

9.1 A Study of Islam

KEY CONSTRUCT

2. Beliefs and teachings form the basis of organised religions.

3.10 What is good and what is challenging about being Muslim in the UK today?

Section A: Key Vocabulary

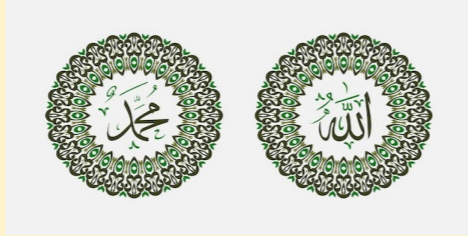
1. **Salah** — the second pillar, which is the five daily prayers Muslims perform.
2. **Zakah** — the fourth pillar, which refers to giving to 2.5% of income to charity.
3. **Sawm** — the third pillar, which is fasting for the month of Ramadan.
4. **Hajj** — the fifth pillar; the annual pilgrimage to the holy city of Makkah.
5. **Islamophobia** — fear or hatred of Islam based on a prejudice.

Section B: Component Knowledge

1. The Muslim community make up 6.5% of the UK population.
2. Muslims believe in one god who they refer to as Allah.
3. Muhammad is the most important person in the religion as he received the Qur'an from Allah.
4. The Five Pillars and 10 Obligatory Acts allow Muslims to put these beliefs into action.
5. Islamophobia is a problem in British society and is illegal under the Equality Act.

Section C: Core Content

A) Allah & Muhammad



- ⇒ **Tawhid** - means 'one God'. Muslims believe strongly that there is only one God, referred to as **Allah**. Allah has **no equals and no partners**. Allah has **no physical form** and therefore has no image. Muslims use **99 names** to describe the key characteristics of Allah (**merciful, powerful, all-knowing, creator** etc).
- ⇒ **Muhammad** is the most important **prophet** in Islam. His early life prepared him to be Allah's final, most trusted, messenger; his later life was spent either **teaching others what Allah wanted them to know** or **defending the faith from persecution**.

B) The Five Pillars



- ⇒ Islam is split into **two main groups** (denominations) called **Sunni and Shi'a**.
- ⇒ **Shahadah** is the **declaration of faith** which should ideally be the first and last thing a Muslim says/hears. It states "**There is no god but Allah, and Muhammad is his messenger**".
- ⇒ **Salah** means 'prayer'. Sunni Muslims are instructed to **pray 5 times a day**; Shi'a Muslims **pray 3 times a day**. Key features of Islamic prayer are; **a prayer mat, facing the direction of Makkah, placing forehead to the ground, washing before prayer**.
- ⇒ **Zakah** is the act giving money away for the benefit of others and reminds Muslims to put others before themselves.
- ⇒ **Sawm** is the act of **fasting for the month of Ramadan**; this is done to remember the struggle of others and to show spiritual discipline.
- ⇒ **Hajj** is the **annual pilgrimage to the holy city (Makkah)**. When there, Muslims spend a week **performing sacred tasks and rituals designed to remember their past and to test their faith**.

C) Being Muslim in Britain



- ⇒ There are approximately **1.8 billion (<24%)** Muslims in the worldwide population and **3.9 million (6.5%)** live in the UK.
- ⇒ Britain has around **1750 mosques** and nearly half of all British Muslims were **born in the UK**. In WW2 **500 000 Muslim soldiers fought for the British** and after the war were invited to Britain to help make up the workforce to **rebuild the country**.
- ⇒ In recent years countries such as **Iraq, Afghanistan and Syria** have suffered **war** and great **poverty** which has led to many having to flee and **seek refuge** in other countries.
- ⇒ Today, Muslims represent Britain in; **sport, entertainment and politics**. As well as contributing to society in the fields of **medicine, science, food, retail and construction**.
- ⇒ **Islamophobia** translates to 'fear of Islam'. In the UK there is strong evidence of Islamophobia with reports of **hate crimes, abuse and damage to Islamic buildings** increasing in recent years.
- ⇒ The **Declaration of Human Rights**, and the **UK Equality Act**, make it **illegal** to discriminate against Muslims.

9.2 Philosophical Worldviews

KEY CONSTRUCT

1. Diverse worldviews influence and impact how we experience the world.

3.17 Does happiness give life meaning or is it something different?

Section A: Key Vocabulary

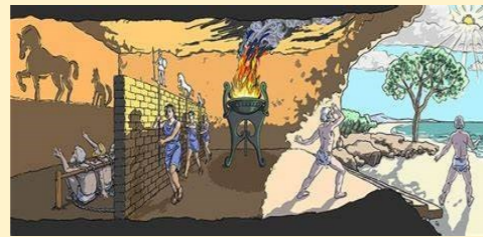
1. **Philosophy** — the pursuit of knowledge about life and the world.
2. **Science** — the pursuit of facts and evidence to explain things.
3. **Truth** — that which is accepted as infallible, undeniable and accurate by all.
4. **Trust** — believing something to be reliable, true or accurate.
5. **Happiness** — feeling contentment or pleasure.

