

The six beliefs

The five roots

The nature of
Allah

Risalah (Prophets)

Muslim holy
books

Name:

Muslim beliefs



Malaikah
(angels)

Al-Qadr (fate)

Akirah (life
after death)

Muslim beliefs - terminology

Key words	Definition
Hadith	Sayings of the prophet Muhammad
Iman	Faith
Shari'ah law	The holy law of Islam which over all aspects of life
Tawhid	Belief in Allah's unity
Risalah	Belief in Allah's angels, prophets and holy books.
Akirah	Belief in the last day and life after death.
Piety	Religious devotion.
Usul ad-din	The five roots of Shi'a Islam.
Adalat	God's attribute of justice
Nubuwwah	Prophets of God
Imamah	Belief in the successors of the prophet Muhammad.
Hidden Imam	The twelfth Imam who disappeared and is believed to be in contact with the ayatollahs.
Ayatollah	The highest ranking religious leader in Twelver Shi'ism.
Ismaili	Shi'as who believe that the seventh Imam, Isma'il was the final Imam.
Caliph	Leader of the Islamic community.
Allah	Arabic for God.
Shahadah	The Muslim creed of the first pillar.
Surah	A chapter of the Qur'an.
Bismillah	The words at the beginning of each Surah.
Sawm	Fasting, the fourth pillar.
Hajj	Pilgrimage, the fifth pillar.
Shirk	The worst sin against God.
Ummah	The Muslim community.
Salah	Prayer, the second pillar.
Khalifiahs	Stewards of the world.
Sunnah	The example and way of life of the prophet Muhammad.
Kitub	Holy books
Sahifa Ibrahim	The holy book given to Ibrahim.
Tawrat	The holy book given to Musa (Moses).
Zabur	The holy book given to Dawud (David).
Injil	The gospel given to Isa (Jesus)
Malaikah	Angels.
Izra'il	The angel of death.
Predestination	Everything that happens has already been decided.
Insh Allah	If God wills it.
Israfil	The angel who begins the last day by blowing his trumpet.
Intercede	To use your influence to persuade someone in authority to forgive another person.
Al'Jannah	Heaven.
Jahannam	Hell.
Barzakh	The period between death and the last day.

Lesson one – Introduction to Muslim beliefs.

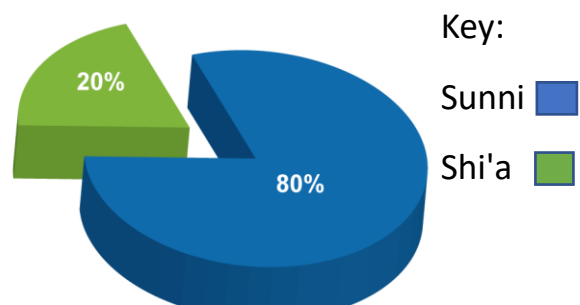
<p>Sunni Muslims</p>	<p>Shi'a Muslims</p>
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Why did the divide between Sunni and Shi'a Muslims happen?

Do you think not everyone agreed with this? Why?



What is this pie chart telling you about the percentage of Sunni and Shia Muslims?



Similarities between Sunni and Shi'a	Differences between Sunni and Shi'a

Lesson two – the six beliefs of Sunni Islam

Recap quiz:

1) What are the two main groups in Islam called?

A – Sunni and Iman

B – Sunni and Shi'a

C – Caliph and Hadith

2) Sunni Muslims believe that the Caliph to follow Muhammad should have been:

A – Ali

B – Abu-Bakr

C – Neither of them

3) Shi'a Muslims believe that the successor of Muhammad should have been:

A – Ali

B – Abu-Bakr

C – Neither of them

4) Both Sunni and Shi'a Muslims follow the Qur'an, and the teachings of the prophets

A – True

B – False

Article of faith	What this means	Why this is important

The first five beliefs are based on Qur'anic verses such as:

Analyse their meanings.

'It is righteousness to believe in God and the Last Day and the Angels and the Book and the Messengers'. Surah 2

'The men of faith. Each one believeth in God and His angels, His book and his apostles'. Surah 2

How are these beliefs expressed today?



