

Islam practices - personal learning check list	
Worship - Five Pillars of Sunni Islam and the Ten Obligatory Acts of Shi'a Islam (students should study the Five Pillars and jihad in both Sunni and Shi'a Islam and the additional duties of Shi'a Islam).	
Shahadah: declaration of faith and its place in Muslim practice.	
Salah and its significance: how and why Muslims pray including times, directions, ablution (wudu), movements (rak'ahs) and recitations; salah in the home and mosque and elsewhere; Friday prayer: Jummah; key differences in the practice of salah in Sunni and Shi'a Islam, and different Muslim views about the importance of prayer.	
Duties and Festivals	
Sawm: the role and significance of fasting during the month of Ramadan including origins, duties, benefits of fasting, the exceptions and their reasons, and the Night of Power, Qur'an 96:1-5.	
Zakah: the role and significance of giving alms including origins, how and why it is given, benefits of receipt, Khums in Shi'a Islam.	
Hajj: the role and significance of the pilgrimage to Makkah including origins, how hajj is performed, the actions pilgrims perform at sites including the Ka'aba at Makkah, Mina, Arafat, Muzdalifah and their significance.	
Jihad: different understandings of jihad: the meaning and significance of greater and lesser jihad; origins, influence and conditions for the declaration of lesser jihad.	
Festivals and commemorations and their importance for Muslims in Great Britain today, including the origins and meanings of Id-ul-Adha, Id-ul-Fitr, Ashura.	

Command words are the words and phrases used in exams and other assessment tasks that tell you how you should answer the question.	
Evaluate	Tests evaluation. It requires you to consider different viewpoints and arrive at a judgement.
Explain	Tests knowledge and understanding of beliefs, teachings and practices. It requires you to identify relevant points and demonstrate understanding by adding detail/development.
Explain how X may influence Y	Tests knowledge and understanding of (eg) how a religious belief or practice influences individuals or groups. This means how it would make them think feel or act.
Give	Tests recall of knowledge, eg two examples or two beliefs.
Similar	Nearly the same/lots in common
Contrasting	Different/opposite

Islam practices glossary	
Ablution (wudu)	Ritual washing before prayer.
Arafat	Part of the Hajj pilgrimage. Place where Prophet Muhammad preached his last sermon and pilgrims gather to pray.
Ashura	Important festival in Shi'a Islam, to commemorate the martyrdom of Hussein (Muhammad's grandson). Sunni Muslims observe Ashura as a day of repentance for sins in the belief that they will be forgiven.
Fasting	Not eating or drinking; one of the Five Pillars is Sawm during Ramadan.
Five Pillars	Important duties for Sunni Muslims which support the main principles of Islam. Shahadah, salah, zakah, sawm and hajj.
Friday prayer/Jumma	Friday prayers in the mosque, where a sermon (khutbah) is heard.
Giving alms	Giving alms means giving to those in need, eg money, food, time. A key practice in Islam; one of the Five Pillars/Ten Obligatory Acts (Zakah).
Greater jihad	The personal struggle of every Muslim to live by the teachings of their faith.
Hajj	One of the Five Pillars/Ten Obligatory Acts; pilgrimage to Makkah, which all Muslims must undertake at least once in their lives, unless prevented by problems over wealth or health.
Id-ul-Adha	Festival; celebration of the Prophet Ibrahim's willingness to sacrifice his son for Allah.
Id-ul-Fitr	Festival; celebration that comes at the end of Ramadan and marks the end of fasting.
Jihad	'To struggle'. The personal or collective struggle against evil.
Ka'aba	Part of the Hajj pilgrimage; cube-shaped building in the centre of the Grand Mosque in Makkah. All Muslims face towards it when they pray.
Khums	One of the Ten Obligatory Acts in Shi'a Islam; practice of alms giving.
Lesser jihad	This refers to the military struggle to defend Islam. It is carried out according to strict and clear cut rules.
Makkah	Place of pilgrimage during Hajj; the spiritual centre of Islam.
Mina	Site of pilgrimage during Hajj; where pilgrims take part in the stoning of pillars.
Mosque	Muslim place of worship.
Movements (rak'ahs)	Actions and ritual movements made during salah (prayer) consisting of recitations, standing, bowing and prostration.
Muzdalifah	Site of pilgrimage during Hajj; where pilgrims hold a night prayer and rest after the Stand on Mount Arafat.
Muhammad	The last and greatest of the prophets. He received the Qur'an and his Sunnah and Hadiths are also important sources of authority.
The Night of Power	The night on which Muhammad received the first revelations of the Qur'an.
Pilgrimage	A religious journey to a holy site/sacred place, it is an act of worship and devotion.
The Qur'an	Holy Book and most important source of authority in Islam. It was revealed to the Prophet Muhammad and is the final revelation of God to humankind.
Ramadan	Month during which Muslims fast (sawm) from dawn to sunset.
Recitations	Part of the practice of salah (prayer); the reciting of verses from the Qur'an.
Salah	Prayer; one of the Five Pillars/Ten Obligatory Acts.
Sawm	Fasting from dawn to dusk during Ramadan; one of the Five Pillars/Ten Obligatory Acts.
The Shahadah	Muslim declaration of faith; one of the Five Pillars in Sunni Islam.
The Ten Obligatory Acts	These are requirements for Shi'a Muslims. They include salah, sawm, zakah, hajj and jihad (duties also for Sunni Muslims) but the final five are not part of the Sunni tradition – khums, encouraging good, discouraging wrong, showing love for God and people, disassociation with enemies of God.
Zakah	One of the Five Pillars and Ten Obligatory Acts; giving alms.



