



Newton Abbot College

Imagine what's possible ...

Name:

Year 11

Religious Studies GCSE Revision Guide 2018

AQA Spec A

Paper 1

The study of religions: beliefs, teachings and practices

The two religions you have studied are: Christianity and Islam.

The Exam

There are TWO papers to complete in 1 hour 45 minutes, one on each religion.

You need to do all the questions on both papers.

There will be 2 five part questions on each religion. They will be worth 1, 2, 4, 5 and 12 marks.

You are advised to spend 50 minutes on each religion (so 25 minutes on each question)

Command Words

- Which one of the following

(1 mark)

- Give two

(2 marks)

- Explain two

(4 marks)

- Explain two

Refer to sacred writings or another source of Muslim/Christian belief and teaching in your answer

(5 marks)

- “ ”

Evaluate this statement.

In your answer you should:

- refer to Muslim or Christian teaching
- give reasoned arguments to support this statement
- give reasoned arguments to support a different point of view
- reach a justified conclusion

(12 marks

+ 3 SPaG marks)

Useful Words

Respect

Responsibility

Dignity

Compassion

Commitment

Worship

Community

Judgement

Beliefs and teachings

Sacred

Religious practices

Resurrection

Justice

Sin

Harmony

Denomination

Forgiveness

Awe and wonder

Duty

Reverence

Repentance

Wisdom

Scripture

Revelation

Angels

Prayer

Monotheist

Pilgrimage

Festival

Charity

Hints for Exam Success

Do

- Read the question carefully.
- Write in good English: use paragraphs, full sentences, punctuation and capital letters for names (SPaG gets you extra marks in the 12 mark questions).
- Make sure you include a fact, key word or quote in each sentence.
- When you add a quote, explain its meaning.
- Refer to Muslims (not 'Islams')
- Use all the time available. If you finish early, go back and upgrade by adding more information, quotes, key words. Check for silly mistakes with spelling (believe - angel - prophet - prayer - mosque - Catholic - priest - judgement - Qur'an - sacred)
- Use quotes from religious texts and other sources, to back up your points.
- Self-assess your work. Work out how many marks it's worth (in your head!) and add more points if needed. Use all the techniques you have covered in class.
- Remember 'contrasting' means different.
- Make sure that your 12 mark answers have a clear conclusion. You need more than a sentence, you need a detailed concluding paragraph, so your views will come in to the conclusion.
- Look carefully at how many marks a question is worth. (1, 2, 4, 5, 12)
- Follow the command word. (If a question begins "Give two" you just write two examples down)
- Write all your answers for Paper 1 on the question papers.
- Use highlighters to identify command words.
- Time yourself carefully: allow 50 minutes for each religion (Christianity and Islam), 25 minutes for each question.
- Answer ALL the questions.
- Write at least one page for the 12 mark answers.
- Include at least one quote in all your 5 mark answers.
- Include several quotes in the 12 mark answers.

Don't

- Write vague answers.
- Write OK/etc.
- Miss out any parts of a question - have a go!
- Waste time! Even if you have finished check and improve your answers.
- Write more than you need for the shorter answers.
- Confuse the religions. (Only write about Christianity on the Christianity paper and Islam on the Islam paper)
- Make up quotes!
- Over use the same quote.

Maximising your marks

Assessment Objectives

AO1: Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of religion and beliefs including:

- Belief, practices and sources of authority
- Influence on individuals, communities and society
- Similarities and differences within and/or between religions and beliefs.

AO2: Analyse and evaluate aspects of religion and belief, including their significance and influence.

AO1 Questions

Types of Questions

Marks	Question type	Criteria
1 mark	Multiple choice	The correct answer chosen from 4 options
2 marks	Short-answer (asking for two facts)	One mark for each of two correct points
4 marks	Asking for two ways in which beliefs influence Christians or Muslims today	For each of the two ways/contrasts: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• one mark for a simple explanation of a relevant and accurate way/contrast;• two marks for a detailed explanation of a relevant and accurate way/contrast
5 marks	Asking for two Christian or Muslim beliefs, teachings or practices PLUS at least one quote.	For each of the two beliefs/practices: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• one mark for a simple explanation of a relevant and belief/practice;• two marks for a detailed explanation of a relevant and accurate belief/practice; PLUS one mark for a relevant reference to scripture or sacred writing.

The grid below gives you some guidance on different levels for the 12 mark evaluation question (testing AO2)

Levels	Criteria	Marks
4	A well-argued response, reasoned consideration of different points of view Logical chains of reasoning leading to judgement(s) supported by knowledge and understanding of relevant evidence and information	10-12
3	Reasoned consideration of different points of view Logical chains of reasoning that draw on knowledge and understanding of relevant evidence and information	7-9
2	Reasoned consideration of a point of view A logical chain of reasoning drawing on knowledge and understanding of relevant evidence and information OR Recognition of different points of view, each supported by relevant reasons/ evidence	4-6
1	Point of view with reason(s) stated in support	1-3
0	Nothing worthy of credit	0

Hints for different types of questions

- 1 mark: Put a tick in the box next to the correct answer.
- Give two (2 marks): Just write the 2 things down in the space given.
- Explain 2 ways
Explain 2 contrasting

(4 marks)

You need to write about two different things or interpretations and explain them.

You can put 'Some Christians and 'Other Christians '

or 'Roman Catholic Christians ' and 'Other Christians '

- Explain 2
Refer to sacred writings or another source of _____ belief and teaching in your answer

(5 marks)

Make sure that you make your 2 points clearly and develop your answers fully. Add 1/2 quotes; these could be from holy books (Bible/Qur'an), key figures (e.g. Hadith of Muhammad), speeches . . .

- 12 mark answer;
These will be based on a made-up quote and say:-

" _____ "

Evaluate this statement.

In your answer you should:

- refer to _____ teaching
- give reasoned arguments to support this statement
- give reasoned arguments to support a different point of view
- reach a justified conclusion.

To answer these well:

- Focus on the statement itself, not the topic.
- Make sure you understand what the statement is actually saying.
- Include strong arguments for and against.
- Include quotes.
- Come to a strong conclusion which will incorporate your views.
- Focus on the key vocabulary of the question and make sure you know what the words mean.

Key Words - Christianity

God	the Supreme Being
Roman Catholic	a branch of Christianity led by the Pope and based in Rome.
Orthodox	a branch of Christianity (especially in Greece, Turkey, Russia and Eastern Europe).
Protestant	Originally called this because they protested against the Roman Catholic Church. Lots of different Protestant denominations.
Denomination	a group within Christianity (e.g. Baptists, Methodists, Pentecostalists).
Omnipotent	all powerful.
Omnipresent	everywhere.
Omniscient	all knowing.
Omnibenevolent	all loving.
Justice	bringing about what is right and fair, according to the law, or making up for a wrong that has been committed.
Trinity	3 in 1. Father, Son and Holy Spirit make up the One God.
Holy Spirit	Christians believe this is the inspiring presence of God in the world. (Pentecost celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit on the disciples).
Son of God	a title used for Jesus.
Creation	God bringing the universe into being.
the Word	John's gospel uses this to refer to God the Son.
Gospel	4 gospels are Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. They tell the story of Jesus. Literally means 'good news'.
Incarnation	becoming flesh/human.
Resurrection	rising from the dead.
Blasphemy	a religious offence (using God's name wrongly/pretending to be God...)
Crucifixion	Execution by being nailed to a cross and left to die.
Ascension	40 days after the resurrection, Jesus returned to heaven to be with God the Father.
Heaven	state of eternal happiness with God. Place of eternal peace.

