

A Journey into the Heart of Islam

Learning objective: To develop a deeper understanding of the core beliefs and practices of Islam.

Read the following passage carefully, then answer the questions that follow. Ensure your answers are written in full sentences, using evidence from the text to support your points.

Islam is a monotheistic religion followed by over a billion people worldwide. At its core, Muslims believe in one God, known as Allah, and follow the teachings of the Qur'an, which they consider the literal word of God revealed to the Prophet Muhammad. A central framework for Muslim life is the Five Pillars. These include Shahadah (declaration of faith), Salah (praying five times a day), Zakat (giving to charity), Sawm (fasting during the holy month of Ramadan), and Hajj (a pilgrimage to the sacred city of Makkah).

Inside a mosque, the place of worship, you will not find statues or icons. Instead, mosques are decorated with intricate geometric patterns and beautiful calligraphy, as art in Islam often focuses on the infinite nature of creation. For Muslims, faith is not just about rituals; it is a way of life that encourages kindness, honesty, and community. Whether they are donating money to help the needy or gathering for Friday prayers, the focus remains on submitting to the will of God and living with integrity. Following these practices helps Muslims maintain a strong spiritual connection and a sense of unity with their global community.

Word bank: Allah · Qur'an · Mosque · Five Pillars · Faith · Zakat · Pilgrimage · Ramadan

1. Identify two of the Five Pillars of Islam mentioned in the text. (2 marks)

2. What is the primary focus of Islamic art inside a mosque, and why is this the case? (2 marks)

3. Explain why the act of Zakat is significant to the Muslim community. (2 marks)

4. What might happen to the sense of community within Islam if the practice of Hajj did not exist? Justify your answer. (3 marks)

5. Evaluate the importance of rituals like Salah in the daily life of a believer. Why might these regular actions be meaningful? (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a pattern that uses geometric shapes and calligraphy inspired by the descriptions of mosque architecture.



Extension challenge: Research the significance of the month of Ramadan. Compare and contrast how Muslims prepare for this month compared to other religious festivals you have studied. Justify why discipline and self-reflection are considered vital components of this period.