

Form 7

Religious Studies Revision

Autumn Term:

Beliefs

Prophets

Holy Books

Life after Death

Spring Term:

The Five Pillars

Mosques

Festivals

Rites of Passage

FORM 7 AUTUMN

Revision Needed:

1 x booklet of Form 7 Autumn and Spring Term Islam material. However, only the Autumn Term material need be revised for the November exam (Beliefs, Prophets, Holy Books and Life after Death).

Exam:

- Questions are in the Common Entrance style.
- There are four questions and students need only answer two
- Each question has three parts:
 - a) DESCRIBE: This part is worth 6 marks and is testing factual recall.
 - b) EXPLAIN: This part is worth 6 marks and is testing analytical skills. This is often the harder part but one way is to always think "Why?" - *Why are beliefs what they are? Why do Muslims think that? Why is that important?*
 - c) DEBATE: This part is worth 8 marks and is testing their ability to balance arguments and think critically, using their own knowledge. It is important that students realise they need to stick to the debate at hand and not veer off in an unusual angle. It is a mini-essay and not a "chat" about what they think of the statement.

Important Points to Note:

- The exam is an hour.
- The debate question follows a clear structure:

Introduction (*There are many different opinions surrounding this debate...*)

Opinion that agrees with the statement (opinion for)

Opinion that disagrees with the statement (opinion against)

What a Christian (or in this case, Muslim) thinks (*Some Christians/Muslims may (dis)agree because ...*)

A conclusion that includes YOUR opinion (*In conclusion, I think ...*)

- Students must give opinions for both sides to reach the higher levels. They should avoid writing "I (dis)agree for the same reasons".

FORM 7 SUMMER

Revision Needed:

1 x booklet of Form 7 Autumn and Spring Term.

1 x booklet of Topic 2: Human Responses to God (Form 7 Summer and Form 8 Autumn). Note that in this booklet, only Creation, Adam and Eve & Cain and Abel are needed for the Summer Term exam.

Exam:

- Questions are in the Common Entrance style.
- There are TWO sections each with two questions in each.
- One section is ISLAM and one section is HUMAN RESPONSES TO GOD.
- Students need to answer one questions from the Islam section and one question from the Human Responses to God section

- Each question has three parts:
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ISLAM: Beliefs, Teachings and Doctrines

Points to note:

- The terms 'Muslim' and 'Islam' both mean **submission** i.e. a Muslim is someone who has submitted themselves to God
- Islam began in the Middle East - when both Judaism and Christianity had already been founded

THREE BASIC BELIEFS: *called THE ARTICLES OF FAITH*

TAWHID: The belief that there is only one God

RISALAH: The chain in prophets (how the message of Allah was passed down the line of prophets and ended with Muhammad pbuh)

AKHIRAH: The belief in life after death

1) TAWHID

Muslims believe that Allah is:

- The only God
- eternal
- the only one who can give and take life
- the one who made everything
- all-powerful (omnipotent)
- all-knowing (omniscient)
- all-loving (omnibenevolent)
- the one who sent prophets (risalah)
- spoke to Muhammad pbuh through the Angel Jibrail, who wrote them down and is now called the Qu'ran (also spelt Koran)

pbuh - peace be upon him (sign of respect)

2) RISALAH

- Muslims believe in the same prophets as both the Jewish and Christian faiths.
- Muslims believe that the purpose of the prophets was to pass the message of God through the generations and Muhammad pbuh would be the last and the one to write it all down

The only difference is that they have Arabic names (e.g. Abraham / Ibrahim; Moses / Musa; Jesus / Isa; David; Dawud etc)

3) AKHIRAH

(i.e. there are two angels on each person's shoulders - one records the bad things and the other records the good things)

- Muslims believe life is a TEST
- The angels will tell Allah about the way each person has behaved on earth
- Allah will then judge what each person deserves
- Whose who have earned it, will go to paradise
- Those who have not earned it, will go to hell where they will suffer forever.
- Once someone has died, they have to walk over a narrow bridge to go and be judged by Allah

Though to be a beautiful garden of peace, contentment and joy

ALLAH

- He is the creator of the Universe
- Life is a gift from Him - he can give and take away (known as the "Sanctity of Life")
- Muslims worship Him to say thank you and show their gratitude
- Qualities of God include: The Merciful, The Creator, The All-Knowing, The Loving, The Source of Peace
- There are 99 names for God and they are recited by Muslims during prayer times