Afterlife	what Christians believe follows life on earth.
Day of Judgement	after the end of the world - every soul will be judged by God and rewarded or punished.
Hell	a place of eternal suffering or the state of being separated from God.
Purgatory	the intermediate state where souls are cleansed so they can go to heaven.
Satan	name for the Devil - the power and source of evil.
Sin	actions/thoughts that separate humans from God. Behaviour which is against God's law.
Original sin	idea that everyone is born with the urge to sin because we are all descended from Adam and Eve. (St Augustine said a lot about this in 4th century).
Salvation	being saved/saving the soul/deliverance from sin/admission to heaven brought about by Jesus.
Grace	freely given/idea that God loves and supports humans which they don't deserve.
Forgiveness	showing grace and mercy and pardoning someone for what they have done wrong.
Atonement	washing away of sin/putting right the relationship between people and God through the death and resurrection of Jesus.
Mass	name for having the bread and wine to remember the death and resurrection of Jesus (also called Eucharist = thanksgiving, Communion, Lord's Supper, Breaking of Bread).
Worship	religious praise, honour or devotion to God.
Liturgical worship	church service that follows a set structure or ritual (set words said).
Non-liturgical worship	a service that does not follow the same words/rituals.
Informal worship	like non-liturgical, but it might be 'spontaneous' (i.e. people might share thoughts and prayers wherever they want) or 'charismatic' (i.e. very lively, might include dance or testimonials from people).
Private worship	individual prayers to God.
Prayer	communicating with God, maybe silently or through words. Might include thanksgiving, confession or requests.
Set prayers	have been written down and are used regularly - e.g. the Lord's Prayer.

Informal prayer	made up by a person using his/her own words.
Nonconformist	an English Protestant who does not follow the teachings and practices of the Church of England.
Rosary	prayer beads used in set prayers (especially by Roman Catholics).
Icon	a picture of a saint, usually on wood (especially used when Orthodox Christians pray).
Congregation	all the people in the church together.
Sacraments	rituals and actions that enable the Holy Spirit to be especially present and the believer receives grace (Catholics and Anglicans especially. E.g. baptism/communion...)
Baptism	a special ritual that makes people members of the Church. Water symbolises washing away sin.
Believers' baptism	joining the church by being immersed in water. Washing away past life and starting a new Christian life. Adults. (Baptists do this).
Infant baptism	or christening. Babies become members of the Church. Parents and godparents make promises on their behalf.
Font	the container for the water at an infant baptism.
Holy Communion	special service of thanks for the death and resurrection of Jesus. Bread and wine symbolise his body and blood.
Chalice	special cup used at communion for the wine.
Wafer	little circle of bread symbolising Jesus' body.
Eucharist	a Greek word for 'thanksgiving'. Another name for sharing the bread and wine.
Minister/Priest/Vicar	different names for the leader of the Service (they have been 'ordained').
Pilgrimage	a religious journey to a holy site. It is an act of worship/devotion. (Christians might visit Lourdes, Iona or Jerusalem).
Festival	a celebration for religious reasons.
Christmas	celebrates the incarnation and birth of Jesus in Bethlehem.
Epiphany	celebrates the visit of the wise men. (January 6th).
Easter	religious season celebrating the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead. Easter Sunday.
Good Friday	remembers the crucifixion of Jesus.

Lent	the 40 days leading up to Easter. Starts on Ash Wednesday.
Church	the holy people of God, also known as the Body of Christ. Also means the building in which Christians worship.
Agape	a Greek word meaning Love.
Mission	the idea of being called to go out and spread your faith.
The Great Commission	Jesus' instructions to his followers to spread his teachings everywhere in the world.
Missionary	a person who goes to another country to preach Christianity and do charitable work.
Evangelism	spreading the Christian message by public preaching or personal witness. (An evangelist is the person who does this.)
Disciple	follower. Jesus had 12 male disciples. All Christians would consider themselves disciples/followers of Jesus.
Reconciliation	restoring harmony/making peace. (In the Catholic church, reconciliation is a sacrament).
Persecution	being picked on/bullied/ill-treated because of race, or political or religious beliefs.
Holy	sacred.
Supremacy	above all else. Christians believe God is the 'Supreme Being'.
Virgin Birth	the Christian belief that Mary did not conceive Jesus sexually. (It was a miracle. It's an important belief as it shows Jesus is incarnate - fully God yet fully human.) Matthew and Luke record this story.
Messiah	a Hebrew word meaning 'anointed one', someone who would save people from injustice and establish peace. (When translated to Greek it is Christos, or Christ).
Sabbath	Jewish day of rest (Friday eve - Saturday eve). Jesus was put in his tomb on the Friday; the women went to prepare his body for burial on Sunday, after the Sabbath and found the tomb empty.
Apostle's Creed	a statement of Christian belief dating to about 400 CE. Starts with the words 'I believe ...' and is often recited in services.
Eternal	never-ending.
Beatitudes	Jesus' famous 'Blessed are...' sayings from his Sermon on the Mount.

Sermon		the talk given by the priest as part of the service. Usually based on a Biblical text.
Lord's Prayer		a prayer Jesus taught when his disciples asked him how to pray. Starts with 'Our Father...'
John the Baptist		Jesus' cousin. Baptised him in the River Jordan. (Dove. Voice).
Conversion		joining a religion or changing to a new religion.
Paschal candle		a large candle in a church, blessed and lit every year at Easter. (Candles at baptism are lit from it).
Altar		the table at the front of the church where the bread and wine are placed. (Reminder of Jesus' sacrifice for people).
Transubstantiation		the Roman Catholic belief that the bread and wine spiritually change and become the flesh and blood of Jesus.
Symbol		when something represents something else.
Crucifix		a cross with the body of Jesus on it.
Bernadette		the Catholic girl who saw 18 visions of the Virgin Mary at Lourdes and was told to dig for a spring of water.
St Columba		an Irish missionary who took Christianity to Scotland in the 6th century CE and set up a monastic community on the island of Iona.
Trussell Trust	}	examples of Devon Christian charities that help the poor/homeless.
Oasis Project	}	
Street Pastors		aim to help and care for vulnerable people in practical ways. Began in 2003 with Rev. Les Isaac in London.
Alpha Course		began in 1977 in London. Helps anyone who wants to learn more about Christianity.
Corrymeela Community		began in 1965 in Ireland. Brings groups of people together for reconciliation. (e.g. Catholics and Protestants)
CAFOD	}	Christian charities working with the poor in other countries.
Christian Aid	}	
Tearfund	}	
Sunday		the Christian day of rest/worship as it was the day of Jesus' resurrection.