Section B: Component Knowledge

1. There are six main worldviews; nihilist, spiritual postmodernist, humanist optimist, theistic believer, eastern worldview and rational agnostic.
2. There are four main forms of knowledge; scientific, historical, spiritual and moral.
3. The meaning of life refers to things that give a person a sense of identity, belonging, success or happiness.
4. Religious scripture is viewed as either God-breathed or God-inspired which gives it authority.
5. Philosophy seeks to answer big questions such as 'what is the meaning of life?'

Section C: Core Content

A) Worldviews



B) Knowledge



C) Truth



Six Worldviews (how people make sense of the world around them)

- ⇒ **Rational agnostic**—willing to say they don't know what gives life meaning.
- ⇒ **Nihilist**—believes in nothing and sees no purpose or meaning to life.
- ⇒ **Theistic believer**—sees God and/or religion as a source of meaning in life.
- ⇒ **Humanist Optimist**—takes life as it comes and hopes for a meaning to life.
- ⇒ **Spiritual post-modernist**—relies on personal experiences to give life meaning.
- ⇒ **Eastern worldview**—sees life as part of a great mysterious, but purposeful cycle.

Plato's Cave Allegory

- ⇒ This story is a **metaphor** for life. A group of **prisoners** are chained in a **cave** their whole life only ever seeing **shadows** on a wall which are created by other people holding up statues of living things. One day one of the prisoners leaves the cave and sees the **real world**—all the creatures he saw as shadows are now in front of him. The prisoner realises that the life he knew was a lie and goes back to the cave to tell the others; some are too **scared** of reality and choose to stay in the cave; others want to **experience** the real world for themselves and venture out; and some try to attack him because they think he is mad/dishonest.

- ⇒ **Four types of knowledge: Scientific** (what science tells us), **Historical** (what history tells us), **Spiritual/Religious** (what religions tell us) and **Moral** (what our instincts tell us).

- ⇒ **Science and religion are both sources of wisdom and authority** and because of this there is a long history of **conflict** between the two communities.

- ⇒ **Scientific knowledge relies on experiments** (where you try something out to see the effect it has) and **observations** (looking for patterns which make things occur a certain way) to gain knowledge.

- ⇒ **Religious knowledge relies on information passed onto humans through divine intervention**; this could be through studying a **holy text, angels/divine beings, visions or religious experiences** (seeing God/enlightenment).

Scripture

- ⇒ Holy texts—referred to as **scripture**—contain the truth about life and the universe.
- ⇒ Some believers say "**all scripture is God-breathed**" meaning the information in their holy texts comes directly from God. Others believe it is '**God-inspired**' - meaning the people who wrote it were inspired by God but wrote in their own words and context.

Philosophers (truth seekers)

- ⇒ Some key philosophers are **Socrates, Plato, Simone De Beauvoir, Ludwig Wittgenstein**. Philosophers can be **religious or non-religious**.
- ⇒ Philosophers repeatedly question the **nature of truth** and **whether truth actually exists**.

9.3 A Study of Christianity

KEY CONSTRUCT

2. Beliefs and teachings form the basis of organised religions.

3.6 Why and how should Christians accept Jesus as their saviour?

Section A: Key Vocabulary

1. **Salvation** — to be saved from hell and/or sin.
2. **Incarnation** — to be born in flesh form
3. **Parable** — a story told by Jesus to teach a lesson or deliver a message.
4. **Crucifixion** — to die on the cross; the image of Jesus dying for humanity.
5. **Sacrament**—an outward display of God's blessing.

Section B: Component Knowledge

1. Jesus was God incarnate (flesh) sent to experience and guide humanity onto the right path.
2. Jesus believed it is important to put others first and so sacrificed himself so others can know God.
3. 'I am the way the truth and the life. No-one comes to the Father except through me'.
4. Religious rituals and ceremonies such as sacraments enable Christians to become closer to God.
5. Christians believe that if they earn it God will save them from Hell, this is called salvation.

Section C: Core Content

A) The way (salvation)



- ⇒ Christianity is represented by the **symbol** of the cross and Christians today wear **crucifix** to remember the **sacrifice** Jesus made and to **inspire them to sacrifice for others** too.
- ⇒ The crucifixion is important because **Jesus took with him the sins humans have committed**, which gives anyone who **believes in Jesus/God a fresh start and a chance at getting to Heaven**.
- ⇒ Jesus is called a **martyr** because he died for the benefit of others.
- ⇒ Jesus told his followers that **"I am the way, the truth and the life. No-one comes to the Father except through me"**.
- ⇒ If Christians follow the 'way' of Jesus they can **reach Heaven and be with God the Father for eternity**. Jesus is a **bridge between earthly life and heavenly life**.
- ⇒ The Bible says **'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that those who believe in him will not perish but have eternal life'** John 3:16.