ISLAM: Founders, Prophets, Teachers

Points to note:

- Islam has the same 'prophets' as those found in the Bible / Torah
- They have Arabic names instead
- Muslims believe Jesus was just an ordinary prophet, as opposed to the Son of God

MUHAMMAD

- Born in 570 AD in Mecca, Saudi Arabia
- He had a very tough childhood - his father died before he was born and his mother died when he was 6 years old
- His grandfather and uncle raised him
- When Muhammad was older, he worked with his uncle as a merchant

- In his youth, Muhammad was already recognised as an honest and good man
- He worked for a lady called Khadijah in Mecca, who was a wealthy trader
- At the age of 25, he and Khadijah were married
- They were both respected and rich and had a happy marriage

- However, Muhammad became more worried about what he saw in Mecca
- Mecca was a centre for trade with rich people - who spent their wealth on gambling, alcohol and cheating the poor
- Idolatry (worshipping idols) was common, as were sacrifices
- Muhammad believed these to be wrong and often escaped the pressures of Mecca by going into the hills to meditate

THE NIGHT OF POWER

- One time, Muhammad was meditating on Mount Hira when he had a vision
- An angel (Jib'ra'il) came to him carrying a piece of cloth with writing on it
- The angel said: "Recite!"
- Muhammad replied he could not read
- Twice more this happened and on the third time, Muhammad found he was able to understand the words and could read them aloud

- Muhammad stood up, walked out of the cave and heard the angel shout: "Muhammad. You are Allah's messenger!"
- Muhammad was naturally a little overwhelmed / scared / anxious about his experience and told Khadijah about it
- Khadijah was the first person to believe his message came from Allah
- Muhammad preached his message to the people, but it was not well received
- Although some believed him, many did not like being told they were sinners
- In 622 AD, Muhammad moved to Medina, where he was more accepted - the people had heard about Muhammad's preaching and wanted to learn from him

THE HIJRAH

- Muhammad's move to Medina is called the *HIJRAH*
- This is an Arabic word for "departure"
- This event is important because it marks the beginning of Islam's success
- The Muslim calendar begins from this date and the years are numbered AH meaning the "year of the hijrah"

ACCEPTING ISLAM

- During Muhammad's time in Medina, there were battles between Mecca and Medina
- This was because Muhammad tried to prevent people from going down the wrong route and to see the error of their ways
- Eventually, the people of Mecca were defeated and Muhammad returned in triumph
- The Meccans accepted Islam as their religion and all idols and statues were taken out of the city
- Muhammad returned to Medina and spent the remainder of his life teaching
- He died in 632 AD and was buried in Medina
- The Mosque of the Prophet now extends over his grave

THE IMAM

- Is a leader chosen by the Muslim community because he knows the Qur'an well
- Often, an imam will work elsewhere too
- Being an imam is not necessarily a paid job
- The imam preaches / bases his teachings on the Qur'an
- An imam's teachings will usually talk and reflect on the life of Muhammad

The Importance of Jerusalem



Muhammad and fellow Muslims used to pray towards the Dome of the Rock as this was a holy city for Jews and Christians (same core beliefs about God).

This was changed to Mecca after the Jewish people opposed it.

Mecca contained the Ka'bah; on this site, Abraham almost sacrificed his son and earlier, Adam had built a temple to worship God.

Jerusalem is special to Muslims because Muhammad had an experience where he was taken by angels to the mountain upon which the Dome of the Rock mosque stands. He ascended into heaven to meet the prophets and to talk with Allah

History of Conflicts: Christians v Muslims

Three crusades were launched in the Holy Land as Christians and Muslims fought to have control.

Muslim teaching said that the holy places of the Christians and Jews be respected.

History books say that when Muslim Caliph, Omar, first took control in 638CE, the defeated Patriarch Sophronius took him to the Holy Sepulchre.

Omar realised it was time for mid-day prayer and asked where he could pray.

The Patriarch offered to let him pray in the shrine but Omar refused.

He was concerned his more extreme followers would use the opportunity to claim their stake on the shrine.

He left to go and pray in the outside porch area, where from then, the area was dedicated as the Muslim area.

Unfortunately, subsequent crusades were not so tolerant and those, such as the one in 1099, saw fanatical crusaders slew all the Muslims and Jews they could find.