Key Words - Islam

Islam	Peace and surrender to the will of God.
Muslim	one who submits to the will of God and has accepted Islam.
Allah	Arabic name for God.
Tawhid	the Oneness and unity of God.
Monotheistic	a religion that believes there is only one God.
Supremacy	supreme power/authority; a quality of God.
God's Attributes	God's qualities or characteristics.
Qur'an	holy book revealed to Muhammad by the angel Jibril. God's final revelation to humankind. Means 'Recite' (the first word).
Sunnah	the teachings and example set by Muhammad.
Sunni	Muslims who believe that Muhammad's successors were rightly Abu Bakr, Umar, Uthman and Ali. (They were known as Caliphs)
Shi'a	Muslims who believe in the Imamate and that Ali was rightfully Muhammad's successor.
'Seal of the Prophets'	a title given to Muhammad. He was the final prophet. (Adam - Muhammad) 124.000 altogether.
Immanent	the idea that God is present in and involved with life on earth and the universe, a quality of God.
Transcendent	the idea that God is above and beyond life on earth.
Omnipotent	all - powerful.
Beneficent	benevolent, all-loving, all-good.
Merciful	compassionate and forgiving although God has the power to punish humans.
Justice (Adalat in Shi'a Islam)	the idea that God is just and fair and judges human actions, rewarding and punishing.
Angels	spiritual beings believed to act as messengers of God.
Day of Judgement	when the world ends and every soul will be judged by God and rewarded/punished.
Jibril	Arabic name for Gabriel, the archangel who brought God's message to the prophets, and revealed the Qur'an to Muhammad.

Mika'il	Arabic name for Michael, the archangel of mercy who rewards good deeds and provides nourishment to people and to the earth through the rain.
Predestination	God knows or determines everything that will happen in the universe.
Free will	humans have free will - we choose to do right/wrong.
Israfil	angel who blows the trumpet on the Day of Judgement.
'Book of decrees'	Sunni Muslims believe God has written down everything that will happen in a 'Book of decrees'.
Hadith	a saying of, or story about, the Prophet Muhammad.
Akhirah	everlasting life after death.
Resurrection	rising from the dead.
Paradise	Heaven, the state of eternal happiness in the presence of God (Jannah).
Hell	state of total separation from God. (Gehenna, Jahannam).
Barzakh	state of waiting, in the grave, for Judgement.
Prophet	a person who proclaims the message of God. (Isa - Jesus Musa - Moses Ibrahim - Abraham...).
Risalah	belief that prophets communicate God's will to humans.
Prophethood	when God makes someone a prophet.
Iblis Satan/Shaytan	a spiritual being created from fire, who was thrown out of paradise for refusing to bow to Adam.
Ka'aba	Arabic for cube. In the centre of the Grand Mosque in Mecca.
Kiswah	the black cloth that covers the Ka'aba.
Id-ul-Adha	festival of sacrifice, at the end of Hajj, celebrating Ibrahim's willingness to sacrifice his son to God.
Hajj	annual pilgrimage to Makkah/Mecca. Every Muslim should try to go.
Caliph	person considered to be a political and religious successor to the prophet Muhammad, and the leader of the Sunni Muslim community.
Ummah	the Muslim worldwide community.

Imam	man who leads the communal prayer at the mosque. In Shi'a Islam it's the title given to Ali and his successors.
Imamate	the divine appointment of the Imams.
Torah/Tawrat	the five books revealed by God to Moses. Arabic = Tawrat.
Psalms/Zabur	holy book revealed to David (also in the Bible).
Gospel/Injil	a holy book revealed by God to Jesus.
Scrolls of Ibrahim (Abraham)	a holy book revealed by God to Abraham. Lost and no longer exist.
Five Pillars	5 duties of all Muslims.
Ten Obligatory Acts	10 important duties for Shi'a Muslims, which include the 5 pillars.
Shahadah	Muslim declaration of faith.
Salah	Prayer.
Wudu	ritual wash before prayer.
Mosque/Masjid	'place of prostration', where Muslims gather to pray.
Mihrab	niche in the wall that indicates the direction of Makkah.
Qiblah	'direction'. The wall that contains the mihrab.
Rak'ah	sequence of movements in ritual prayer.
Recitation	repeating a passage of text from memory.
Prostration	kneeling down and touching forehead, nose, knees, hands and toes, touching the floor = submission to God.
Jummah prayer	Friday midday prayer that includes a sermon from the imam (makes 6 prayers on Fridays).
Du'a prayer	personal prayer.
Ramadan	9th month in Muslim calendar, fasting month.
Fasting	not eating/drinking for a time - usually for a religious reason.
Sawm	Arabic for fasting.
Night of Power	night when the first revelation of the Qur'an was made to Muhammad. Also the festival that marks the start of God's revelation to Muhammad.

Iftar feast	the breaking of the fast at sunset each day during Ramadan (traditionally with water and dates).
Zakah	giving 2½% of your savings to the poor each year. Alms - giving. Purifies your wealth.
Sadaqah	additional voluntary payments to charity.
Khums	20% tax paid by Shi'a Muslims on their income. Supports their religious leaders.
Pilgrimage	journey by a believer to a holy site.
Hajji	a Muslim man who has completed the pilgrimage.
Hafiz	a Muslim who has learnt the Qur'an off by heart.
Jihad	struggle.
Greater Jihad	daily struggle to be a good Muslim.
Lesser Jihad	military/struggle to defend one's faith, family, country from threat.
Holy war	fighting for a religious cause or God, probably controlled by a religious leader.
Id-ul-Fitr	festival that celebrates the end of Ramadan.
Day of Ashura	Shi'a festival - remembers the battle of Karbala and the death of Husayn, grandson of Muhammad, son of Ali.
Hijab	headscarf worn by some Muslim women.
Burqa	full robe, complete covering, worn by some Muslim women.
Salaam	'Peace' - a Muslim greeting.
Minaret	tower on a Mosque.
Muezzin	man who does the call to prayer, from the tower.
Martyr	someone who dies for their faith.
'Stand at Arafat'	Muslims stand all day on the Plain of Arafat, confessing their sins, as part of Hajj.
Jamarat or Jamras	3 stone pillars at Mina, that represent the devil. Muslims throw pebbles at them to symbolise stoning the devil.
Ibrahim	Prophet Abraham. Loyal to God. Willing to sacrifice his son, Ismail.

'Inshallah'	= 'God willing'. Muslims say this after a promise to do something. It shows God is in control.
Monotheist	somebody who believes in one God.
Hijrah 622 CE	when Muhammad and the Muslims moved from Mecca to Medina, because they were being persecuted. Muslim calendar dates from this year.
Muhammad	final prophet/'seal of the prophets'/ Qur'an revealed to him. 570-632 CE (Muslims often say 'Peace be upon him' when they say his name).
5 roots of 'Usul ad-Din'	Shi'a Islam. Means the 5 'principles' (or roots) of religion.
6 articles of faith	Sunni Islam. 6 main beliefs.
99 'Beautiful Names	characteristics or Attributes of God.
Subha	prayer beads of 99 beads. Some Muslims recite the 99 Beautiful Names as they touch the beads.
Kursi	stand on which the Qur'an is placed.
Ihram	the white robes Muslims wear at Mecca; they then become their burial shroud when they die. Represents purity.
Adam	the first prophet, created from dust, father of the human race.
Hawwa	Eve, Adam's wife.
Shariah	Islamic Law.

CHRISTIANITY

Beliefs and Teachings

Key Beliefs

Background

- Christianity is 2000 years old.
- Christians believe Jesus was the son of God, he died and rose from the dead.
- The early Christians spread the message of the resurrected Jesus.
- In the 4th century the Roman Emperor Constantine converted to Christianity, so the Roman Empire became Christian.
- 1054 the Roman Catholic Church split from the Orthodox Church.
- In the 16th century the Protestant Church broke away from the Catholic Church. (Henry VIII made the monarch the head of the Church of England. This is called the Reformation.
- Since then there have been more breakaway groups or denominations (e.g. Baptist, Methodist, United Reformed, Pentecostal).
- All the different branches or groups make up Christianity.

