 Explanation or example
- 3 point
- 4 Explanation or example

Question 4 is worth 5 marks. This will always ask you to explain two beliefs or teachings. You must refer to a religious example, teaching or quote within the answer:

- 1 Point
- 2 Explanation or example
- 3 point
- 4 Explanation or example
- 5 a religious example, teaching or quote

Question 5 is worth 12 marks. This will always be a statement where you have to argue both sides of the argument. It should be two chunky paragraphs with short to the point facts with a brief explanation. It should end with a justified conclusion (which argument is more persuasive and why)

DREAREY

- Disagree -** 'On the one hand' or 'Some Christians/Jews /Muslims/ people would disagree with the statement because ...'
- Reason/Religion –** Explain why they would disagree and refer to religious teaching. Use a quote or paraphrase if you can.
- Evaluate -** Is this a good argument? Words like convincing/ substantial/ strong/robust/impressive/ unconvincing/weak/ unpersuasive/ unsuccessful are useful to include.
- Agree -** 'On the other hand' or 'Some Christians/Jews/ Muslims/people would agree with the statement because ...'
- Reason/Religion -** Explain why they would agree and refer to religious teaching. Use a quote or paraphrase if you can.
- Evaluate -** Why is this a good or weak argument?
- Yourself/Conclusion –** A justified conclusion is very important, so one sentence is not sufficient. A way to begin could be 'Having considered the arguments for and against I am convinced that ... because...'

You also get up to 3 marks for **SPaG**. This is for spelling, punctuation and grammar but also includes your use of academic language and keywords. (So learn them from your K.O and how to use them to have an advantage 😊)

Don't forget quotes!

Islam Practices Worship and duties

1.	What key actions do Sunni Muslims have to follow?	<p>These are the Five Pillars of Islam</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Shahadah (declaration of faith) - no god but Allah and Muhammed is messenger. Muslims should say this several times a day. 2. Salah (prayer five times a day) - second most imp duty in Islam, Pray at sunrise, around noon, late afternoon, after sunset and late evening. 3. Zakah (charitable giving) 4. Sawm (obligation to fast during Ramadan) 5. Hajj (pilgrimage to Makkah) - all Muslims should do hajj at least once.
2.	What key actions do Shi'a Muslims have to follow?	<p>These are the Ten Obligatory Acts</p> <p>Four of these - salah, sawm, zakah and hajj are the same as the five pillars. There are six others:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Khums (annual tax): tax on profit (extra money) at the rate of 20%. Goes towards supporting Islamic education and anyone descended from Muhammad who's in need. - Jihad (struggle): there are two types, the personal struggle to live a good life and the struggle to defend Islam against its critics - Tawalla and Tabarra: these come as a pair. Muslims should love Allah and only associate with those who love Allah. - Amr-bil-Marooof and Nahi Anil Munkar: these come as a pair and require Muslims to encourage good deeds and avoid bad ones.
3.	What is Salah?	Very important. Five daily prayers. Ideally should take place in the Mosque.
4.	What happens during Salah?	Each prayer cycle includes saying Allahu akbar (God is great) multiple times as well as reciting the first surah and other key verses from the Qur'an.
5.	Who is obliged to go to Friday prayers?	Most men are obliged to go on a Friday. This is led by an imam who also gives two sermons. Salah keeps Muslims in close contact with Allah and encourages moral and spiritual discipline.

Worship and Duties

1.	What is Salah?	<p>Prayer. Wudu (washing before prayer) is important. A prayer mat is often used when not praying in a mosque to ensure cleanliness. Muslims should face Makkah in Saudi when praying. The rak'ah is a set prayer ritual. It may be repeated several times during the session. Each rak'ah involves standing, then kneeling, then putting your forehead to the ground as a sign of submission to Allah. If several Muslims are praying in one place, then the rak'ah is done together at the same time. Shi'a prayers are a little different - they touch their foreheads to a clay or wooden tablet during the rak'ah (believing this is what Muhammad wanted). When at the mosque, men and women pray separately so they can concentrate on Allah rather than the opposite sex. Some mosques do now allow mixed prayer sessions. Salah is mainly at home, especially for women.</p>
2.	What is Zakah?	<p>This involves redistributing wealth. Muslims think wealth is given by Allah so should be used to serve him. The amount is usually 2.5% of a person's wealth per year. Some Shi'as pay khums in addition to zakah.</p>
3.	What is Sawm?	<p>Muslims fast between sunrise and sunset during the month of Ramadan. The Muslim calendar is lunar (determined by the moon) so Ramadan is not always at the same time each year. Muslims eat just before sunrise and just after sunset. The fast is often broken slowly with some dates, before a bigger meal later. This meal is often with family / friends and sometimes at the Mosque. Sawm also involves abstaining from listening to music, having sex and smoking. Muslims should also try to avoid bad thoughts or actions at this time.</p>