In 2000, Pope John Paul II apologised for the Crusades as a terrible error that the church made all those years ago.

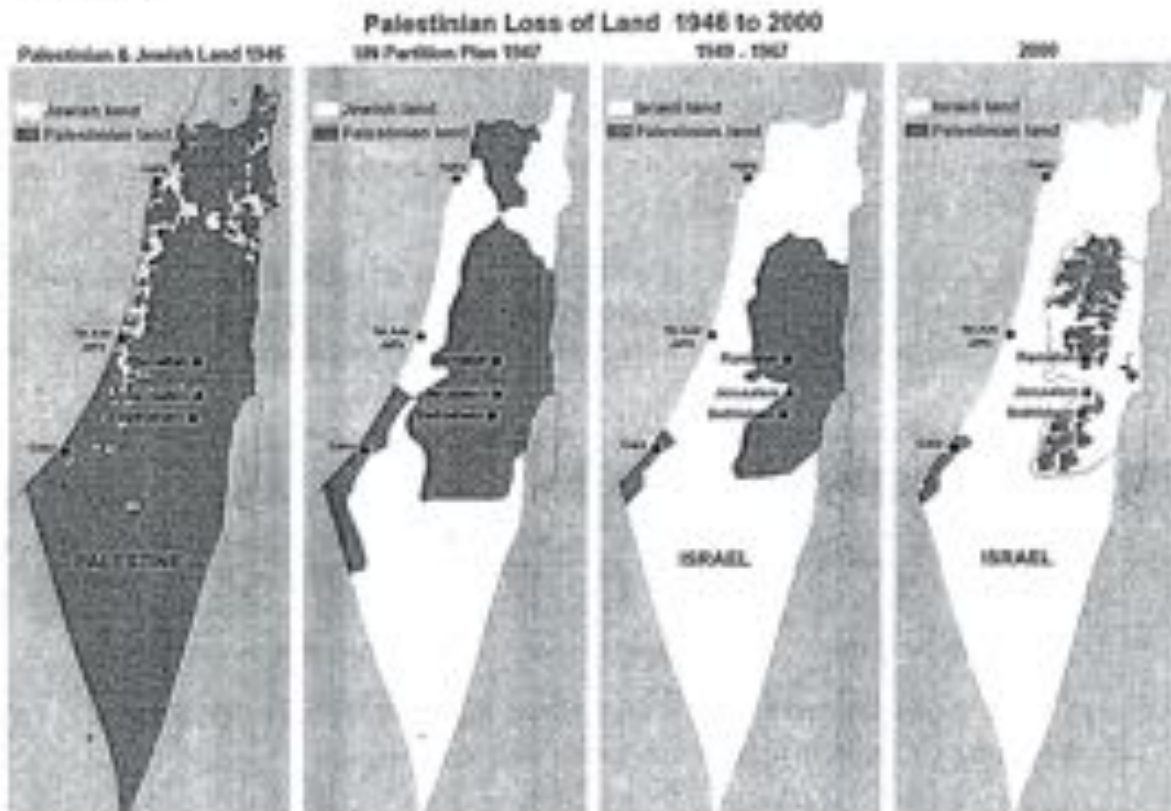
The Promised Land: Jews v Muslims

Goes back to the time of Abraham and who the land belonged to: Isaac? (Second born but legitimate) or Ishmael (First born but illegitimate)

After World War 1, the British issued the Balfour Declaration, essentially saying that once the countries of the Ottoman Empire were back on their feet, the Jewish people were to have a home in Palestine.

Religious places were to be accessible for all religions.

This British Mandate over Palestine ended in 1948, at which point, the state of Israel was declared.



ISLAM: Holy Books

Important points to note:

- Muslims believe the Qur'an is the actual words of Allah
- The word 'Qur'an' means RECITATION (in the belief that Muhammad recited the words to the Angel Jib'ra'il)
- The Qur'an was written down in one book within 20 years of Muhammad's death

Therefore, the message is less likely to have changed due to 'Chinese whispers'

THE QUR'AN

- Muslims believe the Qur'an should not be changed in any way because they are the words of Allah
- Muhammad wrote the original Qur'an in Arabic
- Muslims who do not speak Arabic may have translations, but readings during worship are always read in Arabic
- The Qur'an is treated with utmost respect - placed in the highest part of room when not in use so it can not be damaged accidentally
- Someone who can recite the whole Qur'an by heart is allowed to use the title HAFIZ as part of their name