B) The truth (incarnation)



- ⇒ Jesus is referred to as **'God incarnate' = God in flesh**. Therefore he is both **human and God**.
- ⇒ Accounts of Jesus birth (nativity) are found in **Matthew and Luke's Gospels** in the New Testament in the Bible.
- ⇒ Key features are: **Mary (virgin mother), Joseph (carpenter father), Bethlehem, important visitors (shepherds/wise men), Angel Gabriel**.
- ⇒ From the start of his life Jesus had a **mission**—to **gather followers and guide them back onto the right path**.

C) The life (how to live)

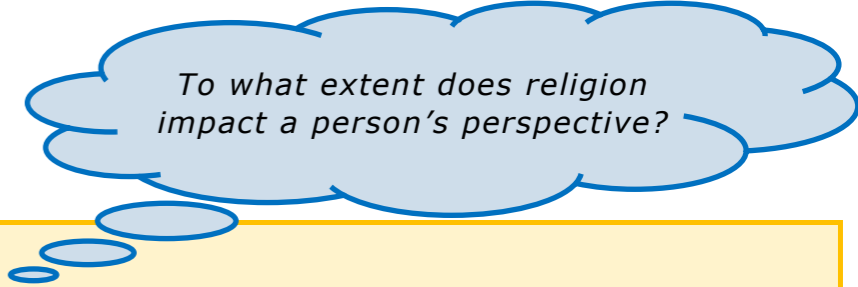


- ⇒ There are **seven significant rituals** a Christian may perform during their life to **celebrate and strengthen their connection with God**. Catholics call them **SACRAMENTS**.
- ⇒ **The 7 sacraments are: Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Marriage, Holy Orders, Confession, Anointing the sick**.
- ⇒ **Baptism begins a person's journey to salvation**; it can be done at any time in a person's life; many Christian parents baptise their children—this is called **Christening**.
- ⇒ **Marriage** is a ceremony which joins two people together in a romantic way for their rest of their lives; Christians believe that **God witnesses the promises** they make to each other during the ceremony; **'what God has brought together let no-one tear apart'**.
- ⇒ Christians are expected to follow the **teachings and example of Jesus**. Among others they must **'Treat others as you wish to be treated'**.
- ⇒ Jesus was a **pacifist**, which means he did not believe in using violence and would avoid conflict. Christians should therefore do the same.

9.4 Evil and Suffering




KEY CONSTRUCT

4. Sources of authority are interpreted for wisdom and guidance.



Section A: Key Vocabulary
1. Evil — that which causes suffering, harm or disorder.
2. Suffering — distress or pain; can be physical, emotional or psychological.
3. Aid — help which is sent when others need it, particularly after a disaster.
4. Justice — creating a balance between right and wrong to create a fair society.
5. Forgiveness — to pardon someone who causes evil or suffering.

Section B: Component Knowledge
1. Evil can be moral (caused by humans) or natural (caused by nature).
2. Some people believe evil exists to test the faith and character of humans.
3. Religions encourage followers to help people who are suffering.
4. Justice means that people who do wrong must be punished to maintain a fair society.
5. Some people believe that forgiveness is better than punishment.

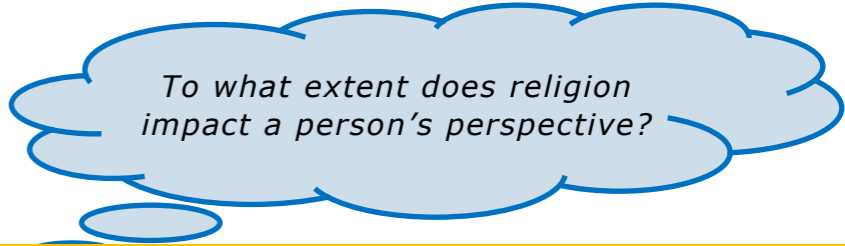
Section C: Core Content
<p>A) Evil</p> 
<p>B) Suffering & Aid</p> 
<p>C) Punishment v Forgiveness</p> 

