



RE Knowledge Organiser—Islam



Islam is the world's second largest religion with about 1.8 billion followers. **Muslims** are people who follow Islam.

Muslims believe in **Allah** (the Arabic name for 'God') who created everything.

Muhammad (a messenger of Allah), is seen as the final prophet following Adam, Abraham, Moses, Jesus and others.

It is believed that Muhammad founded the faith of Islam about 1,400 years ago. The holy book of Islam, **The Qur'an**, was revealed to Muhammad.

A **mosque** is a place designed for worship.

Ummah is the worldwide community of Muslims.

The Five Pillars

The five obligations that every Muslim must satisfy in order to live a good and responsible life according to Islam.

Shahadah - Sincerely reciting the Muslim Declaration of faith - 'There is no God but Allah, and Muhammad is his messenger.'

Salah - It is their duty to pray in the proper way to Allah at five set times each day.

Zakah - Regularly giving a set proportion of your money to charity to benefit the poor and needy.

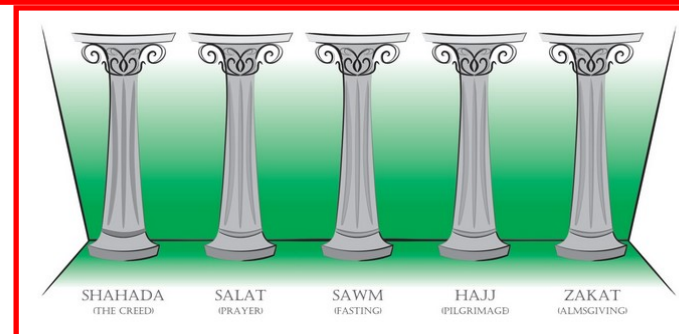
Sawm - Fasting during the month of Ramadan.

Hajj - Pilgrimage to **Mecca** for those who are able, where the Prophet Muhammad was born.

Mosque



The Qur'an





Rites of Passage

Birth - At birth many Muslims will speak the words of the **Adhan** (call to prayer) in the ear of a baby so Allah is present in their life from the start. There is an **Aqiqah** ceremony on the seventh day after birth. The baby is given a name, their hair will be shaved and the equivalent weight of gold or silver given to charity.

Marriage - Nikah is the traditional Islamic marriage ceremony.

Marriage is expected for all Muslims. It is intended to be:

- for the mutual love and support of the husband and wife
- raising of children
- to support a stable society

Marriage celebrations are traditionally simple events performed at the bride's home and led by a respected member of the **Ummah**.

Death - When a person is dying, if they are able to, they should say the Shahadah. For a Muslim, death is the end of life on Earth but not the end of a person's existence. **Akhirah** is the Muslim belief in life after death. When a person dies, Muslims believe they enter an intermediate phase in the grave, waiting for **Day of Judgement**, when Allah will raise the body. On the Day of Judgement Allah will judge all of humanity according to how they have lived.

Ramadan and 'Eid-ul-Fitr

Ramadan is the 9th month of the Islamic lunar calendar. It is the holiest month of the year for Muslims as it is when the Qur'an was revealed to the Prophet Muhammad.

It is a period of 30 days when Muslims fast (do not eat or drink) from dawn until sunset. At the end of the day after sunset families all eat together. This meal is called **Iftar**.

Muslims request forgiveness for sins in the past and try to cleanse themselves through self-control. Some will try to become better Muslims by praying or reading the Qur'an. Fasting helps them to focus on God, be self-disciplined and generous.

'Eid-ul-Fitr is The Feast of Breaking the Fast and marks the end of Ramadan. It lasts for 3 days. During the festival Muslims will

- thank Allah for the help and strength he gave them when they fasted
- wear new clothes, decorate their homes and spend time with family and friends
- attend special prayer services at the mosque