



EDUQAS GCSE Religious Studies
(Short Course)
Knowledge Organiser
Paper 3: Islam

Areas of Study	Specific Content
The Nature of Allah	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The teaching about the nature of Allah: the belief in the oneness of Allah (Tawhid): Qur'an 3:18 ➤ Nature of Allah: immanence, transcendence, omnipotence, beneficence, mercy, fairness and justice: Qur'an 46:33 ➤ Adalat in Shi'a Islam
Prophethood (Risalah)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The nature of prophethood; why are prophets important? Qur'an 2:136 ➤ The importance of Adam as the first prophet ➤ Ibrahim as father of Isaac and Ishma'il and his significance for the Muslim religion ➤ Isa as a prophet for Muslims: Qur'an 2:87 ➤ Muhammad as the seal of the Prophets
Angels (Malaikah)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The significance of angels in Islam: Qur'an 2:97-98, Qur'an 2:285 ➤ Diversity in belief between Shi'a and Sunni Muslims regarding angels and free will ➤ The significance of Jibril's revelation of the Qur'an to Muhammad: Qur'an 2:97-98 ➤ The significance of Mika'il placed in charge of plants and rain ➤ The significance of Israfil to announce the Day of Resurrection
Akhirah (Afterlife)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Al-Qadr (Predestination): Implications for human freedom ➤ Akhirah: Human responsibility and accountability; Muslim beliefs and teachings about the afterlife ➤ Human Freedom and its relationship to Day of Judgement ➤ Heaven; Muslim beliefs about the nature, stages and purpose of heaven ➤ Hell; Muslim beliefs about the nature and purpose of Hell
Foundations of faith	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The six articles of faith in Sunni Islam ➤ The five roots in Usul ad-Din in Shi'a Islam ➤ Islamic attitudes towards Kutub (books), Sahifah (Scrolls), Injil (Gospel), Tawrat (Torah), Zabur (Psalms)

Key definitions to learn...

Tawhid – The oneness of God. Expressed in the Shahada “There is no God but Allah”

Prophethood (risalah) – means messengers of God. God has sent a line of prophets, starting with Adam and ending with Muhammad.

Allah – God in Islam. Muslims believe in one God as stated in the Shahada “There is no God but Allah”

Immanence – Allah is present in the universe and close to every human “closer than the veins in your neck”

Transcendence – Allah is the greatest being and nothing can compare to him. Beyond human understanding.

Angels (malaikah) – Beings made by Allah to carry out his will and bring his divine message. Allah’s messengers and servants.

Al Qadr – Predestination. The belief that Allah already knows everything that will happen.

Akirah – The afterlife. Muslims believe in everlasting life after death in heaven or in hell

Specification: The Nature of Allah. The teaching about the nature of Allah: the belief in the oneness of Allah. (Tawhid): Qur'an 3:18; Nature of Allah: immanence, transcendence, omnipotence, beneficence, mercy, fairness and justice: Qur'an 46:33; Adalat in Shi'a Islam

Key definition: Tawhid means 'the oneness of God' – it is the basic belief that there is only one God (Islam is a monotheistic religion).

Qur'an 3:18 "There is no deity except him: the exalted in might, the wise"

The Nature of Allah

- **Immanence.** God is throughout the universe and present in the world that we inhabit. He is always close by – "closer than the veins in our necks"
- **Transcendence.** God is beyond the universe, beyond our universal laws and understanding
- **Omnipotence.** God is all powerful – can do anything
- **Beneficence.** God is always good and kind – he loves us
- **Merciful.** God forgives us if we are sorry
- **Fairness.** God is always fair. Even if we do not understand his ways
- **Justice.** On the last day God will judge us

Qur'an 46:33 "Do they not see the Allah, who created the heavens and earth and did not fail in their creation, is able to give life to the dead? Ye indeed, he is over all things competent"

Adalat in Shi'a Islam. Adalat means justice and refers to the justice of God. It is one of the Five Roots of Shi'a Islam. Shi'a Muslims believe that Allah is always right and just.