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ MORAL EVIL - caused by human; could be directly or indirectly. Examples of moral evil are violence, war, crime, prejudice/discrimination, abuse and murder. ⇒ NATURAL EVIL - caused by natural forces. Examples of natural evil are illness, diseases and natural disasters. ⇒ Christianity teaches that evil and suffering can make their faith stronger and give them a better understanding of God. They often refer to the Story of Job who's life was destroyed by God to prove that faith is the most important thing in life. ⇒ In the 3rd Century a philosopher called Epicurus said the fact evil and suffering exists proves that either; God must not exist; or is not as 'good' (omnibenevolent) and powerful (omnipotent) as people think He is.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ Suffering can occur in many ways; physical, emotional and psychological (mentally). Examples include physical pain, sadness, loneliness, loss, sickness and poverty. ⇒ Short-term aid is when you send emergency supplies like medical goods, temporary shelters, food and water). ⇒ Long-term aid is when a country, region or community are assisted in rebuilding infrastructure like roads, hospitals, schools, waterways, sanitation and housing. ⇒ Aid is usually provided through charities such as UNICEF, Oxfam, The Red Cross, Salvation Army, Islamic Relief and Khalsa Aid.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ Society says that when a person commits a crime they should be punished. This is known as justice. ⇒ There are different forms of punishment, some are more widely supported than others. Some forms of punishment include fines, community service, prison and in some countries death penalty. ⇒ Many people believe in forgiveness as the most important part of justice. ⇒ Christians are told to forgive people "70x7" - this is a metaphor for an infinite number of times. ⇒ Nelson Mandela (a famous African human rights campaigner who was wrongfully imprisoned for 27 years) once wrote 'Resentment is like drinking poison and then hoping it will kill your enemies'. ⇒ Mohandas K. Gandhi (an Indian campaigner for equality) said 'an eye for an eye makes the whole world blind'.

9.5 21st Century Ethics

KEY CONSTRUCT

5. Moral and ethical issues are influenced by religious and non-religious beliefs.



Section A: Key Vocabulary

- Rights** — basic human entitlements outlined in the Declaration of Human Rights.
- Equality** — all people having the same rights, opportunities and status.
- Prejudice** — pre-judging a person or group of people.
- Discrimination** — treating a person or group of people negatively due to a prejudice.
- Liberation** — to release from oppression or confinement.

Section B: Component Knowledge

- Human Rights states that everyone is entitled to a life of good quality, free from oppression and mistreatment.
- A person's identity relates to their name, age, gender, sexuality, religion and worldview.
- Forms of prejudice include racism, sexism, ageism, ableism and stereotyping.
- Liberation Theology is using Christian teachings to improve the lives of minority groups.
- Religious practices and beliefs impact a person's identity.

Section C: Core Content

A) Identity

⇒ Identity refers to what you believe about yourself—aspects of a persons identity include **name, age, gender, ethnicity, genetics, relationships, physical image, personality traits, sexuality, morality and worldview.**

⇒ Religion impacts identity by giving them a **community to belong to; a set of rules to follow; rituals and acts to perform; clothing and food rules; morals and values to live up to.**

⇒ Hindus and Buddhists believe that your identity is only temporary because your soul goes to another person after you die, therefore everything that made you you is left behind.

B) Quality and Value of Life

⇒ The **Declaration of Human Rights** is a list of **30 articles/statements** about how people should be treated. Some of the most significant are: **The right to freedom, equality, quality of life (food, water, shelter), education, health-care and religion.**

⇒ The **Quality of Life** argument states that all people should be **entitled** to a life which is of good quality. This affects how people feel about their **health, wealth and general happiness.**

⇒ The **Value of Life** argument states that **all lives are valuable.**

⇒ Many **religious teachings** reflect Human Rights; **"treat others as you want to be treated"** **"do not steal"** **"do not kill"** (Christianity) **"if you save one person it is as if you save the whole world"** (Islam) **"the greatest good for the greatest number"** (Humanism)

C) Prejudice & Discrimination

Every body is **DIFFERENT**, but we are all **PEOPLE**.
All of us want to be **HAPPY**, all of us live on the same **PLANET**.
"Together against discrimination"

⇒ Prejudice and discrimination can be based on a person's: **race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexuality, age, ability/disability, wealth, job, lifestyle, political/social affiliations, education or looks.**

Racial Prejudice and Discrimination (Racism)

⇒ A **race** can be defined as a group of people who share a certain **distinctive physical attribute; this could be skin colour or other physical appearances.**

⇒ People like **Martin Luther King Jnr, Desmond Tutu** and **Malala** have fought against racism. Campaigns such as **Black Lives Matter** and **Show Racism the Red Card** aim to raise awareness of how to stop racism. High-profile incidents such as the murders of **George Floyd** and **Steven Lawrence** push for social and political reform.

Liberation Theology

⇒ **Liberation Theology** started in **South America** where there were/are high levels of **poverty.** The cause states that the Bible **'should be read and experienced from the perspective of the poor and marginalised'**.

⇒ Liberation Theologians believe that Jesus came to earth to **"preach good news to the poor...proclaim freedom for the prisoners...release the oppressed..."**.

⇒ Liberation Theology campaign for churches to change their views on minority groups—**today this could include women and members of the LGBTQIA+ community.**