

Key Words

The five pillars	the five most important duties for all Muslims: to believe, to pray, to give to charity, to fast and to go on pilgrimage.
The ten obligatory Acts	ten important duties for Shi'a Muslims, which include the Five Pillars
Shahadah	the Muslim declaration of faith
Salah	prayer with an in worship of God, performed under conditions set by the prophet Muhammad
Wudu	ritual washing before prayer
Mihrab	a niche in a wall that indicates the direction of Makkah
Qiblah wall	the wall in a mosque that contains the mihrab
Rak'ah	a sequence of movements in ritual prayer
Recitation	repeating a passage of text from memory
Prostration	kneeling with the forehead, nose, hands, knees, and toes touching the floor, in submission to God.
Jumma Prayer	a weekly communal prayer performed after midday on Friday, which includes a sermon.
Ramadan	the ninth month of the Muslim calendar, during which Muslims have to fast from dusk to sunset
Fasting	not eating or drinking for a certain length of time, usually for a religious reason
The night of power	(1) the night when the first revelation of the Qur'an was made to Muhammad (2) the festival that marks the start of God's revelation to Muhammad

Salah

Sunni Muslims pray five time a day and Shi'a Muslims three time a day.

Wudu (ritual washing) is carried out before prayer to make themselves spiritually clean.

Prayer always takes place facing Mecca. Within a mosque men and women are divided and the prayers are led by an Iman. The direction to face is marked by the qiblah wall and mihrab.



Sawm

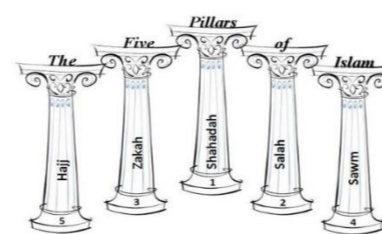
Sawm is the fourth pillar of Islam. It involves fasting during daylight hours in the month of Ramadan. As well as food and drink, adults must also give up smoking and sexual intercourse in daylight hours. There are a number of people who are excused from taking part in sawm, including: the elderly; people with diabetes or other health conditions which would make fasting dangerous; children under 12; people who are pregnant, breastfeeding or menstruating; people who are travelling. If an adult has been excused from sawm for any of those reasons, they should aim to fast at another point or make a donation to charity instead. During Ramadan, Muslims who are fasting will eat a large meal just before dawn, in order to set them up for a day without food and water. At the setting of the sun, they will break their fast with dates or water, before having a larger meal later. These evening meals during Ramadan are often events where family and communities get together. The Night of Power, or Lailat al Qadr, falls in the month of Ramadan. This marks the night when the Qur'an was first revealed by the angel Jibril to the prophet Muhammad. It is regarded as a very special and holy time:

the Qur'an 97:3 says it is "better than a thousand months",

and it is an especially good time for Muslims to pray and recite the Qur'an. Ramadan ends with Eid ul-Fitr, which involves celebrating with prayers at the mosque and meals with family and friends.

Fasting during Ramadan promotes lots of things that are beneficial to the individual, such as:

- * obedience and submission to God
- * self-discipline
- * a renewed appreciation of God's gifts
- * empathy for the suffering of the poor
- * a new understanding of the values of charity and generosity
- * a way of giving thanks for the Qur'an which was revealed to Muhammad in the month of Ramadan
- * a way of feeling connected to other Muslims



Shahadah

"There is no God but Allah and Muhammad is the Prophet of Allah."

Expresses the core belief of Islam. It provides the foundation for the other four pillars. Shi'a Muslims add the phrase 'and Ali is the friend of God.' This shows their belief that Ali (Muhammad's cousin and son in law) was the true successor to Muhammad. It is the phrase that is recited in front of Muslims witnesses to become a Muslim, it must also be the first and last thing a person hears.

