

Religious Education Assessment: Understanding Islam

Learning objective: To demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the core beliefs, practices, and significance of Islam within the lives of Muslims.

Read each question carefully. Use your knowledge of Islamic traditions, history, and practice to provide detailed, thoughtful answers. Ensure your explanations are clear and use accurate terminology.

Islam is a monotheistic religion followed by over a billion people worldwide. At the heart of the faith is the belief in one God (Allah) and the teachings revealed to the Prophet Muhammad. Muslims follow the Five Pillars of Islam, which provide a framework for daily life, worship, and community responsibility. These pillars guide how believers connect with the divine and support those in need within their society.

Word bank: Five Pillars · Qur'an · Allah · Mosque · Sawm · Zakat · Salah · Hajj · Shahadah · Ramadan · Makkah

1. Define the term 'monotheism' and explain why it is central to the Islamic faith. (2 marks)

2. Identify three of the Five Pillars of Islam and briefly describe the purpose of each. (3 marks)

3. Explain the significance of the Qur'an to Muslims. How do they treat the text, and why is this level of respect shown? (4 marks)

4. Compare and contrast the practice of Salah (daily prayer) with the practice of Zakat (charitable giving). How do both actions impact a Muslim's relationship with their community? (4 marks)

5. Justify why the Hajj pilgrimage is considered a life-changing event for many Muslims. What might be the spiritual impact of visiting Makkah? (4 marks)

6. Extended Writing: Reflect on the concept of 'community' (Ummah) in Islam. Explain how festivals like Eid-ul-Fitr and the practice of Sawm (fasting) during Ramadan strengthen the bond between individuals and the wider Muslim community. Use examples to support your argument. (5 marks)

7. What might happen if a Muslim community did not practice Zakat? Predict the consequences for social equality. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a geometric pattern often found in Islamic art, focusing on symmetry and repetition, to represent the concept of infinity and the beauty of creation.



Extension challenge: Research the significance of architecture in a Mosque. Explain why specific features like the Minaret or the Mihrab are included. Total: /25