

Why study Islam?

Islam is the second biggest religion worldwide and the fastest growing. It is also the second biggest religion in the UK and yet suffers from gross misrepresentation in the press around the world.

A Brief History of Islam

- 610 CE** Muhammad receives his first vision in a cave near Mecca
- 610-632 CE** Muhammad preaches
- 622 CE** Muslims flee to Medina
- 630 CE** Muslims capture Mecca
- 632 CE** Death of Muhammad

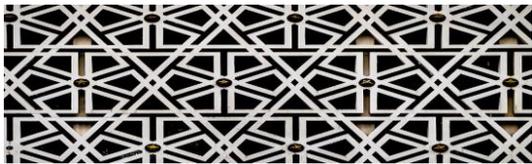
Key Quotes:

“He is God the One, God the eternal” Qur'an 112:1-4

“You who believe, obey God and the Messenger” Qur'an 4:59

“God does not change the condition of people [for the worse] unless they change what is in themselves” Qur'an 13:11

“Muhammad is not the father of any one of you men; he is God's messenger and the seal of the prophets: God knows everything” Qur'an 33:40



Key Vocabulary:

- Qur'an:** the holy book revealed to Muhammad by the angel Jibril; God's final revelation to humankind
- Sunnah:** the teaching and actions of Muhammad
- Sunni:** Muslims who believe that only God or Muhammad can make laws
- Shi'a:** Muslims who believe that Muhammad began a line of people who can make laws
- Jibril:** the Arabic name for Gabriel, the angel who brought God's message to the prophets, particularly Muhammad
- Mika'il:** the Arabic name for Michael, a merciful angel who rewards good deeds
- Day of Judgement:** a time when the world will end and every soul will be judged by Allah and either rewarded or punished
- Predestination:** the idea that Allah knows or decides everything that will happen in the universe
- Akhirah:** everlasting life after death
- Resurrection:** rising from the dead or returning to life
- Heaven:** the state of eternal happiness in the presence of Allah; also called paradise
- Hell:** the state of total separation from Allah
- Prophet:** a person who gives a message from God
- Risalah:** the belief that all prophets are an important form of communication between Allah and humans
- Prophethood:** when Allah makes someone a prophet to pass on his message
- Iblis:** Satan; a spiritual being created from fire, who was thrown out of paradise for refusing to bow to Adam
- Ibrahim:** the Arabic name for the prophet Abraham
- Ka'aba:** the black, cube building in the centre of the Grand Mosque in Makkah; the holiest place in Islam
- Id-ul-Adha:** a Muslim festival that celebrates the prophet Ibrahim's sacrifice to God
- Hajj:** the annual pilgrimage to Makkah that every Muslim should try to make once in their lives
- Caliph:** a person seen as a religious successor to Muhammad, the leader of the Sunni tradition
- Imam:** either a person who leads prayer or, in the Shi'a tradition, the title given to Ali and his successors
- Imamate:** the divine appointment of the Imams
- Torah:** five books revealed by God to Moses
- Gospel:** a holy book revealed by God to Jesus
- pbuh:** Praise be upon him / praise be upon her
- Islamaphobia:** a fear or suspicion of Muslims based on no fact or understanding
- Prejudice:** judging someone or a group of people before you know or understand about them