The nature of God

- Christianity is a monotheistic religion (believes in one God).
- God creates and sustains.
- God works through history, guiding people.
- Christians communicate with God through prayer.
- God is spirit and eternal.
- God is holy and just, forgiving and merciful.
- Omnipotent = all-powerful
- Omnipresent = everywhere.
- Omnibenevolent = all-loving.
- Omniscient = all-knowing.
- God has many qualities or attributes.
- God has created the universe.

Stories and quotes illustrating these qualities:-

- 'God loved the world so much He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him will not die but have eternal life.'
- When Jesus calmed the storm he said 'Quiet, be still.' (The disciples said "Who is this, even the wind and waves obey him?"
- 'Let justice roll on like a river.' (Bible).
- 'Be perfect, as your heavenly father is perfect.' (Jesus).
- The Parable of the Prodigal Son shows God is forgiving. (The father welcomes back his son who went away, just as God welcomes back those who sinned and are sorry).
- 'Love is patient, love is kind. Love never fails.' (Paul. Bible).
- 'Have now other gods before me.' (First of the 10 Commandments).

Problem of evil and suffering

Christians believe God is all-loving, all-knowing, all-powerful and just.

However, there is suffering (natural and moral) in the world. Why?

We have free will. We often choose to do things that cause suffering. Story of Adam and Eve illustrates this. Humans are responsible for much of the suffering.

Beliefs about the Devil/Satan/Tempter.

Oneness of God and the Trinity

God the Father	}	
God the Son	}	
God the Holy Spirit	}	GOD

(Trinity = 3 in 1)

Different Christian beliefs about creation

- God is creator of everything
- Genesis chapter 1 tells the creation story:-
'In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth
... God said "Let there be light" and there was light.'
- 6 days of creation. God rested on the 7th day.
- Everything was created 'good'.
- 'The Spirit of God' hovered over the waters.
- Some Christians (fundamentalists) take the story literally.
- Others (liberals) say it is symbolic.
- John's Gospel in the New Testament starts in a similar way to Genesis.
'In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. Through him all things were made.'
- Most interpret 'the Word' as God the Son, who later came as Jesus.
- This would mean the Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Trinity) were all involved in creation.
- The creation story emphasises the Oneness of God.
- Christians describe this as a divine mystery.
- John's Gospel also says:-
'The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.' (i.e. Jesus)
- Genesis says that humans were made 'in the image of God'.

Different Christian beliefs about the afterlife

- Christians believe in a resurrection after death.
- Eternal life is a gift from God.
- Some believe it begins at death, others believe it starts on the Day of Judgement.
- Their souls enter a different dimension (we are mortal, so we do not understand it).
- The Apostle's Creed is a Christian statement of faith that says:-
"I believe in . . . The resurrection of the body and the life everlasting"
Christians often recite the Creed in their worship.

Story of the Sheep and the Goats

The Son of Man will come in glory and all the nations will gather in front of him. He will separate the people just as a shepherd separates the sheep and the goats.

Those on his right will be told "I was hungry and you gave me food, thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was in prison and you visited me."
(Matthew)

The sheep represent the people who have done these things - when they do these things for others, it is as if they do them for Jesus.

It means - to be saved you need to serve others and follow the teachings of Jesus.

- Christians believe in Heaven and Hell. (Heaven is eternally happy, being with God. Hell is being without God, eternally suffering).
- Roman Catholic Christians also believe in Purgatory, where you go to be cleansed of sins.
- Satan, or the Devil, the power source of evil, will be condemned to Hell.
- Problem - would a loving God condemn people to eternal suffering?
- Faith and actions are needed to be saved.

Sin and Salvation

- Sin is any action that separates humans from God. Many sinful acts are also illegal - e.g. murder. Some sins (e.g. blasphemy/adultery) are not against the law.
- Christians believe that all humans commit sins, it is in our nature.
- Some Christians believe in original sin. The story of Adam and Eve illustrates this; everything was perfect in Paradise, but they chose to disobey God and eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil.
- Punishment was separation from God, and death.
- Some interpret the serpent who tempts Eve as the Devil/Satan.

- God gave humans free will, so they could choose how to live their lives.
- The Ten Commandments (Moses)
 - (e.g. Have no other gods but me
 - Do not murder
 - Do not worship idols
 - Honour your father and mother)
 and the Beatitudes of Jesus
 - (e.g. Blessed are the poor
 - Blessed are the peacemakers)
 give guidance on how to live.
- Salvation means to be saved from sin. Sin has separated us from God who is holy. Salvation brings us close to God again.
- Salvation is through:-
 - Good deeds/obeying God
 - Through grace - it is given by God through faith in Jesus, although we don't deserve it. "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus". (Paul)

Rule of Jesus in salvation

"For the wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord".

(Paul's letter to the Romans).

- Christians believe Jesus' death makes up for the original sin of Adam and Eve.
- Jesus atoned for human sin, and because he was the Son of God and was crucified, then was resurrected, he has defeated death.
- They believe through Jesus' death and resurrection, human sins can be forgiven and they can gain eternal life.
- Jesus' sacrifice paid the price of sin.
 - "He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins . . . and for the sins of the whole world".

(1 John. New Testament.)
- Christians believe Jesus made eternal life with God possible.

Jesus Christ

- Christmas story tells the story of Jesus' birth. (Recorded in Gospels of Luke and Matthew)
- Born in Bethlehem, grew up in Nazareth, died in Jerusalem.
- The Gospels say Mary was a virgin, so it was an 'immaculate conception'.
- Christians believe Jesus was God incarnate (= made flesh) - God born as a human being.
- John's Gospel says:-
"The Word became flesh and dwelt among us".
('the Word' is God the Son).
- Jesus was baptised in the River Jordan by his cousin John the Baptist.
- A dove appeared at his baptism (symbol of the Holy Spirit).
- A voice said "This is my son. I am pleased with him".
- Gospel means 'good news'.
- If Jesus' followers had called him the Christ (= 'anointed one') this would have been considered blasphemy (pretending to be God).
- Later at his trial, Jesus was asked if he was the Christ, and he said "I am".

Crucifixion and Resurrection

- Sentenced to death by Pontius Pilate, Roman Governor, by crucifixion.
- Pilate found Jesus guilty of treason. The Jews had found him guilty of blasphemy.
- Jesus was the Incarnation, so fully God, and also fully human, so suffered pain.
- Jesus was crucified on 'Good Friday'.

Quotes:-

"Father forgive them, they know not what they do". (Jesus).

"Today you will be with me in Paradise". (Jesus).

"Father, into your hands I commit my spirit". (Jesus).

"Surely this man was the Son of God" (Roman centurion who saw the crucifixion).

- Christians see suffering as part of life, but death is not the end.
- Joseph of Arimathea gave a tomb for Jesus' burial.
- Jesus and his disciples were Jewish. No work is done on the Jewish Sabbath (Friday - Saturday evening).
- Sunday morning, some women including Mary Magdalene, went to prepare the body for a proper burial and found it had gone.
- There are various accounts of Jesus appearing to people. (e.g. Mary Magdalene - 'Do not touch me, I haven't ascended to the Father' and to Thomas the 'Doubter'). These accounts last 40 days.
- 40 days after the resurrection Jesus ascended into heaven, to return to God.
- Christians believe the resurrection shows the power of good over evil.
- They believe they will be resurrected and their sins will be forgiven. Jesus is with God and the Holy Spirit provides guidance now.

Christian Practices

Worship

- Might be liturgical, non-liturgical or informal.

Liturgical Worship follows a set pattern led by the priest.