The Ten obligatory acts (Shia Islam)

1	Salah	Praying 5 times a day
2	Sawm	Fasting during Ramadan
3	Hajj	Pilgrimage to Mecca
4	Zakah	Alms given
5	Khums	Tax set at 20% for causes decided by Shia leaders
6	Jihad	Striving in the way of Allah
7	Amr bil ma'roof	Encouraging good actions
8	Nahi anil munkar	Discouraging evil actions
9	Tawalla	Association with good people eg those who follow the ahl al-bayt
10	Tabarra	Dissociation with evil people

Based on Qur'an, Hadith, early Shia scholars

These are demonstrated in actions and behaviour in every day life eg praying regularly, helping those in need and encouraging other Muslims to do so too. They can be a guide for how to go to heaven. "God has promised the believers...gardens graced with flowing streams where they will remain") Qur'an

These are important as they show faith in action not just words

Zakat

Zakat is the act of paying 2.5% of income and savings to poor people or needy causes. Zakat is considered as a compulsory tax rather than a charitable donation. Zakat is collected by the state in some countries such as Pakistan, Libya and Saudi Arabia, but in many other countries, it is down to the individual or groups to sort out. Shi'a Muslims give a higher amount of zakat, called Khums, to Imams, who then decide how the money will be distributed.

Zakat literally means 'that which purifies', and it is taught that giving zakat purifies the giver and the receiver. It purifies the receiver because it stops them from being jealous of the rich and it is an acceptance of God's will. It purifies the giver because it is allowing them to gain true riches from God.

There is guidance in the Qur'an about who should receive zakat. The Qur'an 9:60 states that,

"Alms are for the poor and the needy, and those employed to administer the (funds); for those whose hearts have been (recently) reconciled (to Truth); for those in bondage and in debt; in the cause of Allah; and for the wayfarer: (thus is it) ordained by Allah, and Allah is full of knowledge and wisdom."

Zakat therefore acts as a kind of social security, ensuring that the poor are looked after and that relations between rich and poor Muslims are harmonious.

Holy Month of Ramadan



Key Words

Zakah	purification of wealth by giving 2.5% of savings each year to the poor
Sadaqah	good actions or voluntary payments that are undertaken for charitable reasons
Khums	a 20% tax paid by Shi'a Muslims on their excess income
Pilgrimage	a journey by a believer to a holy site for religious reasons; an act of worship and devotion
Hajj	the annual pilgrimage to Makkah (mecca) that every Muslim should try to make at least once in their life
Ka'aba	the black, cube-shaped building in the centre of the Grand Mosque in Makkah (Mecca); the holiest place in Islam
Hajji	someone who had completed Hajj
Jihad	a struggle against evil; this may be an inward, personal struggle or an outward, collective struggle
Greater jihad	the personal inward struggle of all Muslims to live in line with the teachings of their faith.
Lesser jihad	the outward struggle to defend one's faith, family and country from threat
Holy war	fighting for a religious cause or God, probably controlled by a religious leader
Id-ul-Fitr	a Muslim festival that celebrates the end of Ramadan
Id-ul-Adha	a Muslim festival that celebrates the prophet Ibrahim's willingness to sacrifice his son for God
Day of Ashura	a festival that is important for Shi'a Muslims in particular, who remember that battle of Karbala and death of Husayn on this day

Jihad

As mentioned above, there are numerous interpretations of the word jihad. Jihad can refer to the internal struggle to live a Godly life as a good Muslim; the struggle to create a true Muslim society; or the struggle to defend Islam by military force if necessary.

The Prophet Muhammad referred to the internal struggle as the 'greater jihad'; this means that the battle within oneself to live a Godly and righteous life is the hardest struggle. However, there is some justification for 'lesser jihad', or holy war.

There are very strict rules for when this kind of jihad is permitted. For example, it must always be in self-defense; it must be started by a religious leader; its cause must be noble and something that God would approve of; wounded enemies must be treated in the same way as one's own soldiers; women, children and old people should not be harmed. The Qur'an also says that the war must stop as soon as the enemy asks for peace (Qur'an 8:61).

Festivals and Commemorations

Eid-ul-Adha, also called the Greater Eid, is the Festival of Sacrifice. This is a celebration and commemoration of the willingness of Abraham to sacrifice his own son when God commanded him to. The devil tried to tempt Abraham into disobeying God, but Abraham was faithful and, just before he was going to slaughter his son, God intervened and gave him a lamb to kill as a sacrifice instead.

The celebrations for Eid-ul-Adha involve sacrificing a sheep (in the UK, this must be done at a slaughterhouse). The meat is shared out among family and friends, as well as given to the poor. Prayers of thanks are given, and Muslims give each other presents. In Muslim countries, Eid-ul-Adha is a national holiday and people celebrate with their family and friends. Money has to be given to the poor at Eid as part of the celebrations.