CONTENTS OF THE QUR'AN

- Contains 114 chapters, called SURAHS
- They are different lengths
- The longest is surah 2, which has 286 verses
- All the surahs begin with "In the name of Allah, most gracious, most merciful)"
- Some surahs describe events and some give teachings

Except for surah 9

The teaching is very detailed as it tells Muslims how they should live

ISLAM & JUDAISM / CHRISTIANITY

- The Qur'an acknowledges the prophets of Judaism and Christianity
- The reason why Islam developed is that although the people had the teachings of these prophets, they kept forgetting what Allah was like
- Therefore, Allah chose Muhammad to be his prophet and gave him the Qur'an so they would not forget
- Muslims also acknowledge the scriptures of other religions and accepts they were give by God, but that they have been altered by human beings
- Only the Qur'an has been kept in its original form and so is truly the word of Allah
- In summary, Muslims believe that Islam completes what Judaism and Christianity started

THE HADITHS

- The Hadith is another important collection of teachings
- The Hadith contain the sayings of Muhammad
- They are used today to advise Muslims on how to act
- In society, a Muslim with a problem (not just in their faith) will look at the Hadith to find out what Muhammad said or did in a similar situation

ISLAM: LIFE AFTER DEATH

ANGELS

- Angels are God's servants who carry out his orders
- They brought the message to God's people, including Muhammad
- Other angels spend their time recording the deeds of humans

DEATH

- If possible, the last thing a Muslim says is the Shahadah *(the five pillars)*
- After death, the body is washed (by relatives) and wrapped in white sheets *3 for man 5 for woman*
- Muslims are buried (never cremated)
- The belief is that the body will be resurrected at the Day of Judgement
- Funerals should be simple
- Ideally, the body should be in contact with the earth, rather than a coffin
- After prayers, the body is buried with the head and right side facing Mecca
- The body should be buried within 24 hours
- *Seven days after burial, relatives visit the grave*

DAY OF JUDGEMENT

- All dead people will come to life and be questioned about their lives
- It will not be the effect of their actions that will count, but what they intended their actions should do
- When this happens, God will judge us
- He can forgive the wicked
- People earn this forgiveness through prayers and actions

THE WILL OF GOD

- Muslims believe that God is in control of all things
- Although he has complete knowledge of what will happen in the world, people still have choices to make
- As a result, people are responsible for their actions

LIFE AFTER DEATH

- Islam teaches that those who obey God will go to Paradise
- They will live forever a life of peace and happiness
- Those who disobey God will go to Hell, where life will be miserable
- No-one can say how God will judge anyone - some wrongdoers will be forgiven

Muhammad

When a muslim dies, Muhammad taught they left behind 3 gifts for those left behind.

- 1) Helpful possessions (hadiths)
- 2) Knowledge (Qur'an)
- 3) Example (how to worship, praise God, good actions)

• This way, those left behind have the dead person to thank.

ISLAM: Worship

THE FIVE PILLARS - the most important part of Muslim worship

- The pillars 'support' the religion in the same way a pillar supports a building

1) SHAHADA - Declaration of Faith

- The most important pillar
- Translates as "There is no other God but Allah and Muhammad is His messenger"
- This declaration also forms part of the Adhan prayer
- They are the words whispered into a newborn baby's ears so it is the first thing they hear
- They are also (if possible) the last words a person will say before they die
- This declaration is also said first thing in the morning and last thing at night (so it's a pretty important part of life)

The Adhan prayer is the one used to call Muslims to the mosque

2) SALAT - Prayer

- Should be done 5 times a day
- Men should go to mosque to pray if possible - especially on Friday noon prayers. Other times, men can pray in any clean place
- Whatever they are doing, when it comes to prayers, all Muslims should stop what they are doing and face Mecca

Rituals connected with Salat

- Before praying, Muslims wash all over
- This makes them fit to worship Allah, who is holy
- It also gives them time to get their brain out of whatever they were doing, ready for praying
- Washing is done in the same way every time so nothing is forgotten (a quick rinse of the face won't suffice!)
- This is the order, as set out by the Qur'an:
 - right hand to the wrist
 - left hand to the wrist
 - mouth
 - throat (by gargling) - this ensures the voice is clean to talk to God
 - nose
 - face
 - right arm (to the elbow)
 - left arm (to the elbow)
 - head (with a wet hand)
 - Ears
 - Feet (up to the ankles - right one first)