Includes Bible passages, a sermon, holy communion, set prayers. It's very traditional and always the same. Catholic, Orthodox and Anglican churches - Eucharist is liturgical.

Non-liturgical Worship doesn't follow a set ritual. Methodist and Baptist churches are examples. Bible readings, hymns, a sermon and sometimes Holy Communion. Lots of people might take part in leading it, not just the priest.

Informal Worship is much more spontaneous. People share prayers/thoughts/readings whenever they wish. E.g. Quakers.

Private Worship individuals pray/worship by themselves/in the family.

Prayer

- Set prayers or informal prayers. (e.g. grace before meals, blessing)
- Different actions - kneeling, eyes closed, arms raised . . .
- Rosary = prayer beads with a crucifix (Roman Catholics).
- Icons = pictures of saints (Orthodox Christians).
- Lord's Prayer was taught by Jesus:-
'Our Father in heaven, hallowed by your name . . .'
- Prayer is communication with God.
- Includes:- praise/confession/requests . . .

Sacraments : Baptism

- Jesus was baptised.
- Sacrament is a ritual that is a sign of an inward grace.
- Protestants have Baptism and Holy Communion as sacraments.
- Roman Catholics have more - e.g. anointing of the sick.
- Baptism is an initiation rite.
- Jesus said to his disciples:-
"Go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit".

Infant Baptism

- Babies/young children. Water poured x 3 (Father/Son/Holy Spirit).
- Celebration of birth.
- Removal of original sin (Catholics/Orthodox).

- Godparents - promises.
- Sign of cross on baby's forehead.
- Child dressed in white.
- Candle given.
- Congregation welcomes the baby.
- Passed from darkness to light.

Believers' Baptism

- Adults only - their choice.
- Baptists do this.
- Full immersion.
- They give a testimony (faith speech) first.
- Washing away of sins.
- New life in Christ.

Sacraments : Holy Communion

Most churches celebrate Holy Communion by:-

- reading the Bible and the account of the Last Supper.
- offering, consecrating and sharing the bread and wine.

In Catholic Churches

- It is called Mass.
- Priest greets the people.
- Prayers of penance and praise
- Prayers from the Bible (from the Old Testament, the Gospel and Paul's letters).
- Prayers said for the Church/world/community/sick/dead.
- The Creed is recited.
- Bread and wine is brought to the altar.
- Priest says a prayer and the words of Jesus over the bread.
"Take this, all of you, and eat it: this is my body which is broken for you"
- Then over the wine
"Drink this, all of you. This is my blood, shed for you. Do this in remembrance of me".
- Lord's Prayer.
- Priest and congregation give a sign of peace to each other (they say "The peace of the Lord be always with you").
- The congregation come to the altar to receive bread and wine.
- Priest blesses the people and says "Go in peace, glorifying God in your lives".
- Catholics believe the bread and wine are transformed spiritually into Jesus' body and blood when they are consecrated (= made holy). (This is called transubstantiation).
- The bread is often a 'wafer'.
- The meal is shared equally by all members of the church (idea that everybody is welcome at God's table).
- The chalice is the cup holding the wine.

In Nonconformist churches

e.g. Baptist/Methodist

- Hymn and prayer of praise/thanks.
- Bible readings and a sermon.
- Congregation prays for the world, then any individuals.
- Minister reminds the congregation of Jesus' words and actions at the Last Supper. (on Maundy Thursday).

- Bread and wine is lifted up, a prayer of thanksgiving, and Jesus' words "This is my body" / "This is my blood".
- An 'open table' means anyone who wishes can have bread and wine.
- Some churches - people come and kneel at the altar rail/some they sit in their seats and it is brought round to them.
- Usually real bread (cut into bits beforehand).
- Wine is sometimes non-alcoholic (e.g. Methodists) and put in individual communion glasses.
- Prayer of thanks/blessing/go into the world and make a difference.

Pilgrimage

Reasons include:- get closer to God/be forgiven/reflect on one's life/pray for God's blessing/cure an illness/help others/visit a holy place/meet other believers.

Lourdes - France. Dedicated to Mary, the mother of Jesus. 1858 Bernadette had visions of Mary in a grotto (cave). Told to dig for a spring. Miracles from drinking the water. 67 miracles there. Over 6000 other cures.

Iona - Island off Western Scotland. 6th century CE St Columba made a small monastic community here, after bringing Christianity to Scotland. Now a place of pilgrimage dedicated to Mary. Some call it a 'thin place' - the veil between heaven and earth is thin. Services each day at the abbey church. A walk to holy spots each day. Visitors help with jobs. Time for silence.

Festivals

Advent - Christmas - Epiphany - Lent - Easter - Pentecost.

Christmas

Incarnation - Jesus 'the light of the world'. Born - Bethlehem, into the human world. Peace and goodwill. Carols. Mass. Advent - 'coming'.

Easter

40 days of Lent end at Easter.

Palm Sunday - Sunday before Easter (remembers Jesus riding into Jerusalem humbly, on a donkey).

Maundy Thursday - remembers the Last Supper.

Good Friday - the crucifixion; by sacrificing himself Jesus atoned for the sins of the world.

Easter Sunday - celebrates the resurrection of Jesus.

Orthodox Christians walk round the darkened church late Saturday night, then enter as if it's a tomb and light lots of candles and celebrate Jesus' resurrection.

Christians traditionally shout "Christ is Risen!". They have sunrise services all over the world, symbolising new life. It symbolises that:- death is defeated.

The role of the Church in the local community

Key Story:

Parable of the Sheep and the Goats

- A shepherd sorts the sheep and the goats into separate pens at the end of the day.
- In the same way, God will sort the good from the bad.
"I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger and you invited me in. I was naked and you clothed me. I was in prison and you visited me"

The disciples asked Jesus when they did this for him and he said:

"When you do it for one of these, you do it for me".

Meaning: Look after others, love your neighbour, all life is holy, put your Christian faith into action.

The Church is the Body of Christ:- the holy people of God, trying to do good in the world.

Local and National projects:

- Trussell Trust - Food Banks.
- Oasis Project - Plymouth (job club/creative courses/internet cafe/advice about housing/managing money).
- Salvation Army (soup kitchens/homeless).
- Age Concern (advice/Christmas lunches . . .).
- Street Pastors (set up London 2003 to provide positive presence in the local community).
- School Pastors (go into schools - anti-bullying/anti-social behaviour . . .)
- Rail Pastors.
- Parish Nursing (whole person healthcare - links with churches).

Mission and evangelism

The Great Commission

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you". (Jesus).

- The disciples received the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, 10 days after Jesus ascended into heaven.
- They received 'gifts' so they could tell others about their faith.
- Christians still do this today.
- Some Christians become missionaries (= take the Christian faith to other countries).
- The Alpha Course was started by a Church of England vicar in 1977. It is a series of meetings to help people learn more about Christianity.

- Probably about 2 billion Christians in the world.
- 'Christ for all Nations' is an organisation started by the German evangelist Reinhard Bonnke. He believed God said to him 'Africa shall be saved'. He organises huge open-air meetings. Many converts to Christianity.

Reconciliation and Persecution

"We were reconciled to God through the death of his son". (Paul).

