

Exploring the Beliefs and Practices of Islam

Learning objective: To articulate an understanding of the key beliefs, practices, and significance of Islam within the lives of Muslims.

Use this scaffold to structure your reflection on Islam. Ensure you use precise vocabulary and provide justifications for the importance of the Five Pillars. Refer to your class notes to support your explanations.

Islam is a major world religion that centres on the belief in one God, Allah, and the teachings revealed to the Prophet Muhammad.

Word bank: significance · monotheistic · submission · revelation · community · fundamental · furthermore · consequently · in addition · perspective

1. The Five Pillars: Identify the Five Pillars of Islam and explain why they are considered the foundation of a Muslim's life. Why might these practices be essential for maintaining a sense of community? (3 marks)

2. The Importance of Prayer: Describe the significance of Salah (prayer) within the Islamic faith. How does the act of praying five times a day influence a believer's daily routine and mindset? (3 marks)

3. Living Faith: Compare and contrast how the practice of Zakat (charity) benefits both the individual Muslim and the wider society. Justify why this act of giving is considered a spiritual duty. (3 marks)

4. Reflecting on Belief: Explain why the concept of Tawhid (the oneness of God) is central to Islamic theology. What might happen if a believer's perspective on this core concept were to change? (3 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine you are explaining the meaning of Hajj to someone who has never heard of it. Write a persuasive paragraph justifying why millions of Muslims undertake this pilgrimage, focusing on the themes of unity, equality, and spiritual reflection. Use your own knowledge to argue why this experience is considered a transformative event in a Muslim's life.