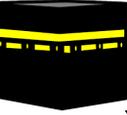


# 5 pillars of Sunni Islam

# Practices: Islam



**Shahadah**

**Declaration of faith**  
 "There is no God but Allah and Muhammad is his messenger."

This shows the acceptance of **Allah & Muhammad**.

**Role of Shahadah today:**

- Said before death
- Whispered into the ears of a new born
- Recited aloud in front of witnesses to become a Muslim

**Salah**

**Prayer**  
 Performing ritual prayers in the proper way 5 times a day. Men are expected to attend the mosque to pray. Prayer can happen anywhere that is clean. Muslims recite verses from the **Qur'an** when performing **Salah**.

**"Prostrate and draw near to Allah." (Qur'an)**

5 prayers were instructed by **Allah**, so whoever does them will be admitted into paradise.

**Sawm**

**Fasting**  
 Abstaining from food, drink, sex, smoking and bad thoughts/deeds during daylight hours, in the month of **Ramadan**.

**"O ye who believe! Fasting is prescribed for you." (Qur'an)**

**Exempt:**  
 The elderly, children, pregnant women, those travelling and those who are physically and mentally unwell do NOT have to take part.

**Benefits:**  
 Muslims feel closer to **Allah** and develop ideas of self-control and discipline.

**Zakah**

**Alms-giving**  
 Compulsory giving of 2.5% of one's income to charitable causes.

**Benefits:**

- It helps Muslims grow spiritually and frees them from greed and selfishness.
- It helps those who need it most.
- Wealth is a gift from **Allah** so should be shared.
- It is a sign of unity and supports the **Ummah**.

**"Be steadfast in prayer and giving." (Qur'an)**

**Hajj**

**Pilgrimage**  
 It is the duty of every Muslim to perform the pilgrimage to **Mecca** at least once in their lifetime.

**"Pilgrimage to the House is a duty owed to God by people who are able to undertake it." "Proclaim that people shall observe Hajj pilgrimage." (Qur'an)**

Hajj is intended to allow Muslims to get closer to **Allah**. It reminds them that all Muslims are equal and are part of the **Ummah**.

**Salah**

**Khutbah:** Sermon

**Minbar:** Raised platform

**Niyah:** Intention to pray

**Rak'ah:** One unit of prayer

**Jumma prayers**  
 Jumma is the weekly communal Salah performed midday on Friday. The **Imam** leads the prayer and gives a sermon as part of the service. Men and women pray separately to STOP all distractions. To MISS 4 Friday prayers would make a person an unbeliever. Muslims believe that the reward for praying with others is 27 times greater than from praying alone.

**Qibla:** Direction of Mecca

**Adhan:** Call to pray

**Iqamah:** Second call to prayer

**"Salah is a prescribed duty that has to be performed at the given time by the Qur'an." (Qur'an)**

**Wudu:** Ritual washing before prayer





Place and actions performed	Significance
<b>Arriving on Hajj</b> Muslims put on ihram (white seamless robes). This is also understood by Muslims to be a "state of ihram", as it includes ideas of behaving appropriately and focusing only on Allah.	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrates unity, with all Muslims dressed identically.</li> <li>• Shows equality before Allah.</li> <li>• Strengthens the feeling of commitment between all Muslims in the ummah.</li> </ul>
<b>Makkah</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Muslims perform Tawaf, which is circling the Ka'aba seven times in an anticlockwise direction. This is also repeated at the end of Hajj.</li> <li>• Muslims also complete the sa'y - running between the hills of Safa and Marwa.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tawaf demonstrates the unity of all Muslims together in submission to Allah as they move in harmony around the Ka'aba.</li> <li>• Sa'y is done in remembrance of the story of Hagar searching for water in the desert.</li> </ul>
<b>Muzdalifah</b> Muslims camp here overnight.	Muslims need to ensure they rest, as Hajj is a difficult and tiring journey.
<b>Arafat</b> The 'Stand' where Muslims: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• praise Allah</li> <li>• read from the Qur'an</li> <li>• ask for forgiveness.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The heat of standing in the sun reminds Muslims of the Day of Judgement.</li> <li>• This is a time for Muslims to reflect on what they have done wrong and ask Allah for forgiveness.</li> </ul>
<b>Mina</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Muslims collect and throw stones at pillars.</li> <li>• An animal is sacrificed, men's heads will be shaved and women cut off a lock of their hair.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Symbolises rejecting the devil and evil.</li> <li>• The animal is sacrificed as part of the celebration of the festival of Id-ul-Adha, which remembers the sacrifice Ibrahim was willing to make of his son Ishmael.</li> <li>• The hair is cut as a symbol of purity.</li> </ul>

