

Revision- Islamic beliefs and teachings.

Nature of Allah.

Muslims do not draw pictures to represent Allah. They believe Allah is beyond our comprehension (understanding) and therefore cannot be represented in an image. A picture of Allah could risk being disrespectful. It would not be accurate. People might focus on the picture and not on Allah when they are praying.

"He is Allah, The one and only; Allah the eternal, absolute...and there is none like him."

Tawhid-the belief that Allah is one and not divided.

In the Qur'an and hadith many different 'names' are used to describe Allah. These are sometimes referred to as the 99 names of Allah. For example, the creator, the wise, the merciful, the judge, the compassionate, the just, the truth

The Shahadah is the first Pillar of Islam. Shahadah is the Declaration of Faith. So basically it's TO SAY that you believe in 'one God, Allah and his final Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).'

It is something that every person must believe in TO BE A Muslim. It is the most important pillar of all pillars.

Shirk is a sin-

Shirk is worshipping anything other than Allah.

1. To leave Allah and to adore and worship living and non-living things other than Him.
2. To believe in Allah but believe that some other beings are also God. For example, the Christian idea that God is Father, Son and Spirit because Muslims believe God is one not three
3. Worshipping non-living things like statues and pictures



Prophethood (risalah).

Christian and Jewish prophets are also important to Muslims because they were all messengers of God. *'We gave Musa the Book and followed him up with a succession of messengers. And we gave him Isa (Jesus) the son of Maryam (Mary), clear signs and supported him with Jibrail (Gabriel).'*

Each prophet came with a message but each time that message was distorted (changed/altered) so finally God sent Muhammad (pbuh). Muhammad could not read or write so his message could not be distorted. He was the last prophet, the final message. *"Muhammad is not the father of any of your men, but he is the Messenger of Allah and the Seal of the Prophets; and Allah has full knowledge of all things."*

Prophet:	Important role/ what they did that was important:
Adam	The first man and the first prophet.
Ibrahim (Abraham)	<p>God's mercy- Ibrahim was told to sacrifice his son Ishmael for God, he took him to a mountain and was prepared to sacrifice his son. God had given him Ishmael as a reward because God promised Ibrahim he would be the father of nations. When Ibrahim was just about to sacrifice Ishmael Allah showed how merciful he was and replaced Ishmael with a ram. He is important because he had complete trust in God.</p> <p>Abraham and hajj- God said to Abraham 'I'd like you to build a house for me.' That house is the Ka'ba in Makkah which Muslims visit on Hajj and pray towards. Muslims also visit the Zamzam well on Hajj-Ishmael and Hagar were left by Ibrahim in the desert, they were desperate for water and Ibrahim trusted that God would provide for them. A well spring appeared for them and this shows Muslims that if you have trust Allah will provide for you.</p>
Musa (Moses)	The prophet Allah revealed the Tawrat (Torah) to. Moses called the children of Israel to worship God freeing them from Pharaoh
Nuh (Noah)	Between Adam and Noah there were generations of people that remembered the laws taught by Adam and worshipped God correctly. The years passed and the people forgot. Noah was a calm, patient man who called his people to return to the worship of the One True God to leave the worship of idols.
Isa (Jesus)	The prophet Jesus, who Allah revealed the Injil (Gospels) to. Muslims believe that Jesus was not crucified. It was the plan of Jesus' enemies to crucify him, but God saved him and raised him up to be with Him. Sunni and Shi'a Muslims believe Isa will return on the Day of Judgement. Isa is not the Son of God.
Muhammad	The final prophet of Islam and the 'seal of the prophets'. Allah revealed the Qur'an to Muhammad as the complete message to humanity. Sunni believe Muhammad became a prophet at 40, Shi'a believe he was a prophet from birth but his prophet hood was announced aged 40.

Prophets are human but receive their messages from angels.

Angels in Islam.

'The messenger believes what is sent down to him from his lord, and so do the believers. Each one believes in Allah, His angels, His books and His messengers.'

