**Islam beliefs and teaching revision guide**

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| **Oneness of God and the supremacy of God** |
| Introduction | * Muslims believe that Islam was revealed to man gradually, through various prophets, starting with Adam and finishing with Muhammad.
* Islam means surrender or peace
* It means obeying God’s will to find peace in yourself.
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| **Tawhid**: the Oneness and unity of God |
| Oneness of God | * One of the most important beliefs is that there is one God (monotheist)
* Allah means the one and only God.
* No one else can have God’s attributes as God cannot be compared.
* Images are not allowed of Allah as Allah is too powerful for man to understand.
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| **Shahadah**: ‘There is no God but Allah and Muhammad is his prophet’ |
| Supremacy of God’s will | * God is one and creator and controller of everything.
* Whether what happens is good or bad, it is as God wills and there must a reason for it.
* God has good intentions for people.
* Muslims often add the statement ‘God willing’ as a promise to do something.
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| Impact of beliefs on Muslims | * Muslims must show that they believe God is one in their actions.
* Only God should be worshipped.
* Muhammad should be respected as a prophet.
* Idols are forbidden.
* God must be the most important thing in a Muslims life.
* Must accept God’s will and live life according to God’s commands.
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| **Key beliefs of Sunni Islam and Shi’a Islam** |
| **Sunni Islam:** Muslims who believe in the successorship of Muhammad of Abu Bakar, Umar, Uthman and Ali. |
| Sunni Islam | * When Muhammad died, most Muslims felt that only the Quran and Sunnah (Muhammad’s teachings and actions) had the guide to the beliefs and behaviour of Muslims.
* They elected Abu Bakar as leader (Caliph) to act on behalf of Allah and Muhammad to make sure people followed Allah’s rules.
* Caliph’s did not make laws, just enforce them once the community and had considered the views of Scholars who studied the Quran and Sunnah.
* This group became known as Sunni as they follow the Sunnah.
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| Six articles of faith in Sunni Islam | 1. There is one God.
2. Angels communicate with man.
3. The Quran (recitation) is the most important writing in Islam and the highest authority.
4. Muhammad (highly praised) is the most important prophet of God.
5. The Day of Judgement is when all humanity will be judged by God and sent to paradise or hell.
6. Supremacy of God means that God already knows but also makes everything happen in the world and human life.
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| Shi’a Islam | * Another group of Muslims felt that Muhammad named his cousin Ali as his successor.
* He had been one of the first converts to Islam and had married Muhammad’s daughters.
* Ali and supporters thought he was the true leader (Imam)as he was a descendant of Muhammad and chosen by God.
* Ali’s claim to be leader was ignored by many and Shi’a developed.
* Today, Shi’a Muslims have their own laws and only accept sayings of Muhammad passed down through Ali or his followers.
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| Five roots of Shi’a Islam | 1. Tawhid means God is one, God is not made of different parts.
2. Prophethood means accepting that Muhammad was the last prophet and that God’s revelation through him, are true.
3. God is just and wise, cannot do wrong and holds humans accountable for their actions.
4. The Imamate means accepting the twelve Imams are leaders of Islam and guard the truth of their religion without error.
5. Shi’a Muslims believe that after death they will be resurrected to be judged by God.
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| Similarities and differences | * Sunni and Shi’a both hold the belief in one God, prophethood of Muhammad, guidance of the Quran and following the Sunnah.
* They only differ in interpretations of certain aspects of belief and law and the emphasis based on beliefs
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| **Nature of God** |
| ‘God is the greatest’ | * ‘Allahu Akbar’ means God is greatest.
* God is so great, greater than humans can imagine.
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| Qualities of God | * God is immanent, within all things and close to people.
* God is transcendent, beyond all things.
* God is greater of the Universe.
* Compassionate towards people.
* Omnipotent, all knowing
* Beneficent, Source of all goodness
* ‘Bismillah’ is said to dedicate what they do to God.
* Merciful, understands suffering and forgives if people are truly sorry.
* Acts with fairness and justice.
* Will hold people to account.
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| The names of God | * Revealed through the Quran, holy books and Muhammad.
* There are 99 names for Allah in the Quran and Haddiths.
* They allow Muslims to understand God.
* Some memorise the names and recite them when praying privately.
* Some names show power and authority, others show God’s love and compassion.
* *‘The most excellent names belong to God: use them to call on him’ Quran 7:180*
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| **Angels** |
| What are angels? | * Angels bring the word of God to the prophets.
* For Sunni Muslims this is part of the articles of faith.
* Angels are unseen, made from light and are supernatural beings.
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| What do angels do? | * Directly receive God’s word and pass it on to the prophets.
* They are pure and sinless, having no freewill and can nit displease God.
* They praise and worship God.
* Some are guardian angels, who protect a person.
* Others are responsible for recording in the ‘book of deeds’ which will be presented on the Day of Judgement.
* Angel Isafil will blow a trumpet to announce the day of Judgement.
