

Retrieval Do Now

What are the three aims of punishment?

Why does a Christian believe in forgiveness?

Why do Christians believe in stewardship?

Why do some Christians support animal experimentation for medicine?

21 April 2022

**LO: Today I will review the
Islam Beliefs unit**

Steps to success

I will be able to identify
my areas for
improvement in the Islam
Beliefs unit

I will be able to
explain the key
vocabulary in the
Islam Beliefs unit

I will be able to explain
the key content of the
Islam Beliefs unit



Islam Beliefs- Unit Checklist

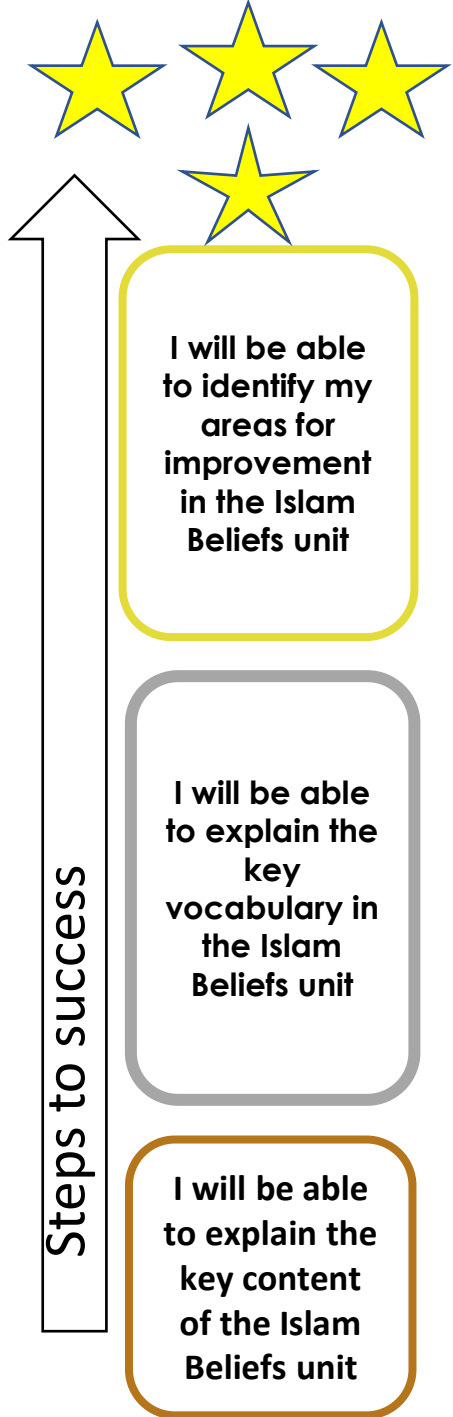
Topic	RED	AMBER	GREEN
1. Oneness of God and the supremacy of God's will			
2. Key beliefs of Sunni Islam and Shi'a Islam			
3. The nature of God			
4. Angels			
5. Predestination			
6. Life after death			
7. Prophethood and Adam			
8. Ibrahim			
9. Muhammad and the Imamate			
10. Holy books in Islam			

Steps to success

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Before we start let's review how confident you feel with the Islam Belief's unit. RAG the unit checklist you have been given.

- Highlight green the topics you feel very confident with.
- Highlight yellow the topics you feel okay with but you feel you still need to do some work with it to be fully confident answering questions.
- Highlight red anything that you are really unsure about.



Steps to success



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Key Words	
Muslim	One who has submitted to the will of God and has accepted Islam
Islam	The name of the religion followed by Muslims; to surrender to the will of God; peace
Allah	The Arabic name for God
Tawhid	The Oneness and unity of God
Monotheistic	A religion that believes there is only one God
Supremacy	Supreme power or authority; a quality of God
Qur'an	The holy book revealed to Muhammad by the angel Jibril; God's final revelation to humankind
Sunnah	The teachings and deeds of the Prophet Muhammad
Sunni	Muslims who believe in the successorship of Abu Bakr
Shi'a	Muslims who believe in the Imamate, the successorship of Ali
Immanent	The idea that God is present in and involved with life on earth and in the universe; a quality of God
Transcendent	The idea that God is beyond and outside life on earth and the universe; a quality of God
Omnipotent	Almighty, having unlimited power, a quality of God
Beneficent	Benevolent, all-loving, all-good; a quality of God
Merciful	The quality of God that shows compassion or forgiveness to humans, even though he has the power to punish them
Fairness	The idea that God treats people fairly and impartially without favour or discrimination
Justice (Adalat)	The idea that God is just and fair and judges human actions, rewarding the good and punishing the bad
Angels	Spiritual beings believed to act as messengers of God
Day of Judgement	A time when the world will end and every soul will be judged by God, and either rewarded or punished
Jibril	The Arabic name for Gabriel, the archangel who brought God's message to the prophets, particularly to Muhammad
Mika'il	The Arabic name for Michael, the archangel of mercy who rewards good deeds and provides nourishment to people
Predestination	The idea that God knows or determines everything that will happen in the universe
Akhirah	Everlasting life after death
Resurrection	Rising from the dead or returning to life
Heaven	The state of eternal happiness in the presence of God; also called paradise
Hell	The state of total separation from God
Prophet	A person who proclaims the message of God
Risalah	The belief that prophets are an important channel of communication between God and humans
Prophethood	When God makes someone a prophet to communicate his message to people
Iblis (Satan)	A spiritual being created from fire, who was thrown out of paradise for refusing to bow down to Adam
Ka'aba	The black, cubed shaped building in the centre of the Grand Mosque in Makkah (Mecca); the holiest place in Islam
Id-ul-Adha	A Muslim festival that celebrates the prophet Ibrahim's willingness to sacrifice his son for God