Mika'il

Protector of holy places. Life-sustainer in times of trouble. Looks after Paradise. Was put in charge of plants and rain. Removed the black speck (representing any potential for future sin) from the heart of the baby Muhammad. (Along with Jibril).



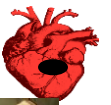
Israfil

Calls the soul on the Day of Judgement. Responsible for the Day of Judgement and will sound the last trumpet on the last day. Responsible for taking final breath from humans when they die.



Jibril

Chief angel/most important angel. Removed the black speck (representing any potential for future sin) from the heart of the baby Muhammad. (Along with Mikail). Responsible for giving Allah's messages to the prophets. When Muhammad was around 40 years old Jibril appeared to him on Mt Hiira. Muhammad was shown words and ordered to recite them. He protested that he was not an educated man and could not read them but Jibril insisted and suddenly Muhammad knew what the words said. These were the first verses of the Qur'an.



Iblis

Iblis was an angel in the Qur'an, he refused to bow down to Adam and so was thrown out of Paradise and set up his own kingdom of hell. He and his evil spirits are made of fire rather than light. Iblis begged Allah to put off his punishment and Allah agreed to do so until the Last Day. This is why Iblis is able to tempt humans to go against Allah.



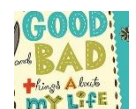
Azrail

Takes the soul at death



Raqib and Atid

Raqib and Atid are the 'noble recorders'. They sit on each shoulder noting down the good and bad deeds which will be read on the last day.



Munkar and Nakir

The two terrifying judging angels who will question each person after death, testing their faith.



Angels are important because:

They are servants of Allah. They communicate (tell us) his will (what he wants). Allah's greatness means he can't communicate with us directly but his mercy (kindness) means he can't leave humans without help- so he sends angels. They protect holy places, they protect the earth, they record our good and bad actions for the day of judgement. Sunni Muslims have angels as a separate belief in the 6 Articles. Shi'a Muslims believe angels are part of tawhid in the 5 roots.

Akhirah- afterlife.

Fitrah - The instinct all humans are born with to know right and wrong. Also the build in instinct to worship Allah.

Al - Jahannah - Heaven or Paradise. Jahannam - Hell: The belief that a persons' akhirah will be spent in either heaven or hell, after Allah has weighed their good and bad deeds, and the will behind each deed.

Rouh - Soul. The belief that Allah breathes a 'soul' into each human when they are created. This is a pure or clean beginning.

Kalifah - Stewardship: The idea that Allah has given humans the role or job of looking after the world and following His will.

Both - Shi'a and Sunni Islam share the following: life is a test, the belief in bazrakh, heaven, hell, Judgment Day, khalifah, fitrah and the human rouh (soul). The main difference is regarding Judgment Day and the concept of the Mahdi	
<u>Sunni</u>	<u>Shi'a</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The world as we know it will disappear. • The Last Day will be announced by the sounding of a trumpet. • Everything will stop, heaven and earth will change and the raised dead will join the living. • No one knows when the Last Day will happen except Allah. • Isa will return before the end and will win in a battle with the false messiah (Masih ad-Dajjal) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exactly as Sunni, except: • Mahadi will be the 'Hidden Imam' and will return alongside Isa. • Isa will come first and then the Mahadi. • The Mahadi will lead the righteous. • The righteous will include the other imams as well as saints and prophets.







Afterlife is the third most important belief in Islam. This life is a preparation for the next, the afterlife is the eternal life and is very important to Muslims. On the last day (The day of judgement) your actions will be judged and weighed up.

"Allah does not charge a soul with more than it can bear."

Muslims believe suffering is part of the test to see how they deal with it and Allah will never give you more than you can cope with.

"Be sure We shall test you with something of fear and hunger, some loss in goods or lives or the fruits of your toil, but give glad tidings to those who patiently persevere"

Angels involved in afterlife- Israfil, Munkar and Nakir , Raqib and Atid and Azrail.

Some people agree:

Barzakh is a barrier between this life and the next.

"...behind them there shall stand a barrier till the Day of Resurrection."