Islam practices SofAs.

Shahadah: Declaration of Faith

“There is no God but Allah and Muhammad is the Prophet of Allah”

Salah: Prayer

“You who believe, when you are about to pray, wash your faces and your hands up to the elbows, wipe your heads, wash your feet up to the ankles and, if required, wash your whole body.” Qur’an 5:6

“Your Lord says, ‘Call on Me and I will answer you.’ Qur’an 40:60

Sawm: Fasting

“It was in the month of Ramadan that the Qur’an was revealed as guidance for mankind ... So any one of you who is present that month should fast, and anyone who is ill or on a journey should make up for the lost days by fasting on other days later.” Qur’an 2:18

“Read! In the name of the Lord who created: He created man from a clinging form. Your Lord is the Most Bountiful One who taught by the pen, who taught man what he did not know.” Qur’an 96:1-5

Zakah: Charity

“Alms are meant only for the poor, the needy, those who administer them, those whose hearts need winning over, to free slaves and help those in debt, for God’s cause, and for travellers in need.” Qur’an 9:60

Hajj: Pilgrimage

Pilgrimage to the House is a duty owed to God by people who are able to undertake it.” Qur’an 3:97

“Safa and Marwa are among the rites of God, so for those who make major or minor pilgrimage to the House it is no offence to circulate between the two” Qur’an 2:158

Jihad

“This is My path, leading straight, so follow it, and do not follow other ways: they will lead you away from it - ‘This is what He commands you to do, so that you may refrain from wrongdoing.” Qur’an 6:153

“But those who have believed, migrated, and striven for God’s cause, it is they who can look forward to God’s mercy: God is most forgiving and merciful.” Qur’an 2:218

The Five Pillars are central to Muslim practices, and they have a great impact on daily life. Muslims believe that they support the main principles and beliefs of Islam. They can be seen as the key to living the perfect Muslim life. For Muslims who follow the Twelver Shi'a Islam, there are ten duties called the **Ten Obligatory Acts**.

Ten Obligatory Acts in Shi'a Islam

1. Salah – prayer.
2. Sawm- fasting.
3. Zakah -charitable giving.
4. Khums – a 20 percent tax on income once all expenses are deducted. Half goes to charity, and half goes to Shi'a religious leaders.
5. Hajj- pilgrimage.
6. Jihad – the struggle to maintain the faith and defend Islam.
7. Amr-bil-Maruf – encouraging people to do what is good.
8. Nahi Anil Munkar – discouraging people from doing what is wrong.
9. Tawallah – to be loving towards the friends of God, including Muhammad and the Imams.
10. Tabarra – disassociating from the enemies of God.

Shahadah - The basic belief of Islam is expressed in the Shahadah. In Arabic it is 'La ilaha illa Allah wa – Muhammad rasul Allah', which translates to '**There is no God but Allah and Muhammad is the Prophet of Allah**'. Sincerely reciting this statement in front of Muslim witnesses is the only requirement for joining the Muslim community. It is recited many times during a lifetime. It is said when a baby is born, so the first thing they hear is this basic belief of the faith. As well as being the first of the 5 Pillars it is the foundation of the other four.

Salah: the daily prayers – To observe the second pillar of Islam, Sunni Muslims are required to pray at five set times during the day. The times are worked out from the times of sunrise and sunset, so they change slightly each day. Muslims perform ritual washing (or ablution) called **wudu** to be spiritually clean before they pray. Muslims **face the holy city of Makkah** when praying as it means they physically and mentally focusing on one place associated with God. Daily prayers are made up of a number **rak'ah**. This is a set sequence of actions and recitations including, standing, bowing and kneeling with the forehead on the ground. Muslims repeat in Arabic, "Glory be to my Lord who is the very greatest" and " God is the greatest". The midday prayer every Friday is considered to be special and is called the **Jummah prayer**. All male Muslims are expected to attend a mosque for this prayer. Prayer is not only significant as one of the 5 Pillars but also because it is what God has commanded Muslims to do. Prayer not only creates a greater awareness of God but unites Muslims worldwide because they all pray in the same way.

Sawm: fasting during Ramadan – Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar and for Muslims, the most important. They believe that it was during Ramadan that the Qur'an started to be revealed to Muhammad. Ramadan is known as the month of **fasting** because Muslims fast during daylight hours. The command to fast can be found in the Qur'an, for Muslims, fasting is not just to with food and drink; smoking and sex are also forbidden. The focus of Ramadan is on God, for which purity of thought and self-discipline is required. **The Night of Power** is an important festival that marks the beginning of God's revelation to Muhammad. The first verses of the Qur'an that were revealed to Muhammad.