‘If you believe the six beliefs, you are a Muslim’.

Agree	Disagree

The six beliefs

1. **Belief in one God (Tawhid)** This means having absolute faith in the oneness of God. Allah is simply the Arabic word for God. It has no plural in Arabic, which shows that there is only one God. Muslims believe that no being is like Allah.
2. **Belief in angels (malaikah)** Muslims believe that God’s greatness means he cannot communicate directly with humans. Instead, God passed messages, called risalah, to his prophets via the angels, called malaikah, who were his first creation and who always obey him.

3. **Belief in holy books (kutub)** The holy books of Islam should be respected. This is especially true of the Qur'an, which is the unchanged word of Allah, revealed to the Prophet Muhammad.
4. **Belief in the prophets (nubuwwah)** Allah is believed to have communicated with the prophets, called nubuwwah, through the angels. Muslims believe the prophets should be respected but never worshipped.
5. **Belief in the Day of Judgement and the afterlife (Akhirah)** Muslims believe that life on Earth is a test and that, after they die, they will be judged by God and sent to either Paradise or Hell.
6. **Belief in predestination (Al-Qadr)** This means that everything in the universe follows Allah's masterplan – Muslims believe that Allah has decided everything that happens. This shows the importance of God's will: In all things the master-planning is God's (Surah 13:42). The Prophet Muhammad also told his followers: There is not one amongst you who has not been allotted his seat in Paradise or Hell (Sahih Muslim, Book 33, Hadith 6400). Muslims take this as further proof that every person's life is already mapped out in Allah's plan.

The six beliefs are very important for Sunni Muslims because:

- Believing in *Tawhid* shows that Muslims believe God is the only one, and if God is the only one, He must be the creator of everything, and so He must be all-powerful and in control of everything. It also means that God must be present everywhere in the universe He has created and so people can be in contact with God anywhere.
- Believing in *Tawhid* also shows that the God Muslims worship is the same God worshipped by Jews and Christians.
- Believing in angels shows that God can communicate with humans using His special beings.
- Believing in the prophets of God shows that Islam is both the first religion (it began with the Prophet Adam) and the last religion (the final prophet is Muhammad).
- Believing in the holy books of God demonstrates that God has sent books to show humans what to believe and how to live. This belief also shows that the holy books given to Jews and Christians were distorted,

and so are no longer God's true word. Most importantly, it shows that the Qur'an is God's final word to humanity, which shows humanity what to believe and how to live.

- Believing in *Akirah* is important for Muslims because believing that all people will be judged by Allah on the Last Day is bound to have a major effect on how Muslims live their lives. Muslims believe they will be judged on the basis of how they have lived their lives and will be sent to heaven or hell as a result of that judgement.

Lesson three – the five roots of Shi’a Islam

What is the difference between the six beliefs and the five roots?

Read through the five roots of Usul al-Din. Then summarise them in your table.

Principle	What does it mean?	How is it expressed every day?	Why is it important?
Tawhid – Oneness of Allah			
Adl - Divine Justice			
Nubuwwah – Prophethood			
Imamah – Successors to Muhammad			
Ma’ad - The Day of Judgement & Resurrection			

Usul al-Din (principles of religion)

The Five Principles of Religion are as follows:

1. Divine Unity - Tawhid

Divine Unity is the foundation of Islam. The Qur'an is clear on al-Tawhid, referring to Allah as the One and only God who has no peers, no match, and no partners. He is Eternal, the First and the Last.

2. Divine Justice – Adl

Our belief in Divine Justice is that God the Almighty does not oppress human beings, and this is a logical conclusion.

Al-Shaykh al-Mufid said: "Allah is Just, and gracious. He created men to worship him and forbade them to disobey Him. He did not charge anyone with any obligation beyond their ability. His creation is far from frivolity and his action is free from impropriety. He does not chastise anyone except when they have sinned and does not scold any of his subjects, except when they do a horrid deed. He will not tolerate injustice."

