

Exploring the Beliefs and Practices of Islam

Learning objective: To identify and explain the significance of the Five Pillars of Islam and understand how these practices shape the lives of Muslims.

Read each question carefully and use your knowledge of Islamic beliefs to provide thoughtful, detailed answers. For the Greater Depth section, ensure you justify your reasoning.

Ellie the elephant has been reading about the Five Pillars of Islam, which are the core foundations that guide a Muslim's daily life and their relationship with Allah. From the declaration of faith to the importance of charity and community, these pillars encourage reflection, discipline, and compassion.

Word bank: Shahadah · Salah · Zakat · Sawm · Hajj · Qur'an · Mosque · Faith · Charity · Pilgrimage · Ramadan · Makkah

1. Identify the Five Pillars of Islam and briefly explain the purpose of one of them in the life of a practising Muslim. (2 marks)

2. Explain why 'Zakat' (charity) is considered a vital duty for Muslims. How might this practice impact the wider community? (3 marks)

3. Compare and contrast the practice of 'Sawm' during the month of Ramadan with the annual pilgrimage of 'Hajj'. What are the different challenges and spiritual goals of each? (4 marks)

4. What might happen if a Muslim community did not collectively participate in 'Salah' (prayer)? Justify your answer by considering the sense of unity and discipline within the faith. (3 marks)

5. How does the recitation of the Qur'an influence the daily decisions made by a Muslim? Provide an example of how a moral teaching from the text might be applied to modern life. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a representation of a mosque, including architectural features like the dome and minaret. Around your drawing, illustrate symbols that represent the Five Pillars, such as a crescent moon, a charity box, or a prayer mat.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are a reporter interviewing someone who has just returned from Hajj. Write three insightful questions you would ask them to understand the emotional and spiritual significance of their journey. Then, write a short paragraph explaining why visiting Makkah is such a profound experience for millions of people.