Id-ul-Fitr is the Feast of Breaking the Fast, and it occurs at the end of Ramadan. In this festival, Muslims are celebrating the end of the fast, but also giving thanks to God for the strength and self-control that they have developed during the fast. The festival begins with the sighting of the new moon after Ramadan. On this day, Muslims wake before dawn and offer prayers. They put on their best clothes, decorate their homes, and attend special services at mosque. Meals are shared between families and friends, and money is given to the poor.

Ashura is a day commemorated by Muslims, but it has a different significance to the Sunnis than it does to the Shi'as. For Shi'a Muslims, Ashura marks the killing and martyrdom of Hussein, the grandson of Muhammad. Shi'a Muslims perform rituals of mourning on this day, such as dressing in black and walking the streets chanting and slapping their chests. The death of Hussein is very important to Shi'a Muslims because they recognise him as an Imam from the Ahl al-bayt, or successors of the Prophet Muhammad.

Sunni Muslims celebrate Ashura as the day that Moses and the Israelites were saved from the Egyptians. Sunni Muslims mark this day with a voluntary fast. Ashura falls on the tenth day of Muharram, the first month of the Islamic calendar.



Hajj

The Hajj is a pilgrimage to Mecca, which every adult and able-bodied Muslim who can afford to is instructed to do at least once in their lifetime. Hajj occurs in the month of Dhul Hijja, the twelfth month of the Islamic calendar.

The tradition of Hajj is said to date back to the time of Abraham, (or Ibrahim) when God instructed Abraham to leave his wife and son alone in the desert of Mecca. God miraculously created a spring of water in the desert to sustain Abraham's wife and son. Abraham built the Kaaba, a house of worship, dedicated to the glory of God, and was ordered by God to invite pilgrims to visit it.

Hajj is one of the pillars of Islam. It promotes equality and fellowship amongst Muslims and shows worshippers that all believers are equal in the eyes of God.

A pilgrim on Hajj has to wear special white clothes called Ihram. They are forbidden from shaving, using oils or cologne, having sex, killing or hunting animals, fighting or arguing while on Hajj. Men are not allowed to wear clothing with stitching and women are required to cover their faces.

On arrival in Mecca, pilgrims head to Mina, where they spend the day praying in tents. The next day, they go to Mount Arafat, and spend the day repenting sins that they have committed in the past. They spend the night in Muzdalifa, where they pray and gather pebbles to be used on the next day in the pilgrimage.

This day is called Jamarat, and it involves throwing pebbles collected in Muzdalifa at three different pillars (small, medium and large). It is a symbolic stoning of the devil, which goes back to the story of the devil's attempts to tempt the prophet Abraham away from obeying God. Pilgrims then return to Mina for Eid al-Adha, or the Feast of the Sacrifice.

This celebrates Abraham's willingness to sacrifice everything for God, and it is typical for Muslims to sacrifice an animal on this day and give some of its meat to the poor. Pilgrims will also cut their hair on this day (men often shave their heads, but women only need to cut a lock of their hair).

Finally, pilgrims return to Mecca in order to circle the Kaaba, in a ritual called tawaf. This involves circling the holy stone structure built by Abraham mentioned above. The Kaaba is the most sacred structure in Islam; when Muslims pray, they are instructed to face Mecca in honour of this building. Pilgrims walk around the structure seven times in an anti-clockwise direction.