This is called wudu

- During the actual praying, Muslims do various movements at set times
- At the end of the set prayer, Muslims can add their own private prayers
- The person would stay in a kneeling position with their palms faced up
- Many Muslims wipe their hand over their face as a sign they have finished praying
- Du'a can be made at any time of day as well as at the end of a rak'ah (set prayer)

This is called rak'ah

This is called du'a

3) ZAKAH- Giving to charity

- Every year, Muslims are expected to give a certain amount to charity
- Money can be used for things that are not necessarily connected to Islam (like a hospital building)
- The amount is 2.5% a Muslim has received (but not spent) in a year - i.e. once all food, school, home, utility bills have been paid, the left-over (profit) should be used as the amount of which 2.5% is given
- Zakat is thought of as an offering to Allah
- Not to give Zakat would be seen as not doing their duty to poorer Muslims - and cheating Allah

4) SAWM - Fasting

- Sawm is fasting during the month of Ramadan
- During this time, Muslims must not eat or drink during daylight hours
- They believe it teaches them patience, and not to give up when things get difficult
- An important aim of Ramadan is also to make everyone equal - whether they are rich or poor
- Fasting begins at dawn so many will eat during the night
- At sunset, the fasting ends
- Muslims also tend to lead cleaner / purer lives during this month - no smoking or having sexual relations during the day
- Most will spend extra time reading the Qur'an and even spend every day in the mosque in the last 10 days (as a sort of retreat) - this is how Muhammad spent the last few days

The 9th month of the Islamic calendar

Muhammad taught that fasting was a way of showing submission to Allah

- If a Muslim breaks a fast for no good reason, they are expected to fast for an extra 60 days
- However, some Muslims believe that by doing an extra day to allow for that lapse of strength will suffice

Nearly 2 extra months!

Exceptions to Ramadan:

- Children under 12
- The very old (no indication of age given)
- Those who are on a journey (but should continue fasting on arrival and add on the days spent travelling)
- The sick (if someone is on long-term sick and can never fast, is it expected they should pay a sum of money equivalent to a meal for 60 people)
- A pregnant woman
- A woman on her period (but she should make up for the missed days later)

Muhammad taught that everyone who fasts gets 2 rewards:

- 1) The joy of being able to eat again
- 2) reward by Allah on the Day of Judgement

The end of Ramadan is broken with the festival Eid-ul-Fitr

5) HAJJ - PILGRIMAGE

Purpose is to "MEET" ALLAH

If completed correctly, they can be forgiven for any misdemeanours

- This is the annual trip to Mecca
- Every Muslims who can *afford* it should aim to visit Mecca at one point during their lifetime
- To be a true hajj, the trip should take place between 8 - 13 Dhul-Hijjah, the last month of the Muslim year

- If a Muslim visits Mecca outside of this time frame, the pilgrimage is called **UMRAH** and not so important
- Non-Muslims are not allowed into the holy city of Mecca

How Muslims live when on the Hajj

- The special state they are in is called **IHRAM**
- Muslims should not swear or quarrel
- Sexual relationships are totally forbidden even if husbands and wives are together
- As a sign of purity, women should not even cover their faces
- All men wear the same clothes - 2 sheets of white cotton - worn so everyone looks alike - idea of **EQUALITY**
- Men should not cover their heads, but may have an umbrella to protect them from the sun
- Women are not required to wear a particular outfit, except for a headscarf but the clothes must be simple
- Footwear is either non-existent or simple open-toed sandals
- No jewellery, perfume or scented-soap is worn

even if they do in normal life - i.e. not wear the niqab

The Hajj Itinerary

- 1) Visit the **Ka'bah** - cube shaped building 15m x 10m x 14m
 - Inside the Ka'bah is a room decorated with parts of the **QUR'an**
 - Muslims believe it is the oldest mosque, since it was built by Adam, the first man
 - It is covered by an embroidered black cloth that is replaced every year (as each year it is cut up and given to pilgrims as a souvenir)
 - There is also a black stone in the Ka'bah, thought to be the one given to Isma'il by the Angel Jibrail
 - Muslims walk around the Ka'bah 7 times
- 2) Prayers near the **Maqam Ibrahim** (Ibrahim's place, close to the Ka'bah).
- 3) Hurry 7 times between two small hills
 - This remembers how Ibrahim's wife, Hajar, ran between the 2 hills looking for water for her son Isma'il.