## 10 obligatory acts of Shi'a Islam

1. **Salah** - prayer
2. **Sawm** – fasting
3. **Zakah** – charitable giving
4. **Khums** – 20% tax on income
5. **Hajj** – pilgrimage
6. **Jihad**
7. **Amr-bil-Maruf** – encouraging people to do what is good
8. **Nah Anil Munkar** – Discouraging people from doing what is wrong
9. **Tawallah** – to be loving towards friends of God
10. **Tabarra** – disassociating from enemies of God.

## Jihad

**Jihad is an important concept for Muslims. It refers to struggling against evil, either as an individual or as the collective fellowship of Islam.**

**Greater jihad** is a personal, inward struggle of all Muslims to live in line with the teachings of their faith. **“This is My path, leading straight, so follow it, and do not follow other ways.” (Qur’an)**

**Lesser jihad** is seen as the outward struggle to defend Islam from threat. In the early days of the faith, this was important when Muslims were being persecuted and they needed to protect their freedom to practise their faith. **“Fight in the cause of Allah those who fight you.” (Qur’an)**

Greater Jihad	Lesser Jihad
<b>Inner struggle to be a better Muslim</b>	<b>Military struggle to defend Islam</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Studying the Qur’an</li> <li>- Doing good deeds</li> <li>- Attending mosque regularly</li> <li>- Completing the 5 pillars of Islam</li> <li>- Forgiving someone who has insulted you</li> <li>- Giving up things for the poor</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fought as a LAST resort</li> <li>- Fought for a JUST cause</li> <li>- Minimum amount of suffering should be caused</li> <li>- Women and children should NOT be harmed</li> <li>- Aims to restore peace/freedom</li> </ul>

## Ashura

The day of **Ashura** (Day of remembrance) is a major Shi’a festival that takes place on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of the month of **Muharram**. Shi’a Muslims remember the **death of Hussein** (Muhammad’s grandson) in **Karbala, Iraq**.

In many Muslim countries a **public holiday** takes place. Some Muslims will beat themselves with chains, **beat their chest** or (a minority) cut themselves. People **wear black** as a sign of grief. **Poems** about the tragedy are read and people will **cry**.

For **Shi’a** Muslims there is a great deal to learn from this festival; firstly **Hussein** should never be forgotten and that they should stand up for **justice** to better society.

For Sunni Muslims, **Ashura** is a day when many **fast voluntarily**. It is a day of **atonement** – sins are forgiven if repented. Muslims also remember how **Nuh (Noah)** left the Ark and how **Musa (Moses)** and the Israelites were saved from the Egyptians.

## Festivals

The first **Eid** is believed to have been celebrated by the **Prophet Muhammad**. **‘Eid Mubarak’** means blessed celebration. This is a traditional greeting used by Muslims. The Eid morning, men attend Eid prayers at the mosques which include two sermons explaining the rules of **Zakah** and focusing on **Ibrahim**, the poor and responsibilities Muslims have.

## Exam Practice

Give TWO ways Muslims can demonstrate Jihad. [2 marks]

Explain TWO contrasting ways in which Muslims celebrate the festival of Ashura. [4 marks]

Explain TWO ways in which Muslims celebrate Eid-ul-Fitr. Refer to Muslim teaching in your answer. [5 marks]

Shahadah is the most important of the 5 pillars. [12 marks]

Prayer is more beneficial than going on Hajj. [12 marks]

	Importance	How it is celebrated
<b>Eid-ul-Adha</b>	Known as the festival of sacrifice. It remembers & honors <b>Ibrahim</b> (Prophet), who was willing to sacrifice his son on Allah’s command. The story is found in Surah 37.	Forms a part of Hajj; Animals are sacrificed; Muslims give money to the poor; cards & presents are given to friends and family.
<b>Eid-ul-Fitr</b>	Marks the end of the month of Ramadan. It is a time to thank Allah for his help in getting them through the month of fasting.	Prayers; decorations; best clothes; feasts; cards & presents