- Christians believe their sins have been washed away.
- There is a new pathway to God.
- They should not bear grudges.
- However, different Christian groups need to be reconciled too.
- Coventry Cathedral (bombed in WWII) has been rebuilt and is an important symbol of reconciliation.
- Corrymeela Community set up in Ireland in 1965 to bring different faith communities together to build peace. (Protestants and Catholics).
- The World Council of Churches (W C C) also tries to bring the denominations together.
- Christians are still persecuted in some countries - e.g. Afghanistan, Sudan, Iran and Pakistan.
- In the 2nd century a Christian writer called Tertullian wrote:- "The blood of martyrs is the seed of the Church". (Meaning Christians still have a calm and hope of eternal life, even when they are persecuted).
- On the cross, Jesus said:-
"Father forgive them, they know not what they do".
- Pastor Baber George and his family fled from Pakistan in 2011 and have now got asylum in the USA. They were persecuted because they are Christians.
- Paul (Bible) said:-
"If one part suffers, every part suffers with it". (Meaning the Church is the body of Christians and when some suffer, they all do).
- Christian Solidarity Worldwide is a Christian human rights organisation that campaigns for religious freedom for all. It stands up for the rights of the oppressed.

Christian response to world poverty

- Jesus said "Blessed are the poor"
"Love your neighbour".
- The story of the Rich Man and Lazarus shows that we will be judged on how we look after the poor.
 - Rich man had everything.
 - Poor man (Lazarus).
 - Both died.
 - Rich man went to hell/Lazarus to heaven.
 - Rich man in hell called up to heaven for water, but could not have any.
 - Judgement is final).
- "If anyone has money and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can he say he loves God?" (Bible).
- Story of the Good Samaritan, teaches help anyone in need. Anyone in need is your neighbour.

Christian charities include:-

- CAFOD (Catholic Agency for Overseas Development).
- Tearfund.
- Christian Aid.

(You need to know about one:-)

Christian Aid

- Motto: 'We believe in life before death'.
- It's a relief and development fund that represents 41 denominations in the UK.
- Began in 1945.
- Aims to encourage sustainable development, stop poverty and provide emergency relief in Africa, Asia, Middle East, South America and the Caribbean.
- They say - 'Poverty is an outrage against humanity. It robs people of dignity, freedom and hope, of power over their own lives'.
- Christian Aid works with 'partners' in different countries, to support local projects.
- Provide emergency food aid, shelter, water, sanitation.
- Projects include:-
 - Present Aid (at Christmas)
 - Count your Blessings (in Lent)
 - Send a cow
 - Giving goats/ducks
 - Helping farmers (worms!)
 - Water checking kits
 - Education
 - Replacement limbs
 - Supporting Fair Trade.

Christian Quotes

"Love God" and "Love your neighbour".

ISLAM

Beliefs and Teachings

Oneness of God and the Supremacy of God's will

- Islam was revealed via Prophets.
- Adam → Muhammad
- 124,000 prophets.
- Islam is Arabic for peace and submission to the will of God.
- Tawhid = the Oneness of God.
- Surah (= chapter) 112 says:-
"He is God the One, God the eternal. He begot no one nor was He begotten".
(meaning = there is one God, he was not made by anything else).
- Shahadah, the Muslim statement of faith is the first pillar of Islam and is repeated every day:-
"There is no God but Allah and Muhammad is his prophet".
- God cannot be divided.
- No one can picture/describe God. No images. It is an unforgivable sin to attribute God - like qualities to any other being.
- Mosques are decorated with verses of the Qur'an, not images.
- God has supremacy (= supreme power).
- Muslims often say 'Inshallah' - 'God willing'.
- The Qur'an says:-
"You who believe, obey God and the Messenger".
(the 'messenger' is Muhammad, final prophet/'seal of the prophets'. He is not worshipped - that would be idolatry).
- Although Muslims submit to God, that doesn't protect them. Suffering might be a test of faith.
"Misfortunes can only happen with God's permission". (Qur'an)

Sunni and Shi'a Islam

When Muhammad died in 632 CE, he had no male successor.

Sunni Muslims

Believed that the Qur'an and the Sunnah (Muhammad's teaching and actions) were the 2 sources of authority to guide them.

They elected Abu Bakr to be their leader (Caliph).

The Caliphs did not make laws - they considered the views of Muslim scholars who were experts on the Qur'an and the Sunnah, so they became known as Sunni Muslims.

Shi'a Muslims

Believed that Muhammad had chosen his cousin Ali to succeed him. Ali was also Muhammad's son-in-law (he was married to Muhammad's daughter Fatima).

Ali and the Shi'a Muslims believed the true leader had to be a descendent of Muhammad. They called their leader the Imam. Each Imam would name the next one. Shi'a Muslims interpret Islamic laws in their own way and accept sayings passed down through Ali.

The two groups gradually split, although they do have many beliefs in common.

Sunni and Shi'a both believe in:-

- God
- Prophethood of Muhammad
- Guidance of the Qur'an
- Following the Sunnah.

Sunni Islam - 6 articles of faith:

1. There's only one God.
2. Angels communicate God's message to humans.
3. Qur'an is the most important writing and the highest authority in Islam.
4. Muhammad is the most important prophet.
5. On the Day of Judgement everyone will be judged by God and sent to paradise or hell.
6. God knows everything and makes everything happen in the world.

Shi'a Islam - the 5 roots of 'Usul ad-Din'

'Usul ad-Din means principles' (or roots) of religion. The 5 principles keep Shi'a Muslims rooted in God. They are:-

1. Tawhid. God is One.
2. God's revelations through Muhammad, the last prophet, are true.
3. God is just, wise and perfect. Humans are accountable for their actions.
4. The 12 Imams are the leaders of Islam and guard the truth of the religion.
5. After death, they will be resurrected and judged.

The nature of God

- 'Allah - Akbar' = 'God is the greatest'.
- There are 99 'Beautiful Names' of God in the Qur'an. (= attributes of God).
- Many Muslims learn them and recite them, using Subha (prayer beads).

Quotes:-

'Recite in the name of your Lord, who created you from a clot of blood'. (Qur'an)

'The Most Excellent Names belong to God'. (Qur'an)

'There is no God but Allah. . . (Qur'an)

'There is no God but Him, the Creator of all things, so worship Him'. (Qur'an)

Muslims say the Bismillah before they pray. It says:-

"In the name of God, the Lord of Mercy, the giver of Mercy".

(In Shi'a Islam they call justice Adalat).

Angels

'Each person has angels before him and behind, walking over him by God's command'. (Qur'an)

- Angels are spiritual beings who act as messengers to God.
- They are messengers to the prophets.
- Sunni Muslims have belief in angels as one of the 6 Articles of Faith.
- Angels have no free will.
- They worship God.
- There are guardian angels.
- Others write in the 'Book of Deeds' - angels on our shoulders - which will be opened on the Day of Judgement.
- Israfil blows the trumpet on the Day of Judgement.
- Angels can take on human form (e.g. to Ibrahim and to Maryam).
- Jibril was the angel who revealed the Qur'an to the Prophet Muhammad. (610 - 632 CE).
- Jibril appeared to Muhammad as a child. Jibril gives spiritual nourishment.
- Night of Power was the night of the first revelation to Muhammad, on Mount Hira, in 610 CE.
- Mika'il is the angel of mercy who rewards the righteous. Mika'il also sends rain, thunder and lightning to earth, to nourish it.
- Iblis/Shaytan is a fallen angel - refused to bow down to Adam. Is now loose in the world, tempting us to do bad things.

"They will find everything they ever did laid in front of them". (Qur'an)

Predestination

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

"Only what God has decreed will happen to us.
He is our Master: let the believers put their trust in God. (Qur'an)

Some Sunni Muslims believe God has determined everything that will happen.

