

Exploring the Five Pillars of Islam: A Fact-File Template

Learning objective: To understand and explain the significance of the Five Pillars of Islam within the lives of Muslim believers.

Use this fact-file to organise your research on the Five Pillars of Islam. Ellie the elephant has provided some key terms to help you structure your writing. Ensure you explain the purpose behind each practice and how it reflects the values of the faith.

Word bank: Shahadah · Salah · Zakat · Sawm · Hajj · Prophet Muhammad · Makkah · faith · charity · fasting

1. The Pillar of Shahadah: Define this declaration of faith and explain why it is considered the foundation for all other practices in Islam. (3 marks)

2. The Pillar of Salah: Describe the practice of daily prayer. Why might a Muslim choose to pray at specific times throughout the day? (3 marks)

3. The Pillar of Zakat: Explain the concept of Zakat. How does this act of charity benefit the wider community and support social justice? (3 marks)

4. The Pillar of Sawm: What happens during the month of Ramadan? Justify why many Muslims participate in fasting despite the physical challenge. (3 marks)

5. The Pillar of Hajj: Compare and contrast the Hajj pilgrimage with other religious journeys. What might be the spiritual impact of visiting Makkah? (4 marks)

6. Reflective Analysis: Explain why these five practices are described as 'pillars'. What might happen to the structure of a person's faith if one of these pillars was missing? (5 marks)

Extension challenge: Creative Task: Imagine you are a traveller visiting a mosque or witnessing a community event related to one of the pillars. Write a descriptive paragraph using rich, sensory language to illustrate the atmosphere, the sounds, and the sense of unity you observe. How does this experience reflect the core values of the Islamic faith?