4) Collect water from the Well of Zamzam (in the courtyard of the Great Mosque) and collect some water to take home to family and friends.

5) On the 2/3rd day of the pilgrimage, Muslims will travel to the Plain of Arafat (20km from Mecca)

Called wuquf

- This is to stand before Allah
- They ask Allah to forgive them for their sins
- They stay here between midday and sunset to reflect and pray

This is the most important part of the pilgrimage.

6) Travel back to Muzdalifah in time for evening prayers.

7) On the morning of the 4th day of the hajj, the pilgrims go to Mina

- There are 3 stone pillars here

Pilgrims throw stones at them 7 times to remember how Ibrahim and his family drove out the devil who was tempting them

- After the first pillar has been stoned, an animal is sacrificed (as part of the festival Eid-ul-Adha).

8) Men will shave their heads at this point and women will cut off a lock of their hair. This is because Muhammad did.

9) Pilgrims get out of their special clothes and put normal ones on.

10) Camp at Mina for 3 days.

11) Travel back to Mecca and walk around the Ka'bah . They also drink as much water from the Well of Zamzam as they possibly can.

ISLAM: THE MOSQUE

OUTSIDE THE MOSQUE: All mosques have the following:

- A dome
- A minaret (tall tower)

There's usually at least 1, but some have up to 4

From here, the **adhan** prayer is called 5 times a day, usually through a loudspeaker

- Supply of water

Sometimes, this is in a courtyard with a pool or fountain

INSIDE THE MOSQUE: All mosques have the following:

- Beautiful decoration
- No seats (although the floor is carpeted or has special prayer mats)
- **Mihrab** (a small arch in one wall to show which direction is Mecca)
- **Minbar** (raised platform at the top of some stairs)

Never of people. Muhammad said these should be avoided in case people start to worship them

This is where the Imam will preach on a Friday

A quick note about Calligraphy - Islamic art

- Calligraphy is a writing but is so decorative that it forms patterns of its own
- It began when Muslims began copying the Qur'an
- To write the words was such an honour that Muslims wanted to write them as beautifully as they could
- Some of the most beautiful decoration is done in cloth or weaving
- Interestingly, anything woven by a Muslim has a deliberate mistake
- This is to avoid the weaving being perfect because only Allah can make something that is perfect
- Calligraphy is used to decorate mosques

Islam: Festivals

Id - ul - Fitr

- This festival ends Ramadan (month of fasting)
- Begins on the 1st day of the 10th month of the Muslim calendar
- Prior to this festival, Muslims observe Zakat-ul-Fitr (giving money to the poor)
- The amount given is usually what it costs to buy a meal for a family
- On the last night of Ramadan, most do not bother going to bed
- Instead they will go out and watch the new moon
- When the moon can be seen, the new month of Shawwal can begin (and so Ramadan can end and the festival begin)
- The first day of the festival begins with a light meal
- Many go to the mosque to pray
- Visits to friends and family take place
- Parties are a usual event (especially for children) and sweet / sugary foods are eaten
- It is also a time when presents are given
- Cards can be given to each other, with the common phrase "Id Mubarak!"

The idea is that everyone should have enough money to celebrate this festival, no matter how poor they are

Special prayers take place between dawn and noon whereby Muslims give thanks for a successful fast

Id - ul - Adha

- This festival takes place in the month of Dhul-Hijjah
- Although celebrated over the world, it is particularly special for those Muslims on the hajj
- The name translates as "Feast of Sacrifice"
- The event marks the time when Ibrahim (Abraham) was willing to sacrifice his son Isma'il (Ismail) but his son was replaced with a ram
- This story is especially important because it shows Ibrahim was willing to sacrifice the most important thing to him (his son) because Allah had told him

- On the morning of 10 Dhul-Hijjah, an animal is sacrificed (usually a sheep or goat)
- The animal is killed in a halal way
- The meat is shared out and one third is always given to the poor
- Again, presents are given and time is spent with family and friends
- This festival is longer than Id-ul-Fitr and is considered more important

The animal symbolises that its life is being given to Allah and that Muslims themselves are ready to give up everything for Allah

Other Festivals

LAYLAT - ul - QADR THE NIGHT OF POWER (27 Ramadan)