Shi'a Muslims believe God knows everything that is going to happen, but does not decide it. People still have free will.

God has given us free will and we will be rewarded/punished for our actions.

“God does not change the condition of a people unless they change it for themselves”.

(Qur'an)

“Those who believe, do good deeds, keep up the prayer, and pay the prescribed alms will have their reward with their Lord.”

(Qur'an)

Life after Death

- Akhirah is everlasting life after death.
- Muslims always bury the dead because they believe in resurrection.
- They wash the body x 3, wrap it in the ihram robes from the Hajj, and bury the body in a simple grave facing Mecca.
- Burial is usually within 24 hours of death.
- The body lies in a state of Barzakh = waiting for the end of the world. It will pass in a flash.
- Everyone will be resurrected and judged. (Books on scales).
- They go to Heaven (Paradise) or Hell.
- Heaven will be like 'a beautiful garden through which rivers flow'. (Qur'an)
- Hell will be hot and fiery.
 - “Taste the suffering of the fire”. (Qur'an)
 - “They will dwell amid scorching wind and scalding water in the shadow of black smoke, neither cool nor refreshing”. (Qur'an)
- Heaven will involve feasting and drinking and the people will all be purified:-
“. . . a reward for what they used to do”. (Qur'an)
- Three groups of people are already in heaven:-
 - Prophets
 - Pilgrims who have died on Hajj
 - Muslims who have died in a Jihad (a holy war defending Islam)
- Belief in life after death encourages human responsibility and the importance of doing good deeds.

Prophethood and Adam

- Risalah = belief in prophets - they are channels of communication between God and humans.
- 124,000 prophets. Adam → Muhammad.
- Some prophets are:-
 - Ibrahim (= Abraham)
 - Musa (= Moses)
 - Isa (= Jesus)
 - Muhammad.
- There are no images of God or of prophets in Islam.

Adam

- Made from dust
- Was the father of the human race
- God taught Adam the names of things.
- God told the angels to bow down to Adam, to show respect for his knowledge and that he had free will. Iblis refused and was expelled from Paradise. Instead, he decided to tempt humans into sin.
- God made Hawwa (Eva) as a companion for Adam
- Adam and Hawwa lived together in the Garden of Bliss.
- God told them they were not to eat from one tree. Iblis deceived them, they disobeyed God and brought sin into the world. Now, all humans would be judged on the Day of Judgement.
- Adam learned how to plant, harvest and cook. God revealed many things to him - e.g. how to repent and how to bury the dead.

Quotes:-

"Every community is sent a messenger". (Qur'an)

"He taught Adam all the names of things". (Qur'an)

"He first created man from clay . . . Then he moulded him.
He breathed from His Spirit into him; He gave you hearing, sight and minds". (Qur'an)

Ibrahim

- Monotheist (submitted to one God)
- Would not worship idols.
- Abrahamic religions are: Judaism, Christianity and Islam.
- Story of Ibrahim destroying all the idols in the temple except the biggest one and telling the people the big one destroyed the others. It illustrated how idol worship is fake. People were furious and tried to destroy Ibrahim by fire, but it only burned away his chains.
- Ibrahim was prepared to sacrifice his son, Ismail, to God. (Showed his faith). Ram instead.
- At Id-ul-Adha - Muslims sacrifice an animal to remember the story.

- Muslims follow Ibrahim's example - when they go on Hajj they throw stones at Mina, at 3 pillars that represent the devil. You should fight anything devilish.
- Hagar, Ibrahim's wife, searched for water for their son, Ismail. The Zamzam well sprang up. Muslims still drink from it at Mecca.
- Mecca is still sometimes called 'the city of Ibrahim'.

Muhammad (570 - 632 CE)

- 'God's messenger and the seal of the prophets'
- Orphan illiterate
- Grandfather was a monotheist
- When grandfather died, his Uncle Abu Talib looked after him.
- Married Khadijah - his first wife.
- Nickname 'Al amin' = 'honest one'.
- Camel trader.
- 610 - 632 Revelation of Qur'an, first revelation in a cave on Mount Hira.
- 622 Muslims moved from Mecca to Medina, with Muhammad, because they were being persecuted. This move is called the Hijrah (Migration) and the Muslim calendar dates from here.
- Muhammad made a 'Night Journey' or 'Al Miraj' to Jerusalem and from there to heaven.
- The 'Night of Power' was the night of the first revelation of the Qur'an.
- Muslims follow Muhammad's Sunnah (example/teachings).
- 632 He returned to Mecca. He had cleared the idols from the Ka'aba. He gave a final sermon - Included the words:-
 - “This day have I perfected your religion for you”
 - “An Arab has no superiority over another Arab”.
- Muhammad is buried in Medina. Some Muslims visit Medina at the end of the Hajj.

“Recite in the name of your God, who created you from a clot of blood.
He has taught men what he did not know”.

(first verse of the Qur'an in Surah 96).

Muhammad and the Imamate

- Muhammad was the last and greatest of the prophets; 'the seal of the prophets'.
- When he died, he didn't have a clear successor as he had no son.
- Sunnis elected Abu Bakr as their first Caliph (leader).
- Shi'as believed Muhammad had chosen his cousin/son-in-law as successor. Shi'as call their leader an Imam. Shi'as believe it carries on in the family, so Ali's son was next leader.
- Twelver branch of Shi'a Islam believes there have been 12 Imams altogether. The last one is Muhammad al - Mahdi (or hidden Imam) who God has kept alive somewhere, hidden away, on earth and he will return one day, with Jesus and bring about justice and equality.
- Twelvers believe the Imams rule justly and can also perfectly interpret the Qur'an and Shariah law.

- The Imamate (or divine appointment of Imams) is important because people need guidance on how to live properly.
- Twelvers believe there is always an Imam who is part of the Ahl al - Bayt (family of Muhammad), so there will always be authority and direction.

Holy books

Qur'an

- Means 'recite'
- Revealed book - Angel Jibril
- Perfect Arabic
- 610 - 632
- About 650 CE the Qur'an was put together
- Surah 96 was the first chapter
- Qur'an is organised in length order (longest first), not chronological
- 114 chapters (or surahs)
- 'Al Fatihah' = 'the Opener' starts all chapters
"In the name of Allah,
most Gracious, Ever-Merciful'

Other scriptures

Torah (Tawrat) - revealed to Moses.

Psalms (Zabur) - revealed to David

Gospel (Injil) - revealed to Jesus
"We gave him the Gospel"

The Scrolls of Ibrahim - revealed to Ibrahim (now lost)

These other scriptures got distorted. The final revelation, the Qur'an, is perfect.

Islam Practices

Five Pillars

1. Shahadah
2. Salah
3. Zakah
4. Sawm
5. Hajj

Ten Obligatory Acts in Shi'a Islam

- Twelver Shi'a Islam has 10 duties called the 10 Obligatory Acts. These are:-
 1. Salah
 2. Sawm
 3. Zakah
 4. Khums (20% tax - half to charity and half to Shi'a religious leaders).
 5. Hajj
 6. Jihad - (struggle to maintain the faith and defend Islam)
 7. Amr - bil - Maruf (encouraging people to do good)
 8. Nahi Anil Munkar (discouraging people from wrong)
 9. Tawallah (being loving towards the friends of God, including Muhammad and the Imams).
 10. Tabarra (disassociating from the enemies of God).

Shahadah (= Muslim declaration of faith).

"There is no God but Allah and Muhammad is his Prophet".