1. The Oneness of God and the Supremacy of God's will

Muslims are **monotheistic**. This means belief in one God.

The belief in one indivisible God is known as **Tawhid**. This is a fundamental belief in Islam which is supported by **Surah 112** in the Qur'an. Where it writes:

1. 'He is God the One' 2. 'God the eternal' 3. 'He begot no one nor was He begotten' (God was not born and does not have children) 4. 'No one is comparable to him.'

Belief in **Tawhid influences Muslims** by:

- Worship only one God
- Never make anything in their lives more important than God
- Not use pictures or images of God as it is not possible to portray God

Muslims believe in the **supremacy of God's will**

1. They will believe God can make anything happen.
2. It also means nothing happens unless God wills it to happen.
3. This helps to give Muslims confidence when something goes wrong, because they know it is part of God's plan.
4. Muslims will try to live according to God's will

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2. The nature of God

There are 99 different names for God in the Qur'an and Hadith (Muhammad's sayings). These names describe God's characteristics. Some of the main qualities are:

- **Transcendent:** God created the universe so is beyond and outside it. He is not limited by the laws of nature
- **Immanent:** God is present everywhere in the world and the universe.
- **Beneficent:** God is benevolent, all-loving and all good
- **Fair and just:** God treats everyone fairly as he will judge all at the end of time
- **Merciful:** God cares for all and understands their suffering. God forgives people who are truly sorry
- **Omnipotent:** God is all powerful. God has the power to create and sustain everything

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3. Key beliefs of Sunni and Shi'a Islam

Sunni Islam (majority group)

- The Sunni leader (called the Caliph) should be elected.
- Only the Qur'an and the Sunnah (Muhammad's teachings and actions) have the authority to provide religious guidance.
- Abu Bakr, Muhammad's advisor rightful leader after Muhammad died.

Shi'a Islam (minority group)

- The Shi'a leader (called the imam) should be a descendant of Muhammad and chosen by God.
- The Qur'an, Sunnah and the Shi'a leader have religious authority.
- Ali, Muhammad's cousin and son-in law was the rightful leader after Muhammad died.

There are many shared beliefs-

- Believe in the same God
- Importance of the prophets
- Follow the teachings of the Sunnah and Qur'an

Sunni Beliefs

Six articles of faith

1. Tawhid
2. Angels
3. The holy books
4. The prophets
5. The Day of Judgement
6. Supremacy of God's will

Shi'a Beliefs

The Five roots of Usul ad-Din

1. Tawhid
2. Prophethood
3. The Justice of God- Adalat
4. The Imamate- respect for the 12 Imams chosen to lead after Muhammad's death
5. Resurrection- beliefs
Muslims will be resurrected after death

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4. Angels

'Each person has angels before him and behind him, watching over him by God's command.'

Qur'an 13:11

- Angels are **spiritual beings** who serve God and pass on his word to people through the prophets.
- Angels are **made of elements of light**, have wings and move at the speed of light.
- They appear in human form but they are **not like humans**, have no gender and are part of the unseen world
- They **always complete Allah's task**. They always obey Allah as they have no free will.

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Their role is to:

- They **watch over humans and record all thoughts** and actions for Judgement Day.
- Angels **deliver all of Allah's messages** at His command.
- The Angel of Death **takes the soul at death**; others question each soul as it waits for Judgement Day.
- Angels **greet those in paradise and punish those in hell**.
- The angel will blow the horn to **signify the end of the world**.

Angel Jibril

- The name means 'God is my strength'. The angel of **revelation**.
- **Purified Muhammad's heart** when he was a child, so he would later be able to receive God's revelation.
- **Recited the Qur'an to Muhammad** and continued to pass on God's messages to Muhammad.
- Played an **important role in communicating the final version of Islam to humanity**.
- Other example of his work include helping Ibrahim when he was thrown into a fire.