Sub-topics	Islam
Salah	<p>"You who believes, when you are about to pray, wash your faces and your hands up to the elbows, wipe your heads, wash your feet up to the ankles and, if required, was your whole body." Qur'an 5:6</p> <p>"So woe to those who pray but are heedless of their prayers." Qur'an 107:4-5</p> <p>"Your Lord says, 'Call on Me and I will answer you.'" Qur'an 40:60</p> <p>"Believers! When the call to prayer is made on the day of congregation, hurry towards the reminder of God and leave off your trading." Qur'an 62:9</p>
Sawm	<p>"What will explain to you what that Night of Glory is? The Night of Glory is better than a thousand months." Qur'an 97:2-3</p> <p>"Read! In the name of your Lord who created: He created man from a clinging form [a blood clot]. Read! Your Lord is the Most Bountiful One who taught by [means of] the pen, who taught man what he did not know." Qur'an 96:1-5</p>
Zakah	<p>"They ask you [Prophet] what they should give. Say, 'Whatever you give should be for parents, close relatives, orphans, the needy, and travellers. God is well aware of whatever good you do.'" Qur'an 2:215</p> <p>"Alms are meant only for the poor, the needy, those who administer them, those whose hearts need winning over, to free slaves and help those in debt, for God's cause, and for travellers in need." Qur'an 9:60</p>
Hajj	<p>"Pilgrimage to the House is a duty owned to God by people who are able to undertake it." Qur'an 3:97</p> <p>"Safa and Marwa are among the rites of God, so for those who make major or minor pilgrimage to the House it is no offence to circulate between the two." Qur'an 2:158</p>
Jihad	<p>"This is My path, leading straight, so follow it, and do not follow other ways: they will lead you away from it – 'This is what He commands you to do, so that you may refrain from wrongdoing.'" Qur'an 6:153</p> <p>"But those who have believed, migrated, and striven for God's cause, it is they who can look forward to God's mercy: God is most forgiving and merciful." Qur'an 2:218</p>

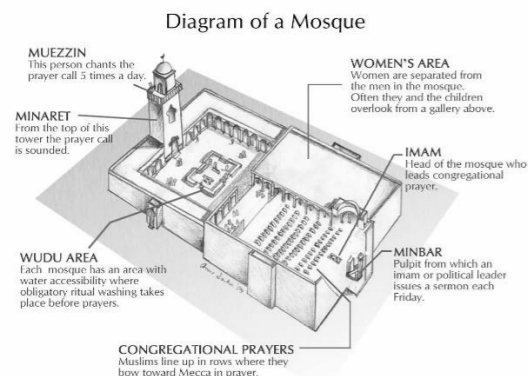


Homework Tasks

Homework will be set every _____ and will be expected to be in every _____

Task 1

Draw a plan of the outside and inside of a Mosque. Label the key features.



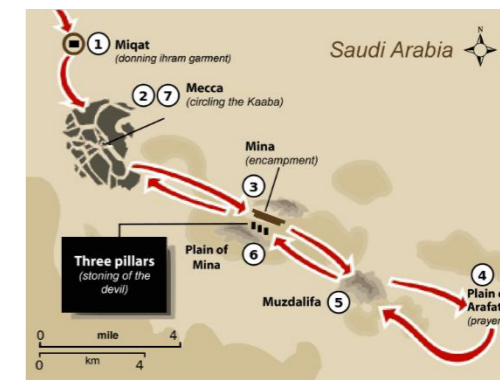
Task 2

Learn the key words and the definitions. You must also learn the correct spellings of the words.



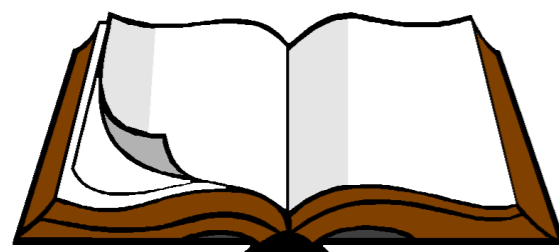
Task 3

Create a map explaining the different stages of the Hajj.



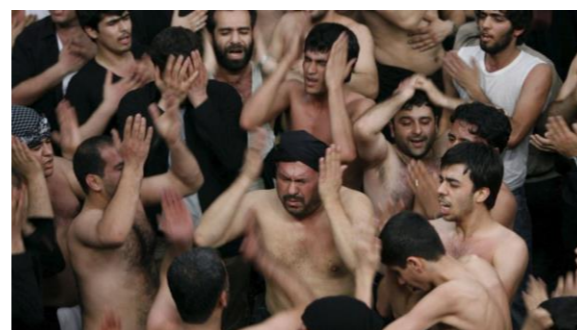
Task 4

Learn a quote for each of the 5 pillars.



Task 5

Create a report about the Ashura festival. It could be a news report, a newspaper report or a digital report. Explain how and why the festival is celebrated.



Task 6

Create a mind map for this topic. Show as many links as possible between the different areas. Include pictures to help your memory.