3. Prophethood – Nubuwah

The role of prophets and messengers is to convey the Divine message and guide the believers. Shi'a theologians in the past articulated arguments stating that the medium between God and the believers (i.e. a prophet or a messenger) are carriers of an Infallible message and they too must be Infallible in order to preserve the Infallible message. We believe that the last Prophet sent to guide mankind was Prophet Muhammad.

4. Imams - Imamah

An imam is the person who leads prayer in a mosque. Imamah means that the imam should always be the centre of the community (ummah).

Our belief is that Imamah is a necessary belief for Shi'a Muslims and the Imams are Divinely chosen by God. In fact at all times and at every era there has to be an Infallible Imam present to guide the believers.

The Imamis (i.e. Twelver Shi'as) are of the view that the Imams are best among their equivalent from different times and across all fields, in knowledge and intellectual capacity. They do not know the unseen, but they know the intentions of people through a process of inspiration instilled by Allah.

5. Resurrection – Ma'ad

Belief in resurrection after death, including the day of judgement, is considered mandatory to define one's status as a Muslim.

The Qur'an makes it undoubtedly clear that resurrection will be of both body and soul: "Does man think that we shall not gather his bones? Yea! We are able to make complete his very fingertips" (75:3-4).

1. What are the five roots based on?

2. What are the main differences and similarities between the six beliefs and the five roots?

‘He is God, the One and Only, God the Eternal, the Absolute; He begetteth not nor is He begotten; and there is none like unto Him’. (Surah 112)

Why do you think this short passage is so important for Muslims?

Why are the five roots important?

What is the importance of the five roots in Shi’a communities today?

Lesson four – The nature of Allah

Recap:

1) The ascension is when:

- A – Jesus rose from the dead
- B – Jesus taught the disciples about the after life
- C – Jesus rose up into Heaven

2) One reason atheists may believe in an afterlife is:

- A – Jesus rose from the dead
- B – near death experiences
- C – the big bang

3) What does the Nicene creed teach Christians:

- A – About the Trinity
- B – About the Eucharist
- C – About Mary

4) Which two reasons does the Roman Catholic church have for believing that only men should be priests?

- A – in the bible in Timothy it states that women should be silent in church
- B – Jesus only had male disciples
- C – They believe that men are superior to women

Attributes of Allah:

What does the following quote teach Muslims?

"This is the book, in it is guidance sure without doubt to those who fear Allah. (surah 2:2)

Quality of Allah	Definition	The importance of this attribute
Tawhid – oneness		
Omnipotence		
Beneficence and mercy		
Adalat – justice		
Transcendence		
Immanence		

Lesson five – Prophets

Recap:

- List three attributes of Allah.
- Why do Muslims not show images of Allah?

- Which prophets were married?
- Why did Allah have to keep sending new prophets?



Name:

Key facts:

Source of authority:



Name:

Key facts:

Source of authority:



Name:

Key facts:

Source of authority:



Name:

Key facts:

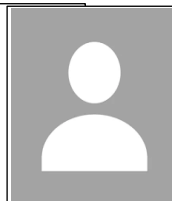
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Key facts:

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Name:

Key facts:

Source of authority:

The Prophets of Islam.

Adam:

According to the Qur'an Adam is the first prophet of Islam and the first man. He was created by Allah to look after the earth. At first Adam and his wife Hawwa (the first women) though she is not names in the Qur'an, lived in the garden, and were told that Allah did not want them to eat the fruit of a certain tree. However Iblis tempted them by telling them that Allah didn't want them to become like the Angels. They both have into temptation. Allah placed Adam and his wife on earth to live. They realised that they had done wrong and asked for forgiveness. Allah forgave them and gave Adam his guidance, and in Islam those who receive Allan's guidance are his prophets. The Hadith record that a sign of his thanks for Allah's forgiveness and guidance Adam build a house for Allah in Mecca called the ka'bah.

Ibrahim (Abraham):

Muslims regard Ibrahim as the greatest of the prophets before Isa. He was both into a family that worship many gods (polytheistic), which shows that the message of previous prophets had been ignored and forgotten. He argued with his father and his fathers' people about wrongness of false gods. He broke down the idols they worshiped to show them that they had no power. When the people tried to burn Ibrahim, Allah saved him from the fire.