Specification: Prophethood (Risalah). *The nature of prophethood; why are prophets important? Qur'an 2:136; The importance of Adam as the first prophet; Ibrahim as father of Isaac and Ishma'il and his significance for the Muslim religion; Isa as a prophet for Muslims: Qur'an 2:87; Muhammad as the seal of the Prophets*

Key definition: Risalah means prophethood.

- Muslims believe that there has been a long line of messengers sent by God, starting with Adam and ending with Muhammad

Why are prophets important in Islam?

- They are special people chosen by God to carry his message and to guide his people, showing them how they should behave
- They are sinless, perfect human beings

"We have believed in Allah and what has been revealed to us and what has been revealed to Abraham and Ishmael and Isaac and Jacob and the Descendants and what was given to Moses and Jesus and what was given to the prophets from their Lord. **We make no distinction between any of them**, and we are Muslims [in submission] to Him.

Make sure that you can explain two points for each Prophet regarding their importance in Islam

<p>The importance of Adam...</p> <p>Called the father of the human race – the first human created by God. He was the first prophet. Created as God's 'khalifah' (representative on earth). His job was to rule in the place of God</p> <p>Tradition says that he built the first Kaaba in Mecca – the holiest place in the Islamic world and the main focus of the Hajj pilgrimage. Muslims across the world pray towards the Kaaba in Mecca</p>	<p>The importance of Ibrahim (Abraham)</p> <p>Emphasised the importance of only worshipping one God (monotheism) – the main Muslim belief as stated in the Shahada "There is no god but Allah..."</p> <p>Ibrahim also showed his faith and trust in God when he was instructed to sacrifice his son, Ishma'il. Ibrahim resisted the devil who tempted him to disobey God. God ultimately saw his faith and an animal was sacrificed instead. This demonstrates the trust and faith Muslims should have in God</p>
<p>The importance of Isa (Jesus)...</p> <p>Isa and his mother Maryam are second only to Muhammad in prominence in the Qur'an (i.e. the second most-mentioned figures)</p> <p>He was given the Injil (Gospel) to pass on to people and performed many miracles. However, Muslims do not believe that he was God in human form – they believe that God worked through him</p> <p>Isa did not die on the cross – God would not allow evil men to triumph over his prophet in that way. He was taken up to heaven and will return in the second coming when God judges the world</p> <p>Qur'an 2:87 "We gave Moses the Book and followed him up with a succession of apostles. We gave Jesus...signs (miracles) and strengthened him with the holy spirit"</p>	<p>The importance of Muhammad...</p> <p>Muhammad is called the 'seal of the prophets' – he is the last prophet that there will ever be. Through him the will of Allah has been revealed fully and precisely. He is a role model for how Muslims should live their lives – he is the prophet that Muslims are most likely to refer to as a reference point in their day to day lives</p> <p>The Qur'an was revealed to Muhammad. He spend a lot of time alone in prayer, and one night (the night of power) the Angel Jibril appeared before him and ordered him to recite the words that had appeared before him. These revelations continued for the next 23 years until his death. These messages formed the Qur'an.</p>

Specification: Angels (Malaikah). The significance of angels in Islam: Qur'an 2:97-98, Qur'an 2:285; Diversity in belief between Shi'a and Sunni Muslims regarding angels and free will; The significance of Jibril's revelation of the Qur'an to Muhammad: Qur'an 2:97-98; The significance of Mika'il placed in charge of plants and rain; The significance of Israfil to announce the Day of Resurrection

The significance of angels in Islam...

- Angels are heavenly, immortal beings
- **God's first creation** – made from light
- **God's messengers** - can pass God's message to people
- **God's servants** – take on many forms to carry out his commands.
- They are without sin so can enter into God's presence but they can also communicate with humans
- They are invisible; have no physical bodies but are described as having wings
- Never far away: always in contact with humans, especially when someone prays or thinks about God

- *Qur'an 2:97-98 "Whoever is an enemy to Gabriel - it is [none but] he who has brought the Qur'an down upon your heart, [O Muhammad], by permission of Allah, confirming that which was before it and as guidance and good tidings for the believers.*

- Qur'an 2:285 "The messenger believeth in that which hath been revealed unto him from his Lord and (so do) believers. Each one believeth in Allah and His angels..."

