YEAR 9 · SUMMER 2 · BRANCH 6: ENCOUNTER · KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER

Islam: Faith Lived Out

KEY QUESTION

How do Muslims in Britain today live out their faith?

Key vocabulary

Islam: 'Submission' or 'peace' – submission to the will of Allah.

Muslim: 'One who submits' to Allah; a follower of Islam.

Allah: The Arabic word for God: one, all-powerful, merciful creator.

Tawhid: The belief that Allah is one and unique – the central belief of Islam.

Qur'an: The holy book, revealed to Muhammad by the angel Jibril over 23 years.

Prophet: A messenger of Allah, including Adam, Ibrahim, Musa, Isa and Muhammad.

Sunnah / Hadith: The example of the Prophet Muhammad, recorded in sayings called Hadith.

Ummah: The worldwide community of Muslims.

Shahadah: The declaration of faith – the first pillar.

Salah: Prayer five times a day – the second pillar.

Zakah: Giving 2.5% of savings each year to the poor – the third pillar.

Sawm: Fasting from dawn to sunset in Ramadan – the fourth pillar.

Hajj: Pilgrimage to Makkah, once in a lifetime if able – the fifth pillar.

Mosque: A place of worship (masjid) and community centre.

Sunni / Shi'a: The two main branches of Islam, divided over who should lead after Muhammad.

Islamophobia: Hostility, prejudice or discrimination against Muslims.

The Prophet Muhammad

Born in **Makkah** c. 570 CE. In 610 CE, on the Night of Power, the angel **Jibril** revealed the first words of the Qur'an to him in the cave of Hira.

In 622 CE he moved to **Madinah** (the *Hijrah*), the start of the Islamic calendar. Muslims believe he is the final prophet, the 'Seal of the Prophets'.

Core beliefs

Tawhid – Allah is one; nothing can be compared to him.

Angels – messengers such as Jibril.

Holy books – including the Tawrat (Torah), Injil (Gospel) and the Qur'an.

Prophets – Isa (Jesus) is honoured as a great prophet, but not as the Son of God.

Day of Judgement – all will be judged on their deeds.

Muslims show no images of Allah or the Prophet.

Five Pillars: Shahadah & Salah

The pillars hold up a Muslim's life, turning belief into daily practice: **Shahadah, Salah, Zakah, Sawm and Hajj**. Together they unite the Ummah across the world.

Shahadah: 'There is no god but Allah, and Muhammad is the messenger of Allah.' Whispered to newborn babies and said daily.

Salah: five daily prayers – Fajr, Zuhr, Asr, Maghrib, Isha. Muslims wash first (*wudu*), face Makkah (*qiblah*) and pray in set movements (*rak'ahs*). Men gather for Friday prayer (*Jummah*).

In Britain: prayer rooms in schools and workplaces; prayer apps show times.

Zakah

2.5% of savings above a set amount is given each year to the poor. It purifies wealth and reminds Muslims that everything belongs to Allah. Voluntary giving is **sadaqah**. British Muslims support charities such as Islamic Relief.

Sawm and Hajj

Sawm: no food or drink from dawn to sunset in **Ramadan**, the month the Qur'an was first revealed. The young, ill, elderly, pregnant and travellers are excused. The fast is broken each evening with *iftar*; the month ends with **Eid al-Fitr**.

Hajj: pilgrims wear simple white clothes (*ihram*), walk around the **Ka'bah** seven times and stand in prayer at Mount Arafat. **Eid al-Adha** remembers Ibrahim's obedience to Allah.

Key quotes

Qur'an 112 – *"Say: He is God, the One … He begets not, nor is He begotten."*

Qur'an 2:183 – *Fasting is prescribed for believers so that they may become mindful of God.*

Qur'an 49:13 – *God made people into nations and tribes so that they may get to know one another.*

Nostra Aetate 3 – *"The Church regards with esteem also the Moslems."*

The mosque

Minaret – tower from which the call to prayer (*adhan*) is made.

Mihrab – niche showing the direction of Makkah.

Minbar – steps from which the **imam** gives the Friday sermon.

Wudu area, an open prayer hall with no chairs or images, and often a **madrasah** where children learn Arabic and the Qur'an.

Art and culture

Islamic art avoids images of living beings in holy places. Instead it uses **calligraphy** (beautiful writing of Qur'an verses), **geometric patterns** that suggest the infinite nature of Allah, and **arabesque** designs. Architecture includes domes and minarets. Religious songs (*nasheeds*) and poetry are also important.

Encounter and dialogue

In *Ecclesiam Suam*, Pope St Paul VI describes dialogue in concentric circles: after other Christians and the Jewish people, Catholics seek dialogue with Muslims, who also worship one God.

Nostra Aetate 3 notes that Muslims honour Jesus as a prophet and Mary his mother, and calls both faiths to work together for justice and peace.

St Francis met Sultan al-Kamil in 1219. In 2019 Pope Francis and the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar signed the **Document on Human Fraternity**.

Check your knowledge

1. What does *tawhid* mean?
2. Name the five daily prayers.
3. How does Zakah help the Ummah?
4. Why does Islamic art use patterns and calligraphy?
5. What does *Nostra Aetate* teach about Muslims?