‘Abraham was not a Jew nor yet a Christian, but he was true in faith and bowed his will to god’s which is Islam. (Surah 3:67)

The Qur'an records that ibrahim and his wife had no children into their old age, but then Allah granted them the gift of two sons. The Qur'an records that Ibrahim had a vision from Allah where he sacrificed his son. His son urged him to obey Allah, but as ibrahim was about to sacrifice his son Allah called out to them to stop. He rewarded them for being obedient. They then resorted the ka'bah after it had been damaged in Noah's flood and made it a place for Muslims to assemble on pilgrimage. Ibrahim was given the holy book of Sahifah (the scrolls of ibrahim), the first of the holy books mentioned in the Qur'an. The Qur'an states that ibrahim was specially chosen to deliver ‘a message to the nations’ (Surah 6:90).

Isma'il (Ishmael):

This is the eldest son of ibrahim (his mother was ibrahims second wife Hagar) who helped his father rebuild the Ka'bah. He was also encouraged to sacrifice himself to show obedience to Allah.

Musa (Moses):

Musa has more mentions in the Qur'an than any other prophet, the Qur'an records how Musa was born a Jew but brought up by the Pharaoh's wife. He killed an Egyptian and fled to Midian, where God called him to go back to Egypt and save the Jews. Musa was chosen to receive the Torah but the people distorted or rejected his message.

Dawud (David):

The Qur'an teaches that Dawud, the brave King of Israel, was chosen as a prophet and given the holy book of Zabur (Psalms) because of the distortion of the Torah. The Zabur was not written down until long after his death, so it was never written down properly. However, part of the Zabur is recorded in the Qur'an. (this is the only quotation in the Qur'an from the Bible).

‘Before this we wrote in the Psalms, after the message given to Moses: ‘My servants the righteous shall inherit the earth.’ (Surah 21:105 and Psalm 37:29)

Isa (Jesus):

Isa and his mother Maryam are major figures in the Qur'an. Surah 29 is called Maryam and is all about her and Isa. Maryam had a virgin birth and Isa was conceived by the power of Allah. The Qur'an record many miracles of Isa such as healing the sick, making the lame walk, raising the dead and making clay birds fly. The Jewish authorities wanted Isa dead and attempted to crucify him however Allah prevented this from happening. Muslims believe that Allah took Isa to heaven from the cross so that Isa never died. He was given the holy book Injil (gospel). However the Qur'an makes it plain that he was only a prophet, an ordinary man and not the son of God.

Muhammad:

There are many references to the messenger of Allah in the Qur'an, the apostle of Allah and Allah's prophet, which are clearly references to Muhammad. These references show that:

- Muhammad was called by Allah to bring his final message to humanity.
- His message must be followed and those who follow his message will be rewarded, but those who reject it will be punished.
- His life was a perfect example for people to follow.
- The message of the prophets was distorted or forgotten so Allah sent Muhammad with a message that could not be distorted and a holy book (the Qur'an) which could never be distorted.

Muhammad is the final prophet and a perfect example of how humans should be.

1. Why might Christians disagree with what the Qur'an says about Isa?

2. Why do you think Muhammad's is so important to Muslims?

What do the prophets teach Muslims?

Lesson six – Holy books

Recap:

1. What happened on good Friday?

- a) Jesus had the last supper.
- b) Jesus was crucified.
- c) Jesus rose from the dead.

2. Reconciliation means:

- a) Bringing together people who were opposed to each other.
- b) An act against God's will
- c) A process of the Eucharist

3. Atonement means:

- a) Reconciliation between God and humans
- b) A sacrament
- c) A Christian denomination

The Qur'an – video fact finding task.

Book	The Qur'an	Tawrat	Zabur	Injil	Sahifah
Outline what the book is and where it originated (eg the prophet).					
What do we know about its contents?					
Why is it important for Muslims?					
Stretch task: What does the quote from holy scripture say/ mean or teach a Muslim?					

Sahifah (Scrolls)

Scrolls of Ibrahim and Moses

These are the earliest texts known by Muslims and believed to be lost. Little is known about them however some parts have been preserved and quoted in the Qur'an. The verses teach Muslims what was taught in the Sahara.