* Angel of Death has helpers to take people to take people to God.
* Angels escort to Paradise and guide hell.
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| Jibril | * Is an archangel, who is a trusted messenger of God.
* Jibril was the angel who relayed the Quran to Muhammad.
* Jibril and Mika’il came to Muhammad when he was a child and purified his heart so he could receive God’s revelation.
* When Muhammad was 40 years old, he was mediating at Mount Hira.
* Jibril told Muhammad what God wanted him to do and inspired him with the revelation of the Quran.
* God continued to guide Muhammad throughout his entire life, communicating with Jibril.
* Brings spiritual nourishment for God’s word.
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| Mika’il | * Is an archangel, the angel of mercy.
* He is assigned to reward righteous people for the good they do during their lives on earth.
* He sends rain, thunder and lightning to earth.
* He brings nourishment for the earth.
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| **Predestination** |
| Predestination | * Sunni’s believe that God has already determined everything that will happen in the universe.
* He has written everything out in the ‘book of decrees’
* God creates all things, including the actions of creatures, so they must act to his will.
* It is linked to the Sunni idea of supremacy of God’s will.
* As God is so powerful, he can determine everything that will happen.
* People are still responsible for their actions.
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| Human Freedom | * Shi’a Muslims believe that God knows everything that is going to happen, but does not decide what is going to happen.
* This means that people still have freewill to make their own choices.
* God is the creator of time, but is not bound by it.
* Human events in time due to cause and effect or human free will, but God is outside human time.
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| The Day of Judgement | * God will judge humans according to everything they have done throughout their life.
* Many Muslims believe that God has given humans freewill, so they are responsible if they are punished or rewarded by God.
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| **Life after death** |
| Life after death | * Death starts a new stage of life called Akhirah.
* After death, a person still has conscious existence in their grave.
* This is a waiting stage called ‘barazkh’ which means a barrier, as you can not pass back across.
* God will send two Angels to question about their faith. If people answer correctly they will be rewarded.
* They will be punished if they deny God.
* Some believe this happens straight away, others think it will happen at the end of the world on the day of judgement.
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| The Day of Judgement and resurrection | * The day will come when God’s purpose for the universe has been fulfilled.
* The Angel Israfil will sound a trumpet to announce the world will be destroy the world.
* The present world will be transformed into a new world and the trumpet will be blown again.
* Everyone who has ever lived will be raised and judged by God.
* People will be given new bodies and their book of life will be read out.
* If you get the book in the right hand you will go to heaven
* If you get the book in the left hand you will go to hell.
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| Heaven and Hell | * Heaven is described as a garden of happiness.
* ‘a reward for what they used to do’
* Hell is a place of great torment, for those who reject God and do evil.
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| Importance | * One of the six articles of faith and Five roots.
* It encourages human responsibility and accountability for their actions.
* Urges people to avoid sin and do the right thing.
* It also satisfies a human need for justice.
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| **Prophethood** |
| What is prophethood? | * Importance of prophets is known as Risalah.
* It is a gift given by God to help man understand his knowledge.
* Prophets are a line of communication.
* Instructions were needed to be given to remind man of the right path.
* Muslims believe there was 124,000 prophets of which 25 are named in rhe Quran.
* The most important are called prophets or apotles.
* These have been sent by God to every nation.
* They are important role models of people who have lived according to God’s will.
* Important prophets include Adam, Ibrahim (Abraham), Musa (Moses) Isa(Jesus) and Muhammad.
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| Adam | * Adam was the first man and first prophet.
* He was created by the dust of the ground and is respected as the father of the human race.
* God then asked Adam to tell the angels names of things they did not know.
* He told the angels to bow down to Adam but Iblis refused. Iblis was cast out of paradise and tempts humans to sin against God.
* God created Hawwa (Eve) to stop Adam being lonely.
* There was one rule to obey and Iblis tricked Hawwa into eating the fruit and they were kicked out of the garden, bring sin into the world and meaning humans will be judged.
* Adam was the first person to learn how to plant seeds, harvest crops and cook food.
* God revealed to him which foods Muslims are allowed, how to bury the dead and repent for wrongdoings.
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| Why is Ibrahim important | * He fulfilled all the tests and commandments given to him by God.
* He was promised to be father of all nations.
* Muhammad was descended from Ibrahim through his first son, Ishmael.
* He is a role model because of his obedience to God, kindness and compassion. He refused to worship idols.
* He is an important figure in Islam, Christianity and Judaism, these faiths are called ‘Abrahamic religions’.
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| Ibrahim and idol worship | * Ibrahim was determined to find out who created the universe, the moon, the stars and sun.
* He wished to submit to the creator of the universe and declared his faith in one God and wished to stop idol worship.
* One day, everyone left town to go to a feast. He smashed all the idols ,except one and placed the axe around the neck of it.
* Ibrahim declared that it was wrong to worship idols as they cannot speak, hear, see or defend themselves
* The people wanted to burn Ibrahim for what he had done.
