



MUSLIM BELIEFS & TEACHINGS

KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER

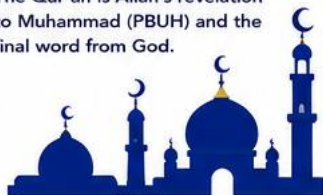
AQA GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES

8062

TOPIC: ISLAM

WHAT IS ISLAM?

- Islam is a monotheistic religion founded in the 7th century in Arabia by the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).
- The word 'Islam' means 'submission (to Allah)'.
- Muslims believe in one God, Allah, who is all-powerful and all-knowing.
- The Qur'an is Allah's revelation to Muhammad (PBUH) and the final word from God.



KEY BELIEFS OVERVIEW

	Allah	There is one God, the Creator of everything.
	Angels	Angels were created by Allah to carry out His commands.
	Revelation	Allah revealed guidance to prophets through books.
	Prophets	Prophets were sent to teach Islam and guide people.
	The Day of Judgement	Everyone will be judged for their actions.
	Predestination (Qadar)	Allah knows everything and has a plan for the world.
	The Hereafter	Life continues after death in Paradise or Hell.

THE NATURE OF ALLAH

Muslims believe Allah is:

	Omnipotent	All-powerful
	Omniscient	All-knowing
	Merciful	Compassionate and kind
	Just	Fair and always right
	Unique	There is no God but Allah
	Eternal	Always existed and always will
	Transcendent	Beyond human understanding

SOURCE OF WISDOM & AUTHORITY

"Say, 'He is Allah, [who is] One.'
Qur'an 112:1
This teaches the oneness of Allah.

THE QUR'AN



- The Qur'an is the literal word of Allah.
- Revealed to Muhammad (PBUH) over 23 years.
- Written in Arabic.
- The final and complete guidance for all Muslims.
- Covers beliefs, worship, moral guidance and laws.

SOURCE OF WISDOM & AUTHORITY

"This is the Book about which there is no doubt, a guidance for those conscious of Allah."
Qur'an 2:2
This shows the Qur'an is a guide for life.

MUHAMMAD (PBUH)



- Born in Makkah in 570 CE.
- Received revelation from Allah through Angel Jibreel.
- Taught the message of Islam.
- Known for his honesty, kindness and fairness.
- Died in 632 CE in Madinah.

SOURCE OF WISDOM & AUTHORITY

"You have in the Messenger of Allah an excellent example to follow."
Qur'an 33:21
This teaches Muslims to follow the Prophet.

SUNNAH



- The Sunnah is the example of Muhammad (PBUH).
- It includes his words, actions and approvals.
- Recorded in Hadith.
- Helps Muslims understand how to live Islam.

SOURCE OF WISDOM & AUTHORITY

"He does not speak of [his own] desire. It is not but a revelation revealed."
Qur'an 53:3-4
This shows the Prophet's teachings come from Allah.

SHARIAH (ISLAMIC LAW)



- Shariah means 'the right path'.
- Based on the Qur'an and Sunnah.
- Guides Muslims on how to live in all areas of life.
- Includes rules on worship, ethics, family, finance and society.

SOURCE OF WISDOM & AUTHORITY

"And whoever does not judge by what Allah has revealed – then it is they who are the wrongdoers."
Qur'an 5:45
This shows that Allah's guidance should be followed.

THE DAY OF JUDGEMENT



- All people will be resurrected and judged by Allah.
- Deeds will be weighed.
- Good deeds lead to Jannah (Paradise).
- Bad deeds lead to Jahannam (Hell).

SOURCE OF WISDOM & AUTHORITY

"So whoever does an atom's weight of good will see it, and whoever does an atom's weight of evil will see it."
Qur'an 99:7-8
This teaches that every action matters.

THE HEREAFTER

JANNAH (PARADISE)



- A place of peace and happiness.
- Gardens, rivers and eternal life.
- For those who obey Allah and do good deeds.

JAHHANNAM (HELL)



- A place of punishment.
- For those who reject Allah and do evil.
- Not everyone stays forever.

SOURCE OF WISDOM & AUTHORITY

"Indeed, the companions of Paradise will that Day be in the best residence and best position."
Qur'an 25:24
This gives hope to Muslims to live a good life.

ANGELS



- Angels were created by Allah from light.
- They do not have free will and always obey Allah.
- They have important roles in the world.

KEY ANGELS AND THEIR ROLES

Jibreel (Gabriel)	Revealed the Qur'an to the Prophet.
Mikaeel (Michael)	Provides for the earth and all living things.
Israfeel (Raphael)	Will blow the trumpet on the Day of Judgement.
Izraeel (Angel of Death)	Takes the souls of people when they die.
Kiraman Katibein	Record people's good and bad deeds.

SUNNI AND SHIA BELIEFS

SUNNI

- Believe the best leader was Abu Bakr, a close companion of the Prophet.
- Follow the majority of Muslims.
- Believe leaders should be chosen by the community.
- Make up around 85–90% of Muslims worldwide.



SHIA

- Believe the best leader was Ali, the Prophet's cousin and son-in-law.
- Leaders must be from the Prophet's family (Ahl al-Bayt).
- Believe in Imams as spiritual leaders.
- Make up around 10–15% of Muslims worldwide.

SOURCE OF WISDOM & AUTHORITY

"Verily, this community of yours is one community, and I am your Lord, so worship Me alone."
Qur'an 21:92
This teaches unity, even though Muslims have different beliefs.

KEY VOCABULARY

Allah	The Arabic word for God.
Qur'an	The holy book of Islam.
Sunnah	The example and teachings of Muhammad.
Hadith	Reports of the Prophet's sayings and actions.
Prophet	A person chosen by Allah to guide people.
Revelation	Allah's message given to prophets.
Predestination (Qadar)	The belief that Allah knows everything and has a plan.
Shariah	Islamic law based on the Qur'an and Sunnah.
Jannah	Paradise.
Jahannam	Hell.

IMPORTANT EVENTS IN ISLAM

	570 CE	Birth of Muhammad (PBUH) in Makkah.
	610 CE	First revelation to Muhammad (PBUH) in the Cave of Hira.
	622 CE	Hijrah – Muhammad (PBUH) and followers move from Makkah to Madinah.
	632 CE	Farewell Sermon – Muhammad (PBUH) gives his final message.
	632 CE	Death of Muhammad (PBUH).

STUDY TIPS

- ✓ Learn key quotations and what they teach.
- ✓ Know the nature of Allah and key beliefs.
- ✓ Understand the importance of the Qur'an, Sunnah and Shariah.
- ✓ Know the roles of the angels.
- ✓ Learn the differences between Sunni and Shia.
- ✓ Practise 4, 6- and 12-mark exam questions.
- ✓ Use key vocabulary in your answers.
- ✓ Make links between beliefs and teachings.