		<p>Exceptions to the obligation to fast:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Children do not have to fast until they are about 12 years old. - Old people do not have to fast. - People can be excused for medical reasons. - Women who are breastfeeding, pregnant or menstruating can be excused. - If you miss a few days fasting the Qur'an says that you have to make up for it by adding days on to your fast or giving food to someone who might need it.
4.	What is Hajj?	<p>1. Muslims must make the pilgrimage at least once in their lifetime as long as they can afford it and are healthy enough to do it. It has to happen in the Muslim month of Dhu'l-Hijja to count.</p> <p>2. A number of prophets including Muhammad are associated with Makkah so it is a holy place.</p> <p>3. All pilgrims wear simple white clothing (ihram) so they're equal before Allah.</p> <p>4. The Ka'aba is in Makkah - it's a giant stone cube covered with black cloth. Some Muslims think Ibrahim and Isma'il built it as a place of worship (Qur'an 2:127 suggests this). Others think Adam built it. It is the holiest place in Islam.</p> <p>5. Muslims do seven circuits anticlockwise of the Ka'aba, touching the stone if possible - this ritual is called the tawaf.</p> <p>6. Next, a pilgrim must make several journeys between the hills of Safa and Marwa (where Hajar, Ibrahim's wife and servant, searched for water for their son Isma'il). This part of the pilgrimage is called the sa'y.</p> <p>7. Pilgrims then draw water from the Zamzan Well, which Allah made for Hajar.</p> <p>8. Then pilgrims go to Mount Arafat to stand and pray for Allah's forgiveness. This is where Muslims believe Adam was forgiven after being thrown out of Eden and also where the Day of Judgement will take place. The pilgrims spend the night at Muzdalifa, a valley between Arafat and Mina, where they collect pebbles.</p> <p>9. The pebbles are then thrown at three pillars in Mina, to symbolise driving the devil away - Ibrahim is believed to have once thrown stones at Shaytan (the devil).</p> <p>10. The title hajji is given to those who complete the hajj. Many find the hajj helps their faith and increases unity between Muslims. Some hadith say it cleanses the hajji of all sins.</p>
5.	What is Jihad?	Jihad means striving or struggle. It is often misunderstood by non-Muslims. It is one of the Ten Obligatory Acts for Shi'as but part of Sunni Islam too. There are two kinds:
6.	What is the greater Jihad?	This is every Muslim's struggle to obey Allah, follow his teachings and become a better Muslim. It's the greater struggle because it is individual and personal.
7.	What is the lesser Jihad?	This is the struggle to make the world a better place. Part of this means struggles against wrongs such as poverty and injustice. Part of it is to defend Islam against threats. This can be in peaceful ways such as helping others be good Muslims. The Qur'an and Islamic law say that actual fighting should only be in self-defence and not against people who aren't fighting. Islamic terrorists claim that the Qur'an supports violence to defend Islam - the vast majority of Muslims condemn this and think that Islamic terrorists aren't true Muslims.
Festivals		
1.	What is Id ul-Adha and what does it focus on?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Festival celebrating complete obedience to Allah b/c it commemorates the time when Ibrahim nearly sacrificed his own son, Isma'il - Ibrahim dreamt that Allah told him to sacrifice Isma'il. He told Isma'il about it and Isma'il agreed to have it done. But, at the last minute Allah told Ibrahim to sacrifice a ram instead of his son. This was a test of faith! - Muslims should attend the Mosque during this festival where they pray and often

		<p>sacrifice an animal.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The festival lasts for four days. Muslims dress up and exchange presents.
2.	What is Id ul-Fitr and what does it focus on?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Marks the end of Ramadan. It is a day of thanksgiving to Allah for giving Muslims the strength to fast for a month. It is a joyful festival. - Muslims pay a special zakah - usually around £5. It helps Muslims who are less well-off celebrate this festival as well. - The festival involves a service with prayers, a sermon, a meal to break the fast... Muslims spend time with family, friends and exchange presents.
3.	What is Ashura and what does it focus on?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mostly a Shi'a festival. - It commemorates the death of Husayn. - Used to be a compulsory day of fasting. - Sunnis tend to think of it as a day of atonement. Many fast, but it is not compulsory. - Ashura is important for Shi'as because it was the day that Husayn (ali's son and Muhammad's grandson) was killed in a battle. The ten days leading up to and including Ashura are a period of mourning for Shi'as. Mosques often provide free meals for people during the ten day period. - On Ashura, Shi'as wear black as a sign of mourning. There are often public processions and 'passion plays' where this story is re-told. - Some Shi'as hurt themselves to commemorate Husayn's suffering. This is banned in some countries- even Iran. (self-flagellation) - For Shi'as, Ashura is a reminder of the suffering the Shi'a community has experienced - Shi'as have been persecuted as a minority. The processions are sometimes used as protests against injustice.

Key quotations

18	He is God the one, God the eternal. He begot no one now was He Begotten. No one is comparable to Him. Quran 112:1-4
19	You who believe, obey God and the Messenger. Quran 4:59
20	Muhammad is not the father of any of your men, but the Seal of the Prophets (Qur'an 33:40)
21	There is no God but Him, the Creator of all things, Quran 6:102
22	Indeed Allah commands you towards justice (Surah 16:90)
23	They will find everything they ever did laid out in front of them Quran 18:49
24	Those who believe do good deeds, keep up the prayer, and pay the prescribed alms will have their reward with their Lord. Quran 2:277
25	They will dwell amid scorching wind and scalding water in the shadow of black smoke. Quran 56:42
26	Call on him and I will answer you. Quran 40:60
27	And he is with you wherever you may be (57:4)
28	Nothing there is like Him (42: 11)
29	He taught Adam all the names (of things) Quran 2:31
30	...I am going to create a human out of clay...so when I have made him, and breathed life into him....(Qu'ran 38: 71-72)
31	He who is the All-knowing, the All Powerful, able to do anything (Surah 30:54)
32	None can change His words for He is the one who hears and knows all (Surah 6:115)
33	Every community is sent a messenger. Quran 10:47
34	God took Abraham as a friend. Quran 4:125
35	This is the scripture in which there is no doubt. Containing guidance for those who are mindful of God Quran.
36	This is truly a glorious Quran (written) on a preserved Tablet. Quran 85:21-22
37	The Night of Glory is better than a thousand months. Quran 96:1-5
38	Believers! When the call to prayer is made on the day of congregation, hurry towards the reminder of God and leave off your trading. Quran 62:9
39	This is My path, leading straight, so follow it. (relates to Jihad) Quran 6:153