'Has he not been told what was written in the scriptures of Moses (Musa) and Abraham (Ibrahim) (...) that no soul shall bear the burden of another; that man will only have what he has worked towards (...) that the final goal is your Lord (...) that is like who gives death and life (Qur'an Surah: 53: 36-44)

Tawrat (Torah)

Whenever the Sahifah are referred to in the Qur'an the scriptures of Musa are also mentioned. These are better known as the Tawrat.

'We revealed the Torah (Tawrat) with guidance and light, and the prophets, who had submitted to God judged according to it for the Jews' (Qur'an, Surah 4: 44)

Muslims believe that the Tawrat contains many good teachings and laws but was only meant for the Jewish people and for a limited time. For Muslims it is still an important record of the teachings given to Musa. They believe it also includes a prophecy about the future appearance of the prophet Muhammad:

'I will raise them up a Navi (Prophet) from among their achiim (brothers) like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth' (Orthodox Jewish Bible: Devarim 18:18)

Zabur (Psalms)

Muslims believe the prophet Dawud was given the Zabur. There are 150 psalms made up of songs, prayers and poems which Muslims believe were inspired by Allah.

(O Muhammad!) We have revealed to you as We revealed to Noah and the Prophets after him,²⁰⁴ and We revealed to Abraham, Ishmael, Isaac, Jacob and the offspring of Jacob, and Jesus and Job, and Jonah, and Aaron and Solomon, and We gave to David Psalms.²We revealed to the Messengers We have already told you of, and to the Messengers We have not told you of;

and to Moses Allah spoke directly. These Messengers were sent as bearers of glad tidings and as warners²⁰⁷ so that after sending the Messengers people may have no plea against Allah.²⁰⁸ Allah is All-Mighty, All-Wise'

Surah 4: 163-165

Injil (Gospel)

The Injil is the original gospel taught by Isa (Jesus). It should not be confused with the four gospels in the New Testament which are accounts of Jesus' life and teaching. Written by his followers. Muslims believe that part of the Injil of Isa is included in the four gospels but the original became lost, forgotten, or altered. What is preserved is considered a valuable collection of revelations which taught morals such as love and forgiveness.

'We sent Isa (esus) son of Mary; we gave him the Gospel and put compassion and mercy into the hearts of his followers (Qur'an, Surah 57:27)

The Qur'an

Muslims believe that Allah revealed the Qur'an to the prophet Mohammad in his final revelation because previous holy texts had become unreliable. They believe the Qur'an is the only scripture meant for all times, all people and all places. Mohammad is known as the 'seal of the prophets'. This means Mohammad is the final messenger. It is believed the message was given by Allah at a time he felt the world was ready for his complete message. Muslims believe it contains information that could have only come from Allah.

'Nor could this Qur'an have been devised by anyone other than God. It is a confirmation of what was revealed before it and an explanation of the scripture. Let there be no doubt about it, it is from the Lord of the worlds'

(Qur'an, Surah 10:37)

The Qur'an is nothing less than a revelation that is sent to him (Mohammad) it was taught to him (by an angel) with almighty powers and great strength (...) The Prophets own heart did not distort what he saw (...) he saw some of the greatest signs of his Lord (Quran: Surah 53: 4-18)

What are the advantage and disadvantages of having different types of books?

Why do Muslims need different types of books?



Why are Muslim holy books important?

Divergent Muslim views.

Muslim beliefs about the holy books revealed before Muhammad received the Qur'an are very significant because they show that God has always made sure that people knew what to believe and how to live.

They also show that these books are no longer important because they have been distorted and no longer are God's words. This means that the Jewish Tenakh and the Christian Bible are not holy books for the majority of Muslims.

Other Muslims believe that since the Qur'an refers to these books as holy books, parts of them must still show what God revealed. So they believe that they are still holy and if what they say fits with what the Qur'an says then their teachings should be followed by Muslims.

Debate

'All Muslim books are equally important'



Yes

No

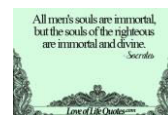
Lesson seven – Angels

Recap:

Which Muslim group believes in the six beliefs?

