

Key Words & Definitions: Islam

Adha	Sacrifice
Akhirah	Eternal afterlife
Allah	The Arabic word meaning God.
Ashura	Literally means "tenth". A festival that falls the first month of the Islamic calendar
Authority	The idea that something or someone is in charge of what is right or wrong. We look to authority when making our own decision making
Barzakh	A place of waiting till the day of Judgement
Creed	A set statement of faith that all religious believers follow
Day of Judgement	The day the dead will be raised from the grave and all people will stand before God to be judged according to how they have lived their lives.
Du'a Prayers	Personal prayers which may be said at any time of the day
Fitrah	The natural instinct all humans have, from birth, to know and worship God.
Hadith	An account describing the words and actions of the prophet Muhammad. To tell or narrate
Hafiz	Someone who has been able to memorise the whole of the Quran in Arabic
Halal (permitted)	Actions or things which are permitted within Islam, such as eating permitted foods.
Haram (forbidden)	Any actions or things which are forbidden in Islam, such as eating forbidden foods
Handif	People who lived in Arabia before the prophet Muhammad and believed in one God.
Ibadah	Acts of worship; any permissible action performed with the intention to obey God.
Id	The Muslim word for festival. It means an event that will return every year.
Iman	A leader, but Sunnis and Shi'a's differ in the way they understand them,
Islam	Submission or peace
Janna	Heaven: state of joy, happiness and peace
Jahannam	Hell: a state of torture and suffering
Jihad	Means to strive. There are two forms of Jihad. The greater jihad is the daily struggle and inner spiritual striving to live as a Muslim. The lesser is a physical struggle or holy war in defence of Islam
Jumu'ah	Congregational prayers on a Friday when Muslims come together at mosque.
Ka'ba	Known as the house of God, the black covered, cube shaped building at the centre of Islam's holiest mosque in Makkah
Malaikah	Angels. Heavenly, immortal beings, Allah's first creation.
Mosque or masjid	"A place of prostration" for Muslims, it is a communal place for a Muslim community.
Niyah	The honest intention to worship God
Predestination	The belief that all events have been willed by God. The idea that God has already chosen who will receive salvation and enter heaven.
Prophethood or "risalah"	The term used of the messengers of God, beginning with Adam and ending with the prophet Muhammad
Qibla	The direction Muslims face during prayer (towards Makkah)
Quran	Means "reading" or "recitation". The Quran was revealed to the prophet Muhammad
The Rak'ahs	A sequences of movements, following a set pattern, which make up the prayer routine.
Sadaquah	The generous giving or chaitry driven by compassion for others
Salah	Bowing or worship. There are over 700 verses in the Quran that refer to it.
Sawn	Fasting during Ramadan
Shahadah	Sums up the religion of Islam: belief in one almighty God and the acceptance of Muhammad as his final prophet. The first pillar of Islam.

Shari'ah	A way of life; Muslims believe God has set out a clear path for how Muslims should live. Shari'ah law is a set of moral and religious rules that put the principles set out by the Quran and the hadith into practice.
Sunnah	Record of all that Muhammad said and did, this helps guides Muslims today
Sunni	One who follows the Sunnah (The book which describes the way the prophet Muhammad lived)
Shi'a	From the house of Ali (Ali was close relative of Muhammad)
Shirk	Associating other beings or things with God
Surah	A chapter from the Quran
Tahwid	"oneness" in reference to God. The basic Muslim belief in the oneness of God
Ummah	Means "community". Refers to the worldwide community of Muslims who share a common religious identity.
Wudu	Ablution (washing) Before prayer. This is an outward sign of an inner cleanliness needed to face God.
Zakah	One of the pillars of Islam - the compulsory payment of money or possessions to help the poor and needy.