Zakah is the third pillar of Islam and means **giving alms** (giving money to the poor). For Muslim's who have enough savings it is compulsory to give 2.5% of those savings every year to help the poor. Zakah can be donated directly to a charity such as Islamic Relief of Muslim Aid. Alternatively, it can be put into a collection box in the mosque to be distribute among the poor. In giving Zakah, Muslims are fulfilling a duty imposed by God, learning a good attitude towards money and strengthening communities.

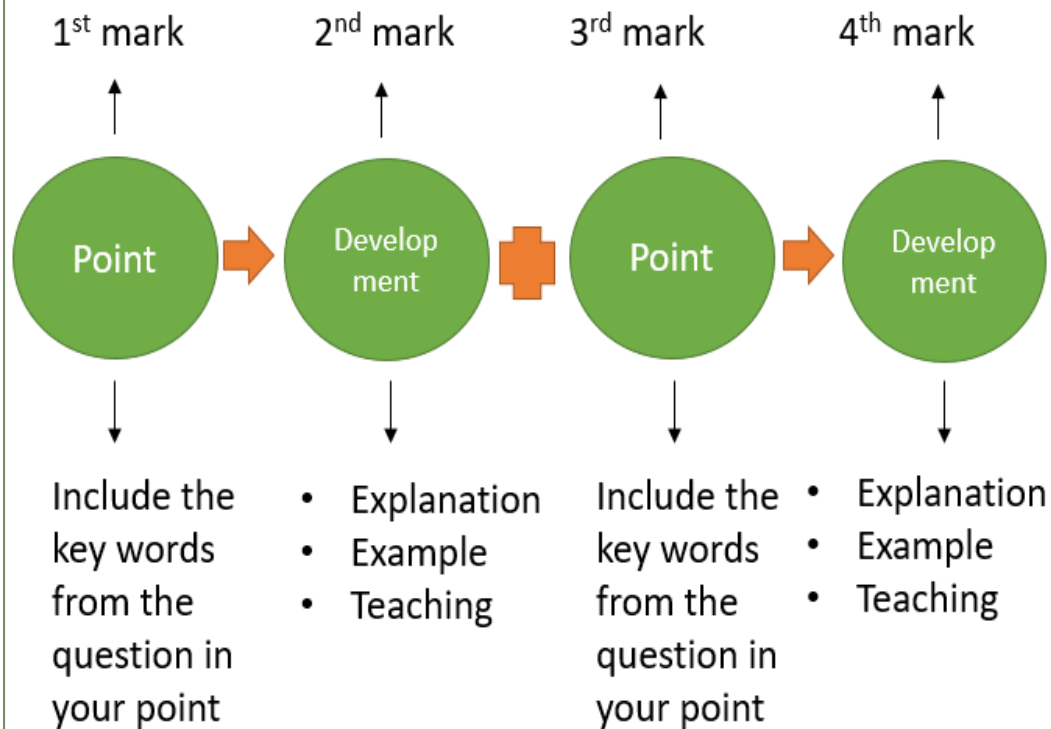
Hajj - pilgrimage is a journey made for religious reasons. Hajj, the fifth pillar of Islam, is a pilgrimage that should be made a least once during a Muslim's lifetime, provided they are healthy and wealthy enough to do so. Hajj is performed by entering a state of **Ihram**. This involves ritual washing, praying and putting on Ihram clothing. Hajj follows the story of Ibrahim, his wife (Hajira) and son (Ishmael). As part of Hajj, Muslim's will circle the Ka'aba built by Ibrahim as a shrine dedicated to God. Muslim's will then walk the covered walkway linking the hills of Safa and Marwah before travelling to Arafat where they pray and read the Qur'an. Pebbles are thrown at the Jamarat (walls representing the devil) in Mina before returning to Makkah to circle the Ka'aba seven times. Hajj can bring a deep spiritual transformation to Muslims, it helps them to grow and become a better person, more aware of God.

Jihad refers to the struggling against evil, either as an individual or as the collective fellowship of Islam. **Greater Jihad** is a personal inward struggle to live in line with the teachings. **Lesser Jihad** is the outward struggle to defend Islam from threat and to protect freedom of faith.

Id-ul-Fitr & Id-ul- Adha – Id-ul-Fitr is the 'festival of breaking the fast' that marks the end of the month of Ramadan and a time to thank God. Id-ul-Adha is the festival of sacrifice or Greater Eid. It remembers and honours the prophet Ibrahim who was willing to sacrifice his son at God's command.

Ashura – is a day of remembrance and a major Shi'a festival. Sunni Muslims refer to Ashura as the **Day of Atonement**, and remember it as the day when the Israelites were freed from slavery in Egypt. Shi'a Muslims remember the death of Husayn in the battle against the army of Caliph Yazid.

How to write in Religious Studies – 4 Mark questions



How to write in Religious Studies – 12 Mark questions



→ Icing – turn the statement into a question

→ Layer 1 – Argument **for** the statement

→ Layer 2 – A **different** point of view

→ Layer 3 – which is the best argument? Why?

