

Key beliefs about God



- There is only **ONE** God (**monotheism**). The 'oneness' of God is called **Tawhid** in Arabic
- Muslims call God **Allah**, which means 'the one true God'
- God cannot be divided and has never had a Son.
- In **the Qur'an** and **the Sunnah**, Allah has **99 'names'**. For e.g. the Merciful, the Just, the Almighty...
- **Allah** has **revealed** his will through his **prophets**
- Muslims share many of the beliefs that Jews and Christians have about God E.g. He is the creator, eternal, omnipotent, omniscient, etc.
- **Allah** must never be pictured
- **Allah** is beyond understanding and nothing must ever be compared to **Allah**. Comparing things to **Allah** is a terrible sin known as **shirk**.
- All humans must 'submit' to the will of **Allah**
- (Islam means 'submission')



Predestination

- **Allah** is in total control of all events and *knows* everything that will happen
- Because **Allah** is **transcendent** (beyond time and space), he is not limited by time or space

BUT

- **Allah** does not *decide* what will happen
- Humans have **free-will** and are responsible for their choices
- Humans will be judged by **Allah** based on their choices

Beliefs & Teachings: Islam

RISALAH: The Prophets

Prophethood

- **Allah** appoints particular people to spread his messages
- These people receive **revelation** from **Allah** through his **Angels**
- There are 25 key **prophets** of Allah identified in **the Qur'an**, including Musa (Moses) and Isa (Jesus)

Adam

- Created specially by **Allah**.
- Given **dominion** over the earth by **Allah**
- The first human to communicate with **Allah**
- The first Muslim

Ibrahim

- One of **Allah's** most faithful servants
- Opposed **idolatry**
- Risked his life to argue for **monotheism**
- A great role-model
- An ancestor of **Muhammad**

Muhammad

- **Allah's** final and greatest **prophet**
- Received the **revelation of the Qur'an**
- A great teacher
- A great role-model
- A military commander
- Set up the first Muslim community in **Makkah**
- Must be respected but not worshipped

AKHIRAH: Life after death

HEAVEN & HELL

- Described in different ways by different Muslims
- Not all Muslims and scholars agree whether hell is an eternal destination or whether some or even all of the condemned will eventually be forgiven and allowed to enter paradise
- Heaven described **in the Qur'an** as a garden paradise (seven levels)
- Hell described in **the Qur'an** as a place of fire and pain (seven levels)
- Faithful and righteous Muslims will go to heaven
- Non-Muslims and unrighteous Muslims will go to hell

The Day of Judgment

- When all humans will be judged by **Allah** based on how they have lived
- Judgement will lead to punishment (hell = **Jahannam**) or reward = (heaven **Jannah**)
- Preceded by a state of waiting in the grave called **Barzakh**
- While in the grave, people are questioned by **Angels**
- People will be physically **resurrected** before their judgement

Sunni & Shi'a Islam

Sunni Muslims (majority)

- See the elected **Caliphs** as the successors of **Muhammad**
- Accept all 4 **Caliphs** – **Abu Bakr, Osman, Omer and Ali**
- Follow the 6 'articles of faith': **Tawhid**, the **Day of Judgement**, the **Prophets**, **Angels**, the **supremacy of Allah's will (Al-Qadr)** and the authority of **the Qur'an**.

Shia Muslims (minority)

- See the **Imams** (descendants of **Muhammad**) as **Muhammad's** successors
- Believe each **Imam** must choose his successor before he dies
- Reject the first 3 Caliphs and only accept **Ali** to be the first Imam of Islam.
- Follow the 5 'roots' of Usul ad-Din: **Tawhid**, **Prophethood**, **Allah's Justice (Adalat)**, **Resurrection** and the **Imamate**

Similarities	Differences

Key quotes

“We don’t descend except for the command of our Lord.”

“They do not precede Him in speech and (only) according to His commandment do they act.”

"Never will we be struck except by what Allah has decreed for us. " (Quran 9:51)

“Enter among my servants! Enter my paradise!”

“Oh humanity – your sins are against your soul. It is an enjoyment of life of the present... we will show you the truth of what you did.”

The Qur’an

- The word of Allah given to Muhammad through Jibril
- Originally dictated in Arabic
- The original words have never been altered
- Infallible: corrects all previous revelation from God
- Divided into ‘Surahs
- Supplemented by the Hadiths and the Sunnah

Other holy books – write down 3 facts in each box

Tawrat (Torah)	Injil (Gospels)
Zabur (Psalms)	Scrolls of Ibrahim

Angels in Islam

- Bring Allah’s revelations to his prophets
- Created by Allah from light
- Usually invisible but sometimes take human form
- Pure and sinless
- Do not have free-will
- Have various roles
- Some are named E.g. Jibril, Mika’il, Israfil

Name	Role
Jibril	
Mika’il	

Exam practice

Name TWO prophets in Islam. [2 marks]

Explain TWO ways that the 6 articles of faith may influence Muslims today. [4 marks]

Explain TWO ways in which belief in Tawhid (the Oneness of God) impacts on Muslims today. [4 marks]

Explain TWO Muslim teachings about the Imamate in Shi’a Islam. Refer to scripture or another source of Muslim belief and teaching in your answer. [5 marks]

Explain TWO Muslim teachings about the Qur’an. Refer to scripture or another source of Muslim belief and teaching in your answer. [5 marks]

‘Tawhid is the most important Muslim belief.’ Evaluate this statement. [12 marks]