Diversity in belief between Shi'a and Sunni Muslims regarding angels and free will

Sunnis believe that angels have no free will

However, **Shi'a** Muslims believe...

- Angels have limited free will but this will never lead them to act against the will of God
- An angel told Muhammad that Ali (Muhammad's son in law and cousin) would lead the Muslim community after his death

The significance of Jibril's revelation of the Qur'an to Muhammad

- **Angel Jibril** (known in Christianity as the Angel Gabriel) always brings good news. He is mentioned in both the Qur'an and the **Hadith**.
- He revealed Allah's words (the Qur'an) to **Muhammad** on the **Night of Power** so he is known as the **Angel of Revelation**. He played a vital role in communicating the final version of Islam to humanity.
- The Angel Jibril appeared to **Maryam**, who in Christianity is known as Mary. Jibril told her she was pregnant with Isa (Jesus).

The significance of Mika'il placed in charge of plants and rain

- Also known as Michael, the Angel Mika'il is a friend to humanity and known as the **giver of rain and food**. He is believed to reward people who do good deeds.
- He asks Allah to forgive people's sins as he is the **Angel of Mercy**. Both the Angel Jibril and the Angel Mika'il will be present on the Day of Judgement.

The significance of Israfil to announce the Day of Resurrection

- The angel that will **blow the trumpet** on judgement day is called Israfil. His name is mentioned among the four great angels in the hadiths. Israfil will blow two times, in the first one, the Doomsday will occur and in the second blowing, the resurrection will occur.

Other angels...

Raqib and Atid are the **angels who sit on each shoulder of every person**. Raqib sits on the right shoulder and records the good and righteous deeds. Atid sits on the left shoulder and records our bad and evil deeds.

Izrail is the angel of death who separates souls from their bodies when they die

Nakir and Munkar question the deceased soul in the grave (see afterlife topic)

Akhirah (Afterlife). Al-Qadr (Predestination): Implications for human freedom; Akhirah: Human responsibility and accountability; Muslim beliefs and teachings about the afterlife; Human Freedom and its relationship to Day of Judgement; Heaven; Muslim beliefs about the nature, stages and purpose of heaven; Hell; Muslim beliefs about the nature and purpose of Hell

Key definition: Al-Qadr means pre-destination. The belief that God has a divine plan for everyone

- This is part of his plan for the world and all of his creation
- **The Lord has created and balanced all things and has fixed their destinies and guided them.** (Qur'an 87:2)
- 'Insha'Allah' is a phrase that means 'God willing' and when Muslims say this it shows their submission to God and his will

Human freedom

- However, Muslims also believe that people have **FREE WILL** – the freedom to choose our actions
- We can choose to do right or wrong (moving with or away from God's plan)
- This means that we will therefore be held **accountable** for our actions on the Day of Judgement
- Life is a **test** and we need to learn to turn away from evil

Key definition: Akhirah means 'the afterlife' – the belief that we will be judged and then sent to heaven or hell

- Human freedom (free will) means that we will be **judged** for the choices we have made
- Every human should ask themselves if they are ready for death and judgement
- Most Muslims believe that the soul will enter **Barzakh** when they die: a state of waiting until the day of judgement.
- When a person dies, their soul is taken by **Azra'il**, the Angel of Death
- God sends two angels, **Munkar and Nakir**, to question the waiting soul
- If the questions are answered correctly, the good soul then sleeps during Barzakh
- If the questions are not answered correctly, the soul is tormented by angels, known as 'punishment of the grave'
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Day of Judgement (Yaw da-Din)

- The angel **Israfil** will sound a trumpet and all souls will be resurrected and gather on the plain of Arafat for the final judgement
- Each person will be handed a '**book of deeds**' that accounts for all of the actions in their lifetime
- If the book goes to their right hand they will go to heaven (they have done more good deeds than bad)
- If the book goes to their left hand they will go to hell (they have done more bad deeds than good)
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The nature, stages and purpose of heaven