It is where the rouh (soul) of the dead await Judgment Day. After entering the world of Barzakh one does not experience physical pains like headache, toothache and such other troubles. It cannot be called the Hereafter, which may mean that there will be only darkness for the sinners and only light for the obedient ones

Heaven and Hell.

The end of the world.

Descriptions of the end of the world in the Qur'an are vivid. There will be a blinding light, the sky will be cut through, the moon shall cease to appear and the stars will be scattered, the mountains shall be reduced to dust, the oceans boil over with explosions of fire, all the contents of the tombs will come back to life, and people will be asked what kept them away from Allah?

Al Jannah (heaven)

The reward will be paradise, a state of joy and beauty, happiness and peace. The Qur'an describes it symbolically as a green garden, full of foliage and flowers and the sound of water and birdsong.

"But the true servants of Allah shall be well provided for, feasting on fruit, and honoured in the garden of delight."

Jannan (hell)

Also described symbolically, a horrid place of torment under the earth's crust, a place of scorching fire, where the damned will be chained amid hot winds, boiling water and black smoke.

"I warn you, the, of the blazing Fire, in which none shall burn save the hardened sinner, who denies the Truth and pays no heed."

One of Allah's 99 names
is The Truth

Pays no heed means
pays no attention

The Sunni Shi'a split.

When Muhammad (pbuh) died there was a question over who would be the next Caliph (leader). Some Muslims thought it should be Abu Bakr- they are Sunni Muslims. Other Muslims thought Muhammad had named his cousin Ali- they are Shi'a Muslims.

The Battle of Karbala, led to a massacre that is commemorated by Shi'a Muslims during the ten-day mourning period known as Ashura. Some people argue this is the beginning of different religious practices (actions) for Shi'a Muslims. Shi'a Muslims commemorate that Hussein Martyred himself for Shi'a Islam. Sunnis still have Ashura but for them it is to remember the prophets Noah and Moses.

Timeline of the Sunni and Shia Split

570: The Prophet Muhammad is born.

598: Ali, who will become the fourth caliph and the first Shiite Imam, is born.

610: The year Muslims cite as the beginning of Muhammad's mission and revelation of the Qur'an.

613: The public preaching of Islam begins.

630: The Muslims, led by Muhammad, conquer Mecca.

632: Muhammad dies. Abu Bakr is chosen as caliph, his successor. A minority favours Ali. They become known as Shiat Ali, or the partisans of Ali.

656: Ali becomes the fourth caliph after his predecessor is assassinated. Some among the Muslims rebel against him.

661: Violence and turmoil spread among the Muslims; Ali is assassinated.

680: Hussein, son of Ali, marches against the superior army of the caliph at Karbala in Iraq. He is defeated, his army massacred, and he is beheaded. The split between Shia and Sunnis deepens. Shia consider Ali as their first Imam, Hussein as the third Imam (Shi'a Muslims believe there were 12 Imams who were perfect beings chosen by God- the twelfth is in hiding.)

Sunni and Shi'a practices.

-Shi'a say the 5 prayers but combine them into three occasions of praying. Sunni say the 5 prayers separately. Shi'a place a piece of clay from the Holy Land and touch their forehead to it as they prostrate (bend down to pray). Shi'a Muslims pray with their hands to the side, Sunni Muslims cross their hands.

Both Sunni and Shi'a Muslims believe the Qur'an hadith and Sunnah are important Muslim texts. The Shi'a say the most important ones are the ones from the Prophet's family and close connections. The Sunnis consider all Hadith and Sunnah narrated by any of twelve thousand companions to be equally important.

The festival of Ashura is commemorated by Sunni and Shi'a but for different reasons. For Sunni Muslims it is a day of fasting which commemorates the day Noah left the Ark, and the day that Moses was saved from the Egyptians by God. For Shia Muslims, Ashura is a solemn day of mourning the martyrdom of Hussein in 680 AD at the Battle of Karbala.