Angel Mika'il

- The angel of **mercy**.
- Responsible for sending **rain, thunder and lightening**.
- Brings **nourishment to earth**, and helps to provide food for humans, by sending rain.
- Believed to **reward people** who do good deeds
- He was one of the **first to bow to Adam** and it is believed he provides spiritual help to the soul and material help to the body

Steps to success

5. Pre-destination

This is the idea that God knows or determines everything that will happen in the universe.

Sunni Muslims believe God has already determined everything that will happen in the universe. They believe:

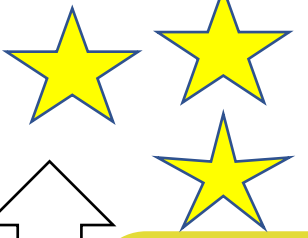
- God has written down everything in a book of decrees
- God’s will is so powerful that he is able to make anything happen that he wants to happen. God created people so they must act according to his will
- Humans do not have the freedom to change their destiny or the plan that God has set for them but they do have some choice on how they behave **‘Only what God has decreed will happen to us’ Qur’an 9:51**

Shi’a Muslims believe that God knows everything that is going to happen but that does not mean he *decides* what is going to happen. They believe that:

- as God is the creator of time, he is outside time and not bound by it. This means that God can see everything that happens in the past, future and present
- God knows what choices people will make, but they have the free will to make these choices for themselves **‘God does not change the condition of a people (for the worse) unless they change what is in themselves’ Qur’an 13:11**

The Day of Judgement

- Muslims who believe they have the free will also believe they will be judged by God for these choices
- They believe that on the Day of Judgement God will judge them for everything they have done in their life and reward or punish them as a result. Even though God knows everything that happens, people are still responsible for their actions.



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6. Life after Death (Aakhirah)

Barazakh

- After death the state of waiting until the day of Judgement is called Barzakh, which means a 'barrier'. People are unable to come back across the barrier to warn people.
- While they are waiting God sends two angels to question them about their faith to decide if they should be rewarded or punished after judgement.

The Day of Judgement

- When God's purpose for the world has been fulfilled the world will be destroyed.
- Everyone who has ever lived will be raised from the dead (resurrected).
- Everyone will be given their own 'book of deeds' a record of all their actions.
- If they are given a book in the right hand they will go to heaven, if they are given a book in the left hand they will go to hell.

Heaven and Hell

- People who have kept their faith in God and completed good deeds will go to heave. (paradise). Heaven is a beautiful garden, a state of eternal happiness in the presence of God.
- People who have done bad and rejected God will be punished with hell, a place of torment separated from God.

Belief in Akhirah influences Muslims by:

- It encourages Muslims to take responsibility for their own actions because they know God will hold them accountable and judge them accordingly.
- This motivates Muslims to follow the Qur'an.
- It helps to give hope to Muslims who are suffering as they know there is something better to look forward to.
- It helps Muslims to accept unjust situations because they know God will provide justice in the afterlife.

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7. Prophethood and Adam

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- Prophethood is a gift from God to help humans understand his message.
- When people have forgotten, misunderstood or changed God's message, God has sent prophets to call people back to the right path.
- There have been around 124,000 prophets.
- Muhammad was the last and most important of the prophets.
- Prophets are important in Islam because they are **good role models** and help Muslims to understand how to follow God.

The Qur'an teaches the following about **Adam**:

God created Adam from the dust of the ground and breathed life into him. God gave Adam knowledge and understanding and he taught Adam all things. God told the angels to bow down to Adam out of respect for his knowledge. Iblis (Satan) refused to bow down to Adam, so God threw him out of paradise. Iblis vowed to always tempt humans to sin against God. God created Hawwa (Eve) to keep Adam company, and they lived together in the Garden of Bliss. God told Adam and Hawwa they could eat anything in the Garden, except for the fruit from the forbidden tree. Iblis deceived Adam and Hawwa into eating fruit from the tree and God expelled Adam and Hawwa from the garden and their actions brought sin into the world. God forgave Adam after he accepted his mistake and he became the first prophet.

Adam is important to Muslims because God gave him knowledge and understanding. God taught Adam how to live a good life in obedience to God, and Adam passed on this knowledge to the rest of the human race through his descendants. He was the first person to learn to plant seeds, harvest crops and cook food. God revealed to him the food that Muslims are allowed to eat, how to repent wrong doing and how to bury the dead.

