



MUSLIM PRACTICES

KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER

AQA GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES

8062

TOPIC: ISLAM

WHAT ARE MUSLIM PRACTICES?

- Muslim practices are the ways Muslims live out their faith and obey Allah.
- They are based on the teachings of the Qur'an and the Sunnah (the example of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ).
- Practices help Muslims show obedience to Allah, gain reward and develop self-discipline and compassion.
- The most important practices are the Five Pillars and the Ten Obligatory Acts (for Shi'a Muslims).



THE FIVE PILLARS OF ISLAM

The Five Pillars are the foundation of Muslim life. Every Muslim who is able must follow them.



SHAHADA
(Faith)

Belief in one Allah and that Muhammad ﷺ is His final Messenger.



SALAH
(Prayer)

Pray five times a day at set times facing the Ka'bah in Makkah.



ZAKAH
(Charity)

Give a fixed amount (2.5% of savings) to help those in need.



SAWM
(Fasting)

Fast during the month of Ramadan from dawn until sunset.



HAJJ
(Pilgrimage)

Pilgrimage to Makkah at least once in a lifetime if able.

THE TEN OBLIGATORY ACTS (SHI'A ISLAM)

Shi'a Muslims follow the Five Pillars and ten acts of worship.

1		Salat (Prayer)	Perform five daily prayers.
2		Sawm (Fasting)	Fast during the month of Ramadan.
3		Khums (Almsgiving)	Give one-fifth of surplus income to charity.
4		Zakat (Charity)	Give 2.5% of wealth to help the poor.
5		Hajj (Pilgrimage)	Pilgrimage to Makkah.
6		Jihad (Striving)	Strive in the way of Allah.
7		Wilayah (Guardianship)	Loyalty to the Imams.
8		Amr bil Ma'ruf (Enjoining Good)	Encourage good and prevent evil.
9		Nahy anil Munkar (Forbidding Evil)	Stop others from doing wrong.
10		Tawallah & Tabarra (Loyalty & Disassociation)	Love the friends of Allah and distance from His enemies.

'ID UL-FITR

Celebrates the end of Ramadan.

- Takes place on the 1st of Shawwal.
- Muslims give thanks to Allah.
- Special prayer held in the morning.
- Zakat al-Fitr is given to the poor before the prayer.
- Families share a festive meal and give gifts.



SOURCE OF WISDOM & AUTHORITY

"So complete the fast for the month of Ramadan."
Qur'an 2:185

This teaches Muslims to complete their fast and celebrate.

'ID UL-ADHA

Celebrates the willingness of Prophet Ibrahim (Abraham) to obey Allah.

- Takes place on the 10th of Dhu al-Hijjah.
- Commemorates Ibrahim's sacrifice of his son Ismail.
- Muslims sacrifice an animal (qurbani).
- Meat is shared: one-third for family, one-third for friends, one-third for the poor.



SOURCE OF WISDOM & AUTHORITY

"It is neither their meat nor their blood that reaches Allah, but it is your taqwa (God-consciousness) that reaches Him."
Qur'an 22:37

This teaches that Allah values obedience and devotion, not the sacrifice itself.

ASHURA

Commemorates important events in Islamic history.

- Takes place on the 10th of Muharram.
- For Sunni Muslims: Moses (Musa) and the Israelites were saved from Pharaoh.
- For Shi'a Muslims: remembers the martyrdom of Imam Husayn (the grandson of the Prophet ﷺ) at the Battle of Karbala.
- Day of fasting (for Sunnis) and mourning (for Shi'a).



SOURCE OF WISDOM & AUTHORITY

"So We saved him (Moses) and those with him, all together."
Qur'an 26:66

This shows Allah saved Moses and the believers.

JIHAD (STRIVING IN THE WAY OF ALLAH)

Jihad means striving to please Allah. It is not just fighting.



GREATER JIHAD (THE GREATER STRUGGLE)

- The inner struggle to live a good life.
- Controlling desires and bad habits.
- Being patient and honest.
- Learning and following Islamic teachings.



LESSER JIHAD (THE LESSER STRUGGLE)

- Physical struggle in self-defence.
- To protect Muslims from harm.
- Only allowed under strict rules.
- Must follow Islamic law and be for a just cause.

SOURCE OF WISDOM & AUTHORITY

"Strive hard against yourselves and your wealth in the way of Allah."
Qur'an 9:41

This teaches Muslims to strive in Allah's path.

OTHER IMPORTANT PRACTICES

JUMUAH (FRIDAY PRAYER)



- Special congregational prayer on Friday.
- Includes a sermon (khutbah).
- Important for all adult Muslim men (obligatory).

DUA (SUPPLICATION)



- Personal prayer to Allah.
- Can be in Arabic or any language.
- Muslims make dua at any time and anywhere.

DHIKR (REMEMBRANCE)



- Remembering Allah through words and phrases.
- Helps develop a close relationship with Allah.

TAHAJJUD (NIGHT PRAYER)



- Voluntary night prayer.
- Prayed after waking up in the last part of the night.
- Brings reward and closeness to Allah.

HALAL & HARAM



- Halal = permitted in Islam.
- Haram = forbidden in Islam.
- Muslims follow halal lifestyle in food, money and behaviour.

GOOD CHARACTER (AKHLAQ)



- Honesty, kindness, patience, forgiveness.
- Treating others with respect.
- Following the example of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.

KEY VOCABULARY

Shahada	The declaration of faith.
Salah	The five daily prayers.
Zakah	Charity; 2.5% of wealth.
Sawm	Fasting during Ramadan.
Hajj	Pilgrimage to Makkah.
Jihad	Striving in the way of Allah.
Sunnah	The example and teachings of the Prophet ﷺ.
Obligatory	Something Muslims are required to do.
Voluntary	Something done for extra reward.
Qurbani	The animal sacrifice at 'Id ul-Adha.
Khums	One-fifth of surplus income (Shi'a).

IMPORTANT EVENTS IN ISLAMIC HISTORY

	610 CE	Revelation of the Qur'an begins to Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.
	622 CE	Hijrah – Muhammad ﷺ and his followers move from Makkah to Madinah.
	632 CE	Farewell Sermon – Prophet Muhammad ﷺ gives his final sermon.
	632 CE	Death of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.
	656 CE	Start of the period of the Imams (important for Shi'a Muslims).

STUDY TIPS

- ✓ Learn the Five Pillars and what they mean.
- ✓ Understand the Ten Obligatory Acts (Shi'a).
- ✓ Know the key festivals and what they celebrate.
- ✓ Learn the difference between Greater and Lesser Jihad.
- ✓ Learn key quotations from the Qur'an.
- ✓ Practise 4, 6- and 12-mark exam questions.
- ✓ Use key vocabulary in your answers.
- ✓ Make links between beliefs and practices.