Both Sunni and Shi'a follow the 5 pillars of Islam (Shahdah, Zakah, Salah, Sawm, Hajj) but Shi'a Muslims added Khums a 20% tax on any profit made during war, Jihad, encourage all good (Amr-bil-Marooof) and discourage all bad (Nahil Anril Munkar). Shi'a Muslims call these the 'obligatory acts.'

The 6 articles in Sunni Islam

Tawhid- *'He is Allah, the One, Allah is Eternal and Absolute.'* The Shahadah shows Muslims believe this because they say *'there is no god but God and that Muhammad is the Messenger of God.'*

Angels- Allah revealed his will via angels to some prophets. According to the Qur'an, angels were Allah's first creation and are made from light. They are immortal (live forever) and do nothing against Allah's will. *We said to the angels; "Prostrate to Adam." So they prostrated except Iblis (Satan). He was one of the jinns; he disobeyed the Command of his Lord."*

Holy Books (Kutub)- Musa (Moses) was given the Tawrat (Torah), Dawud (David) was given the Zabur (Psalms), Isa (Jesus) was given the Injil (Gospels). But all of these were distorted by humans. The Qur'an is Allah's words, direct from Allah to Jibril to Muhammad.

Prophets (Risalah)- Prophets are human, but received their messages from an angel. Muhammad - The final prophet of Islam and the 'seal of the prophets'. Allah revealed the Qur'an to Muhammad as the complete message to humanity. Sunni Islam teaches that Muhammad became a prophet at 40 not at birth

Akirah- this life is simply a preparation or a test for the life to come. *'Be sure We shall test you with something of fear and hunger, some loss in goods or lives or the fruits of your toil, but give glad tidings to those who patiently persevere'*
The Last Day will be announced by the sounding of a trumpet. No one knows when the Last Day will happen except Allah. Isa or the Mahadi will return before the end.

Al Qad'r (Predestination)- means that everything in the universe is following a divine masterplan - Allah's plan. *'In all things the master-planning is God's.'* Even though God knows what will happen and has a plan we still have free will

The 5 roots in Shi'a Islam

One ness (Al-Tawhid) (includes angels and holy books for Shi'a)

Shi'a Muslims add *'and Ali was the (friend) representative of God'* to their Shahadah

Justice (Al-Adl)- Allah has justice, does not wrong people and is just in all of his deeds. Sending prophets and Imams shows Allah is Just

Prophethood (Al - Nabuwah)- They are human, but received their messages from an angel. Shi'a Islam teaches that Muhammad's prophet hood did not begin at aged 40, but started from birth. It was simply announced at aged 40. Muhammad is the 'seal of the prophets.'

Imams Al - Imamah- In Shi'a Islam the Imam is understood as a 'perfect human'. there have been twelve Imams since Muhammad, including:

- 1st was Ali, chosen by Muhammad, told to him by Allah.
- 2nd was Hasan, Ali's eldest son.
- 3rd was Husayn, who chose martyrdom.
- 12th Imam was Muhammad al'Mahdi - the hidden Imam. Shi'a believe he will return on day to bring in the Day of Judgement.

Afterlife (Al - Ma'ad)- (Same as Sunni Akhirah)
This life is simply a preparation or a test for the life to come. For Shi'a the Mahadi will be the 'Hidden Imam' and will return alongside Isa. Isa will come first and then the Mahadi.

Qur'an, Hadith, Sunnah (Sources of Authority)

Interpretation of the Hadith and Sunnah is an Islamic academic science. The Shi'a gave preference to those credited to the Prophet's family and close associates. The Sunnis consider all Hadith and Sunnah narrated by any of twelve thousand companions to be equally valid.