List the six beliefs.

What qualities do Muslims believe angels have?



Immortal beings



Messengers



No free will



They have wings



Male



Free from sin

Why do you think Muslims believe God cannot communicate directly with humans?

What are the differences between angels and humans.

Angels name	Their role	Important events and sources of authority
Jibril		
Mika'il		
Izra'il		

Why are angels important for Muslims?

Lesson eight – Al-Qadr (fate/predestination)

What is fate?

Do you believe in it?

Do you know anyone who does?

STRETCH: How might believing in fate impact a person emotionally?

Task - State three Muslim beliefs on the nature of Al-Qadr.

Explain in no more than 80 words, how can humans have freedom if everything is predetermined?

To what extent is a person controlled by Al-Qadr?

Explain your rationale.

Q4. Divergent understandings between Sunni and Shia are the implications of belief for Muslims today

AGREE WITH TOTAL AL-QADR

- The **Decree of Allah** is al-qadr which is one of the six Sunni beliefs.
- Al-qadr is closely connected to **akirah** (the afterlife) and **miad** (the day of judgement)
- Reminds Muslims of Allah's **omniscience** and that they must be prepared to answer for their deeds in the next life

DISAGREE WITH TOTAL AL-QADR

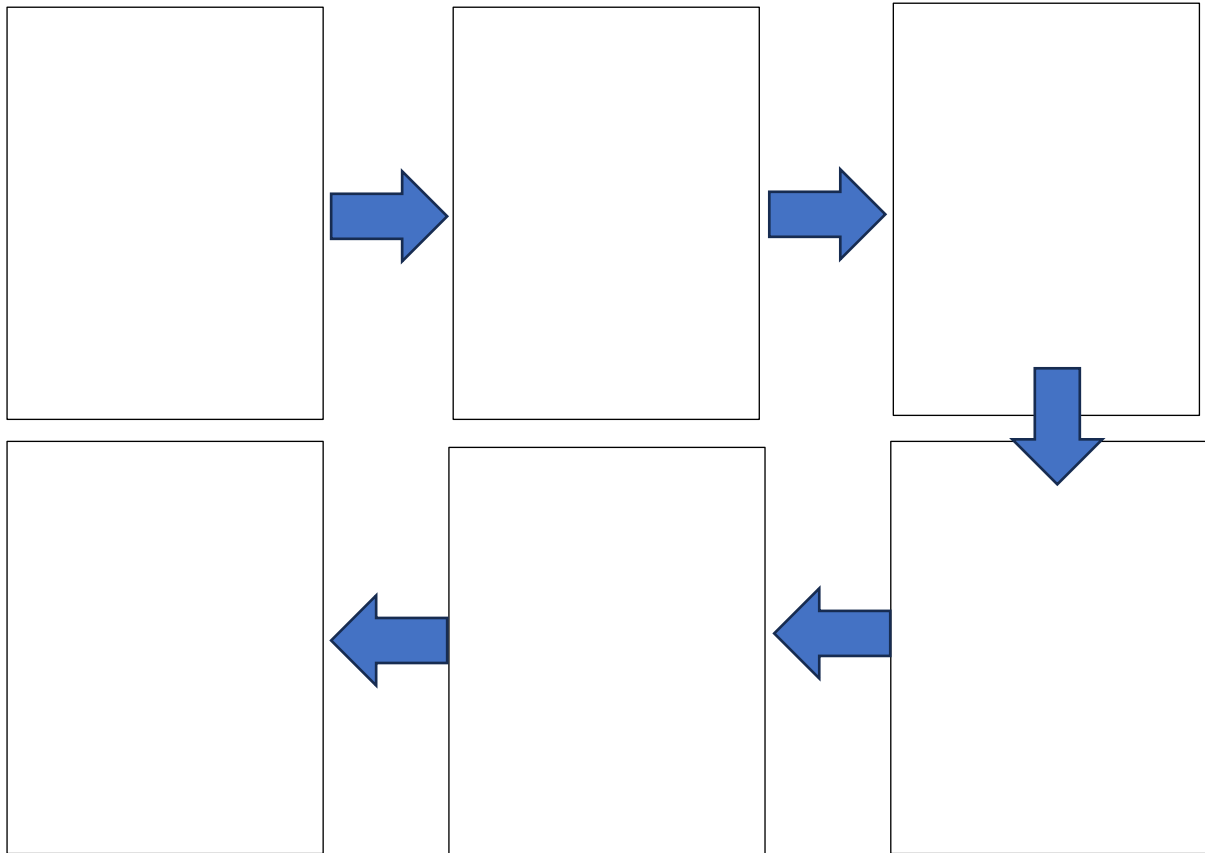
- Shia reject total al-qadr as it contradicts **Adalat** (divine justice). It is not just for Allah to punish a person for something he has pre-determined.
- It is logically impossible to believe in **Miad** and Al-Qadr.
- Instead Allah has control over certain things but not ALL things as Sunni believe. E.G. Lifespan is controlled by Allah and can be impacted by your actions in this life.