- This marks the time when Muhammad received the Qur'an from the Angel Jib'ra'il
- It is celebrated on the 27th but this is not a definite date of the actual time Muhammad saw the Angel Jib'ra'il
- It is celebrated by spending extra time reading the Qur'an and thinking about its importance in their lives

The site at which Muhammad is said to have gone to heaven is the mosque at the Dome of the Rock

THE NIGHT OF THE JOURNEY (27 Rajab)

- This marks the journey Muhammad made from Mecca to Jerusalem
- From Jerusalem, Muhammad was said to have gone up to heaven
- In heaven Allah is meant to have told Muhammad the importance of praying 5 times a day

Some Muslims think this was a vision rather than an actual event

A Point To Note

Although not all festivals are celebrated in the same way by all Muslims, they are all times at which families and friends get together.

Muslims believe strongly that festivals should be times of happiness and friendship where everyone is involved.

ISLAM: RITES OF PASSAGE

OCCASIONS FOR CHILDREN

BIRTH

- The belief is that life is a gift from Allah
- Once a baby is born, he (or she) is immediately washed
- The adhan prayer (call to prayer) is then whispered into their RIGHT ear
- The 'command to worship' is whispered into their LEFT ear
- Either the parents or eldest relative places a tiny piece of sugar or honey on the baby's tongue

This custom comes from the Hadith and is thought to make the child 'sweet' - kind and obedient

AQIQAH

- Takes place when the baby is 7 DAYS OLD
- A goat (or sheep) is sacrificed to give thanks to Allah for the baby's arrival
- At least a third is given to the poor
- Nowadays, an animal is not necessarily sacrificed, but a donation to the poor would be given instead
- The baby is given its name at this ceremony - usually one of the 99 names of Allah, for a boy, with the word 'abd' before it (e.g. Abdul)
- At the Aqiqah ceremony, the baby's head is shaved
- Olive oil is sometimes rubbed over the head
- The hair which has been cut off is weighed
- The value of an equal weight in SILVER is given to the poor
- Male babies are CIRCUMCISED soon after birth

'Abd' means Servant in Arabic so it is saying the child will be a servant of Allah

This is a symbol of cleanliness

The foreskin is removed from the end of the penis

THE MADRASAH

- From the age of 4 a child is expected to go to the MADRASAH regularly
- This is a special school held at the mosque
- Children learn to read and write Arabic and recite the Qur'an
- They are taught the correct way to pray and how to perform wudu

OCCASIONS FOR ADULTS

MARRIAGE

- Muslims are encouraged to marry
- Sexual relations outside of marriage is disapproved of very strongly
- Muslim marriages are often arranged (but not forced) - both partners have to agree before the marriage takes place
- The marriage ceremony **IS NOT RELIGIOUS** - it is a **LEGAL** one - the contract that both partners sign can contain any conditions (except those which go against the purpose of marriage e.g. not to live together)
- The groom gives the bride a gift of money which remains hers even if they divorce later (gold jewellery is also sometimes given)
- The Qur'an says that a man can have up to 4 wives, providing he can treat them the same
- In Muslims countries, some men have a second wife if the first one cannot have children, for example.
- This can only happen if the first wife agrees

Called promiscuity

Some cultures have forced marriages, but it is not what Islam says should happen

Called mahr

This is illegal though under British law

DIVORCE

- Divorce is strongly discouraged in Islam
- Often seen as a disgrace to families if a marriage breaks down
- If divorce cannot be avoided, Islamic law says a wife has the right to take all her belongings from the house
- Once divorce is final, her former husband has no further responsibility for her
- Muslims can marry again

The divorce process:

- A man must say to the woman "I divorce you" (in Arabic) 3 times - one month a part
- In each month, everything possible must be done to salvage the marriage
- A woman can divorce a man, but she must do it through the **SHARIAH COURT** (Islamic court)

DEATH

- If possible, the last thing a Muslim says is the Shahadah
- After death, the body is washed (by relatives) and wrapped in white sheets
- Muslims are buried (never cremated)
- The belief is that the body will be resurrected at the Day of Judgement
- Funerals should be simple
- Ideally, the body should be in contact with the earth, rather than a coffin
- After prayers, the body is buried with the head and right side facing Mecca
- The body should be buried within 24 hours

These are usually the shram sheets from the Hajj

To be buried without a coffin in Britain is illegal