- **Nature:** Heaven is a state of peace, joy and happiness. It will contain everything that we longed for on earth and is full of beautiful gardens, sparkling fountains and flowing rivers
- **Stages:** Muslims believe that there are seven stages or levels of Heaven. Each Heaven is made of a different material and a different prophet lives in each Heaven. The first is silver and where Adam and Eve live...Abraham lives in the Seventh Heaven and this is made of divine light.
- **Purpose:** Heaven is a **reward** for living a faithful and moral life, suffering persecution because of faith or fighting in the cause for God. It separates out those who have committed a greater proportion of good deeds to bad, and whose intentions were good as well

The nature and purpose of hell

- **Nature:** Hell is a place of terror, with boiling water, fierce fire and thick black smoke. As well as physical suffering, those condemned to hell will also suffer by being separated from God and having no hope of escape.
- **Purpose:** Hell is a **punishment** for those who have failed to live faithfully and morally, those who have done more bad deeds than good. It is also seen as a tool for persuading people to obey God's laws because they would fear the threat of going to hell.

Foundations of Faith. *The six articles of faith in Sunni Islam; The five roots in Usul ad-Din in Shi'a Islam; Islamic attitudes towards Kutub (books), Sahifah (Scrolls), Injil (Gospel), Tawrat (Torah), Zabur (Psalms)*

Note – do not confuse these with the five pillars of Islam!

The six articles of faith in Sunni Islam

- Allah
- Angels (Malaikah)
- Holy books
- Prophethood (Risalah)
- Afterlife (Akhira)
- Predestination (Al-Qadr)

The five roots in Usul ad-Din in Shi'a Islam

- The oneness of God (Tawhid)
- Angels (Malaikah)
- The justice of God (Adalat)
- Prophethood (Risalah)
- Leadership (Imamate) – God appointment 12 Imams to guide Muslims after Mohammad's death
- Resurrection (Qayamat)

Note – do not confuse these with the five pillars of Islam!

Islamic attitudes towards Kutub (books), Sahifah (Scrolls), Injil (Gospel), Tawrat (Torah), Zabur (Psalms)

The Qur'an is the perfect word of God, revealed to the prophet Muhammad. However, Muslims are also inspired by other sacred books...

- Sahifah (the scrolls of Ibrahim (now lost
- Tawrat (Torah – revelation given to Moses)
- Zabur (Psalms – given to David)
- Inji (The Gospels – given to Jesus)

While these are seen as important, Muslims also believe that they may have lost their original meaning over time and therefore might not be the true word of God

Muslims also refer to the **Hadith** – a collections of sayings from the prophet Muhammad.

These are seen by many Muslims as second to the Qur'an in order of importance

Exam questions

Plan answers to the following questions:

What do Muslims mean by 'Tawhid'? [2]

Explain Muslim teachings about the nature of Allah. [8]

Explain Muslim teaching about the Tawhid (Oneness) of Allah. [5]

"Belief in Allah is the most important Muslim belief." [15] Discuss this statement showing that you have considered more than one point of view. (You must refer to religion and belief in your answer.)

'Adam is the most important prophet in Islam.' Discuss this statement showing that you have considered more than one point of view. (You must refer to religion and belief in your answer.) [15]

What do Muslims mean by 'prophethood'? [2]

'Ibrahim is the most important prophet in Islam.' Discuss this statement showing that you have considered more than one point of view. (You must refer to religion and belief in your answer.) [15]

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Describe Muslim beliefs about Adam. [5]

Explain why prophethood is important in Islam. [8]

What do Muslims mean by 'risalah'? [2]

Explain why Muhammad is important in Islam. [8]

Describe Muslim beliefs about angels. [5]

What do Muslims mean by 'angels'? [2]

Describe the significance of Mika'il to Muslims. [5]

Explain why the revelation of the Qur'an to Muhammad is important in Islam. [8]

'Belief in angels is no longer important for Muslims.' Discuss this statement showing that you have considered more than one point of view. (You must refer to religion and belief in your answer.) [15]

Explain Muslim beliefs about the nature and purpose of hell. [8]

'Belief in Al-Qadr (Predestination) means Muslims have no freedom.' Discuss this statement showing that you have considered more than one point of view. (You must refer to religion and belief in your answer.) [15]

Describe Shi'a beliefs about the five roots in Usul ad-Din. [5]