WHICH ARGUMENT DO YOU THINK MAKES THE MOST SENSE? WHICH IS THE STRONGEST

Video task:

Lesson nine – Akirah (life after death)

Video starter task:

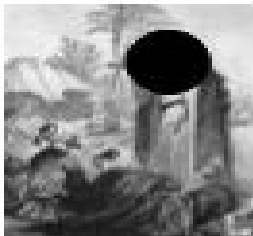


Summarise the teaching of the Qur'an with regard to the afterlife.

'No soul knows what delights of the eye are kept hidden from them of joy, as a reward for what they did.'

'That day all men shall be sorted'. (Surah 14-16)

Why believe in Akhirah?



How can Muslims make sure they go to Heaven and not Hell?



Part two

Why do you think there are differing Muslim beliefs about hell?

Heaven	Hell	Between death and the last day

Similarities	Differences

Topic content	Revised?	Confidence rating R,A,G
The six beliefs of Islam		
The five roots in Shi'a Islam		
The nature of Allah		
Risalah (prophets)		
Muslim holy books		
Malaikah (angels)		
Al-Qadr (fate)		
Akirah (life after death)		

Revision questions:

A questions – ‘Outline questions’. These are three-mark questions which require you state three points. You must write in full sentences, or you will only be awarded one mark.

- Outline three of the six beliefs
- Outline three of the five roots of Shi'a Islam
- Outline three Muslim beliefs about the nature of Allah
- Outline three Muslim beliefs about prophets
- Outline three Muslim holy books
- Outline three Muslim beliefs about angels
- Outline three implications of belief about al-Qadr for Muslims

B questions – ‘Explain questions’. These are four-mark questions which require you to give explanations, both points must be developed with examples or evidence.

- Explain two reasons why the six beliefs are important for Muslims.
- Explain two reasons why God's unity is important for Muslims.
- Explain two reasons why angels are important in Islam.

C questions – ‘Explain questions’. These are five-mark questions which are almost identical to B questions – they require you to give to explanations, both points must be developed with examples or evidence. You must also use a source of wisdom and authority to support one of your points.

- Explain two reasons why the five roots are important for Shi’a Muslims. In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.
- Explain two reasons why there are Muslim holy books other than the Qur’an. In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.
- Explain two reasons why Muslims believe in al-Qadr.. In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.
-

D questions – Evaluation questions – These are twelve-mark questions (two of your four will be 15 due to SPaG marks. You are required to give three points in agreement with the statement and three points against the statement. You should try to alternate your arguments, giving a flow of debate and showing chains of reasoning. You should try to include three sources of authority (you may include more). You must not give your opinion, the question expects you to give Christian viewpoints, if it requires atheist or humanist there will be bullet point stating so under the questions. You must include a conclusion, or you will be capped at nine marks. Give a justified conclusion, weighing up the strengths and weaknesses of the argument.

- If you believe the six beliefs, are you a Muslim.
- It doesn’t matter what you believe as long as you worship God and live a good life.
- No one can say what God is like.
- Prophets show how much God loves humanity.
- The Qur’an is Gods final word to humanity and so should be obeyed.
- Without angels there would be no Islam.
- Nothing happens unless God wants it to.