Qur'an	Hadith	Sunnah
<p>In the Qur'an the instructions below are given many times. "<i>Obey Allah and obey the Messenger</i>"</p> <p>Muslims believe that the Qur'an is a perfect copy of a heavenly book, and that it is the last revelation of Allah's truth to the human world, they believe that it is the best guide for how to live our lives and achieve salvation.</p> <p>Someone who has learnt the Qur'an by heart is called a <u>Hafiz/Hafizah</u> (male/female), a very respected status.</p> <p>Muhammad recited the words of Allah which were revealed to him through the angel Jibril (Gabriel). This was over a period of 23 years. They were then memorised by him and his companions and written down by others during his lifetime and shortly after.</p> <p>Muslims must treat the Qur'an with great care. They wrap it in a clean cloth and keep it on the highest shelf in the room, to show its superiority. When in use, Muslims will use a bookstand so that the Qur'an does not touch the floor.</p>	<p>Muslims also have the Hadith as a source of guidance, the word hadith means a 'statement' or 'report'. The books of Hadith are collections of reports of what Muhammad said, did or approved of in particular situations.</p> <p>For Sunni Islam 'The Accurate Six' is the name given to the most trustworthy of the Hadith. They were collected within the first three centuries of Islam.</p> <p>For Shi'a Islam they use 'The Four Books' to refer to their most trusted Hadith.</p>	<p>Sunnah was not recorded and written during the Prophet's lifetime, but was systematically collected and documented beginning at least two centuries after the death of Muhammad.</p> <p><i>Sunnah</i>, which consists not only of sayings, but of what Muhammad believed, implied, or tacitly approved, was recorded by his companions in <i>hadith</i>.</p>

The Life of the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).

Muhammad was an orphan and became a shepherd. He married a wealthy merchant called Kadijah. Muhammed felt increasingly concerned by the corruption and inequality in Makkah. People were worshipping idols which he believed was wrong. As a young man Muhammad was known as al-Amin which means the trustworthy one.

The Night of Power (Laylat-ul-Qadr)- Muhammad had begun to spend more time alone praying. He was praying in a cave near Makkah when he had a life changing experience. The Angel Jibril appeared to him and ordered him to recite the words that appeared before him. Muslims call this night, the night the Qur'an was first revealed to Muhammad the Night of Power and it is one of the holiest days of the Muslim year. The Qur'an says '*The night of Qadr (the night of power) is better than a thousand months.*' The revelations to Muhammad continued for another 23 years. He said '*not once did I receive a revelation without thinking that my soul had been torn away*' Hadith.



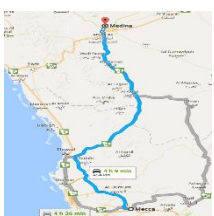
The cave of Hira where the Qur'an was first revealed to Muhammad (pbuh).

Muhammad's message was not popular in Makkah. He said there was only one true God, that people should thank him through worship and that there would be a day of judgement. He was ridiculed and insulted by most. However, the few that began to follow him became Muslims.

Before Muhammad's revelations Makkah had been a place where people worshipped idols. Muhammad rejected idol worship (Muslims believe it is shirk). For 10 years Muhammad struggled to gain followers, then his two closest supporters Kadijah his wife and his uncle died. One of Muhammad's followers Bilal was taken to the desert and left to die with a large stone on his chest.

Not long after Muhammad was approached by some pilgrims who said they were impressed by his teaching. They asked him to visit their home town and judge some of their community disputes- he agreed. However, people were plotting to kill him his cousin Ali insisted on staying in Makkah and acting as a decoy as Muhammad made the dangerous journey. A story tells of Muhammad fleeing Makkah to hide in a cave when soldiers came for him, when they arrived a spider had miraculously woven a web to convince them no one had recently entered the cave. This journey is known as Hijrah and marks the start of the Islamic calendar.

For the next 10 years Muhammad worked to unite different communities. He became a political leader. He wanted the Jewish tribes to convert to Islam but many refused to believe the God they worshipped was the same as the one Muhammad spoke of. They would not face Makkah to pray or fast during Ramadan. Some of the Jewish tribes in Medina (the city Muhammad moved to after he left Makkah) were plotting against Muhammad so he was forced to expel them from his city. Muhammad marched to Makkah with an army of 10,000 men and stormed in, he cleansed the Ka'ba of idols (statues) and re-dedicated the Ka'ba to Allah. Not a drop of blood was shed and Muhammad had defeated his enemies.



Journey from Makkah to Medina



The Ka'ba during Hajj