* A miracle blew out the fire, only burning his chains.
* As a result of this many followed one God
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| The Ka’aba, Ishmael, Hajj and pilgrimage | * Ka’aba is a small building in the centre of Mecca.
* It is considered to be the house of God and the holiest place in Islam.
* It is believed that the original was built by Adam but was destroyed in the flood at the time of Noah.
* It was rebuilt by Ibrahim and his son Ishmael.
* Ibrahim had a dream, where he was asked to sacrifice his son. Ibrahim was willing to do this, showing his willingness to be obedient to God.
* At the festival so Id-ul-Adha, Muslims slaughter an animal to remember this.
* Ibrahim is also remembered when Muslims go on hajj.
* This is seen as a way to return to perfection of Ibrahim.
* Muslims often throw stones at the devil that tempted him to disobey God.
* When they run between the two hills and drink the water of Zamzam, remembering when Ibrahim’s wife, Hagar, looked for water for Ishmael.
* Mecca is often referred to as the city of Ibrahim.
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| **Muhammad and the Imamate** |
| Muhammad | * Muhammad received the final revelation of Islam from God.
* Muhammad was born in Mecca in around 570 CE.
* He was brought up by his Uncle.
* He became a merchant and had a reputation for being honest.
* He was religious and went to a cave to meditate and pray.
* On Mount Hira, the angel Jibril appeared to him with a message from God.
* For the next twenty years, more was revealed, which formed the Quran.
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| Muhammad’s preaching | * Three years after the revelations, Muhammad started preaching.
* He proclaimed that God is One and completely surrendered the only acceptable way to live.
* He challenged the people of Mecca to give up cheating, drinking alcohol, gambling and idol worship.
* This was not what the leaders of Mecca want and he fled persecution, with his followers to Madinah in 622 CE.
* This event is known as Hijah (departure) and marks the Ummah (worldwide family of Islam).
* This is where the Islamic calendar starts here.
* The Night Journey saw Muhammad being carried on a winged horse like creature, called al-Buraq to Jerusalem. He then ascended to heaven, witnessing the power of God and spoke to the prophets before him and was instructed to pray five times a day.
* Muhammad gathered support of an army of 10,000 men, he conquered Mecca in God’s name. He destroyed 360 idols at the Kaaba.
* He introduced Muslim law, teachings and practices which are found in the Hadith and Sira texts and are still used as Islamic law (Shariah) today.
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| [www.truetube.co.uk/film/how-islam-began-ten-minutes](http://www.truetube.co.uk/film/how-islam-began-ten-minutes)  |
| The Imamate | * When Muhammad died, it was not clear who should succeed him.
* Sunnis elected Abu Bakr as their first Caliph.
* Shi’as named Ali as their first Imam
* For Shi’as it was important that Ali took control as they believed he was appointed by divine instruction, following the family line.
* When Ali died his son was the next Imam
* The Twelver branch of Shi’a Isla, believes that there have been 12 Imams.
* The last, Muhammad al-Mahdi, is believed to be being kept alive by God and hidden somewhere on earth to be return with Jesus to bring equality and justice.
* The Twelvers believe that the Imams not only rule but are able to maintain and interpret the Quran and Shariah law without fault.
* They believe that the Imams continue to guide people to follow the laws correctly.
* They believe that there has always been an Imam who is descendent of Muhammad.
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| **Holy books in Islam** |
| Importance of the Quran | * The Quran is the word of God, revealed by the angel Jibril over 22 years.
* It contains the foundation of faith.
* It is an Infallible source of authority.
* The original is believed to be in paradise, so when they read it, it is as if God’s words are being spoken directly to them.
* Quran means recital.
* Muhammad’s followers memorised and scribes wrote it down.
* Abu Bakar was commissioned to make an official copy.
* Converts began to read the Quran.
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| Contents of the Quran | * Quran is a mixture of historical accounts and how to follow God.
* There are 114 surahs (chapters)
* It begins with ‘al Fatihah, which means opener’.
* This is a prayer for guidance
* Except for one, they start with ‘In the name of God, the Lord mercy, the Giver of Mercy’
* Muslim Children are encouraged to learn Arabic so they can read the Quran in its original language.
* Those who can recite the whole Quran are known as ‘hafiz’.
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| **Other Holy Books** |
| Other holy books | * They do not have the same authority of the Quran as they have been distorted or corrupted.
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| Torah(Tawrat) | * The Torah was given to Musa and is mentioned 18 times in the Quran.
* They believe over time it has changed.
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| The Psalms (Zabur) | * Were revealed to David and mentioned three times in the Quran.
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| The Gospel(Injil) | * The Gospel is mentioned and refers to the book of divinely revealed to Isa, but was lost.
* It’s message is still found in the Bible and the word Injil appears 12 times.
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|  | * The scrolls of Abraham have been lost and are thought to be the earliest scriptures of Islam.
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