8. Prophethood and Ibrahim

Ibrahim is important because:

- He fulfilled all the tests and commands given to him by God showing great faith.
- He proclaimed belief in only one God a time when people worshipped many different Gods and idols.
- Muhammad was one of his descendants through his son, Ishmael.
- He is a good role model for Muslims.

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1. He refused to worship idols and instead preached that there is only one God. When Ibrahim was a young, many people worshipped a number of different gods. Ibrahim questioned their beliefs and decided there was only one God. Ibrahim became determined to stop idol worship. One day he took an axe and destroyed all the idols in the temple of his town. People were furious and demanded Ibrahim be burned alive. He was thrown into a huge fire, but the fire only burned his chains and he walked out alive. The miracle prompted people to worship Allah.

2. He rebuilt the Ka'aba

The Ka'aba is a small cube shaped building in the center of the Grand Mosque in Mecca. It is considered to be the house of God and the holiest place in Islam. When Muslims take part in Hajj, which starts at the Ka'aba they remember Ibrahim and the steadfastness of his faith.

3. He was willing to sacrifice his son

Ibrahim had a dream in which God asked him to sacrifice his son to him. Ibrahim was willing to do this but just before he carried out the sacrifice God stopped him and told him he has passed the test. During the festival of Id-ul-Adha each year Muslims kill an animal to remember Ibrahim's willingness to sacrifice his own son.

9. Muhammad and the Imamate

Muhammad is the most important prophet in Islam because he is 'God's messenger' (Qur'an 33:40)

Revelation of the Qur'an

- Muhammad grew up in Makkah and he would sometimes visit cave in the mountains to pray and meditate.
- In 610 ce Muhammad visited the cave and experienced a revelation from the angel Jibril.
- Over the next 22 years Muhammad continued to receive revelations from Jibril. These form the Qur'an.

Conquering Makkah

- After the first revelation from Jibril Muhammad started challenging people to follow God's teachings. Muhammad was persecuted and fled with his followers to Madinah.
- In Madinah he united the warring tribes and with their help he conquered Makkah converting the city to Islam helping to bring harmony to the area and establish Islam as a religion.

The Night Journey

- Before Muhammad fled to Madinah the angel Jibril took him on a miraculous journey to Jerusalem and then into heaven where he spoke to prophets and saw great signs of God. In heaven Muhammad agreed with God Muslims should pray five times a day.

The Imamate

- The leader of Shi'a Muslims is called the Imam. The leadership of the Imams is known as the Imamate.
- Shi'a Muslims believe that the Imam should be a descendent of Muhammad and chosen by God.
- The Tvelever branch of Shi'a Islam teaches there has been twelve Imams in total. Each has been related to Muhammad in some way. The twelfth Imam has been kept alive by God and hidden somewhere on earth. He will return in the future to bring justice and equality to all
- Because the Imams have been appointed by God they can interpret the Qur'an and Islamic law without fault.

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10. Holy books

The Qur'an is the **most important book** in Islam and the highest source of authority for all Muslims. It includes:

- A mixture of historical accounts and advice on how to follow God.
- Contains 114 chapters (surahs) roughly arranged in order of length.
- Nearly every chapter starts with the word 'In the name of God, the Lord of Mercy, the Giver of Mercy'.
- Written in **Arabic** and the foundation of every believer's faith.

Other important books

1. **Torah** revealed to Moses (first five books of the bible)
2. The **Psalms** revealed to David
3. The **Gospels** revealed to Isa (Jesus) The **Scrolls of Abraham** revealed to Ibrahim.

Some believe these four books are important because they are referred to in the Qur'an. However they are believed to not be as important as the Qur'an as the original has been lost.

- The Qur'an was **revealed to Muhammad by the angel Jibril.**
- Jibril was directly passing on God's words; so the Qur'an is considered to be the **word of God.**
- Jibril's revelation occurred over a period of 22 years.
- As Islam spread there was a danger that the original words could be distorted.
- The third Caliph asked a team of Muslim scholars to compile an official version of the Qur'an that everyone could use.
- This was completed around 650ce.
- Muhammad learned by heart each revelation he received.
- He recited these revelations to his followers.
- Scribes later wrote them down.

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Exam Practice

1. Which one of the following revealed the Qur'an to Muhammad? (1)
a) Iblis b) Israfil c) Jibril d) Mika'il
2. Give two of the six articles of faith. (2)
3. Explain two ways in which prophethood influences Muslims today. (4)
4. Explain two Muslim teachings about predestination. Refer to sacred writings or another source of Muslim belief and teaching in your answer. (5)
5. 'The best way of understanding God is to describe God as transcendent.' (12)
Evaluate this statement. In your answer you should:
 - Refer to Muslim teaching
 - Give reasoned arguments to support
 - Give reasoned arguments to support a different view
 - Reach a justified conclusion

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