- To convert to Islam, someone recites this sincerely in front of 2 witnesses, and becomes part of the Ummah.
- The Shahadah is whispered into a newborn baby's ear.
- It underpins the other pillars, as it is about belief.
- Shi'as add 'and Ali is the friend of God'.
- If possible, it's the last thing someone says.
- It's on the flag of Saudi Arabia.

Salah (= Prayer)

- Sunni Muslims x 5 daily
- Shi'a Muslims x 3 daily.
 - (combine midday and afternoon)
 - (combine sunset and night).
- Times vary - based on the sun. (First prayer before sunrise).
- Wudu - ritual wash first - under running water - purification - face/hands/feet.
(If actually dirty, you have a ghusl - full wash/shower first)
- Face Mecca.
- Mosque - or masjid (= 'place of prostration')
- Stand in lines - equally.
- Qiblah = direction (of Mecca)
- In the Qiblah wall of a mosque there is a Mihrab (or niche) - a decorated half-circle showing the direction of Mecca.
- Compass/prayer mat.
- Imam leads.
- Muezzin (caller) has done the call to prayer from the minaret (tower).
- Men and women pray separately.

- Rak'ah = series of movements whilst they pray.
- Recitations - passages from the Qur'an are repeated.
- In Arabic
- Includes reciting the first chapter of the Qur'an.
- At end, look to right and left
(= all are equal
= angels on each shoulder).
- Du'a prayers are additional personal prayers.
- Friday - Jummah Prayer at midday.
(All men. The Imam gives a sermon. Additional prayers. Obligatory for men).
- Subha - prayer beads (99).
- Many women always pray at home.
- Parents have a duty to teach their children how to pray.
- Prayer gives a greater awareness of God.
- It unites Muslims (Ummah).
- Actions support their faith.
- It shows obedience.

"Prayer is like a refreshing stream into which one dips five times a day".

Times are:-

Fajr	-	Just before sunrise
Zuhr	-	Just after midday
Asr	-	Afternoon
Maghrib	-	Just after sunset
Isha	-	Night.

Sawm (Fasting)

- During Ramadan - the 9th month
- Revelation of the Qur'an was during Ramadan ('Recite').
- Muslims read the whole Qur'an during Ramadan.
- Sawm is Arabic for fasting.
- Daylight - no food/drink/smoking/sex
- Iftar feast is the breakfast at the end of each day's fasting.
- Qur'an tells Muslims to fast.
- Focus on God. Purity of thought.
- Self-discipline. Sacrifice your physical needs.
- Exceptions include:- old/under 12/sick/pregnant/diabetic/long journey. . .
- Empathy for the poor.
- Surah 96 revealed.
"Recite in the name of your Lord, who created you from a clot of blood. . . who taught man what he did not know".
- Muslims believe that this first revelation was one date with an odd number in the second half of Ramadan. They try to stay awake on all the possible dates.
- Festival at the end is Id ul Fitr.
- Traditional to break the fast with dates and water (as Muhammad did).

Zakah (almsgiving)

- Almsgiving /charity to the poor.
- 2 ½% of savings.
- Often given during Ramadan.
- Everything is from God. Giving some back purifies the rest.
- Self-discipline and honesty

• 'God is well aware of whatever good you do'.	Qur'an
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- Zakah can go straight to charity (e.g. Islamic Relief or Muslim Aid).
- Sadaqah is additional/voluntary giving.
- Helps establish a good attitude towards money.
- Shi'a Muslims give Khums as well as Zakah. Khums is 20%. Half of this goes to charity and half supports Shi'a religious leaders.

“Allah loves those who are fair”.

(Qur’an)

Hajj (pilgrimage)

- Pilgrimage to Mecca.
- Once in a lifetime.
- Over 2 ½ million go each year.

“Pilgrimage to the House is a duty owed to God by people who are able to undertake it”.

(Qur’an)

- Stories of Ibrahim, Hijira and Ismail. No water. Hijira ran between the 2 hills of Safa and Marwah, looking for water. The Zamzam spring appeared. Ibrahim built a shrine to God on the spot - which is now the Ka’aba.
- The Ka’aba later got corrupted with idols.
- In 630 CE Muhammad cleansed it of the idols.
- Muslims wear Ihram robes (white = purity/equality).
- On arrival, they walk x 7 anti-clockwise round the Ka’aba at the Grand Mosque in Mecca.
- If they can, they kiss the black stone in the side of it, because Muhammad did.
- Walk x 7 between Safa and Marwah.
- To Arafat and do ‘The Stand’ praying for forgiveness from midday until dusk. Standing in front of the ‘Mount of Mercy’ from which Muhammad preached his last sermon. The valley of Arafat is hot, like Judgement Day.
- At Mina they throw pebbles at 3 Jamras, pillars that represent the devil.
- They sacrifice an animal and give the meat to the poor (or money to charity).
- Finally x 7 round the Ka’aba again.
- Men shave their heads.
- Maybe travel to Medina to visit the Prophet’s mosque.
- A pilgrim is now a Hajji (a Muslim who’s done the Hajj).

Jihad (= struggle)

Greater Jihad = daily struggle to be a good Muslim.

Lesser Jihad = military Jihad to defend Islam. (Must follow the Just War rules).

- * Just cause
- * Controlled by religious leaders
- * Last resort
- * Proportionate violence
- * Don’t target civilians
- * Response to threat to the faith
- * Aim to restore peace
- * Treat PoWs fairly
- * Avoid damage to trees/crops/animals.

Festivals [An Id is a festival]

Id ul Fitr

- At end of Ramadan.
- 'Breaking of the Fast'.
- Sometimes called 'Sugar Feast' - sweet foods like baklava.
- Thank Allah for strength during Ramadan.
- Thank Allah for revealing the Qur'an.
- Attend mosques for special prayers.
- Imam preaches a sermon about forgiveness.
- New clothes/decorations/cards/processions/henna to decorate hands and feet.
- Visit local cemeteries (= death is not the end).

Id ul Adha

- Festival of sacrifice.
- Greater Id.
- 4 day festival during the month of Dhul - Hijjah.
- Remembers Ibrahim being willing to sacrifice his son Ismail to God. He passed the test of faith. So did Ismail - who was willing. (God provided a ram for sacrifice instead).
- It's part of Hajj - at the end - but all Muslims celebrate it.
- Visits/meals/prayers at mosque/Imam preaches a sermon about sacrifice.
- Animals slaughtered (Halal method) and meat given to poor.
- In UK many give money.
- Ummah - you visit family/friends/neighbours/ the sick. . .

Ashura

- Shi'a festival mainly.
- Remembers the Battle of Karbala and the death of Husayn, son of Ali and grandson of Muhammad in 680, at Karbala, Iraq.
- (Sunni Muslims call it the Day of Atonement and remember the Israelites leaving Egypt and the day Noah left the Ark).
- Day of fasting.
- Battle of Karbala was a brutal and bloody battle near the River Euphrates. The men were killed and the women taken captive.
- They were martyred for the faith.
- Death of Husayn, their leader, grandson of Muhammad, symbolises injustice/oppression/tyranny.
- Afghanistan, Pakistan and other countries - traditional to have public mourning at Ashura.

- The enact plays that retell the story.
- London - a procession of mourning and speeches.
- Some Shi'a Muslims traditionally beat themselves and draw blood in memory.
- In UK some religious leaders suggest Muslims give blood to the Blood Transfusion Service instead.
- The tomb of Husayn is at Karbala, in Iraq, and many Shi'a Muslims visit it at this time.

