

Year 10 R, P&E: Topic 2 – Islamic Practices

The practices module looks at how Islamic beliefs are put into action by Muslims around the world. Active participation in the *ummah* (worldwide Muslim community) is vital to demonstrate core beliefs. The main way Muslims carry this out is through observance of the *Five Pillars of Islam*. These five obligations (duties) are expected of all those who follow the faith. The term “pillar” refers to the requirement of all five for a strong, stable and solid faith.

Key Quotes:

- **The Shahadah – “THERE IS NO GOD BUT ALLAH AND MUHAMMAD IS THE MESSENGER OF ALLAH”** (Shi'a Muslims also add “and Ali is the friend of God”)
- “You who believe, when you are about to pray, wash your faces and your hands up to the elbows, wipe your heads wash your feet up to the ankles and, if required was your whole body.” Qur'an 5:6
- “Alms are meant only for the poor, the needy, those who administer them, those whose hearts need winning over, to free slaves and help those in debt, for God's cause, and for travellers in need.” Qur'an 9:60
- “What will explain to you what the Night of Glory is? The Night of Glory is better than a thousand months.” Qur'an 97:2-3
- **This is My path, leading straight, so follow it**, and do not follow other wants; they will lead you away from it – ‘This is what He commands you to do, so that you may refrain from wrong-doing’” Qur'an 6:153

Key Vocabulary:

The Five Pillars: the five most important duties for all Muslims; to believe, to pray, to give to charity, to fast and to go on pilgrimage.

The Ten Obligatory Acts: ten important duties for Shi'a Muslims, which include the Five Pillars.

Shahadah: the Muslim declaration of faith.

Salah: prayer with and in worship of God, performed under conditions set by the prophet Muhammad

wudu: ritual washing before prayer

Mihrab: a niche in a wall that indicates the direction of Makkah

Qiblah wall: the wall in a mosque that contains the mihrab

Rak'ah: a sequence of movements in ritual prayer

Recitation: repeating a passage of text from memory

Prostration: kneeling with the forehead, nose, hands, knees and toes touching the floor, in submission to God.

Jummah prayer: a weekly communal prayer performed after midday on Friday, which includes a sermon.

Zakah: purification of wealth, by giving 2.5% of savings each year to the poor.

Sadaqah: good actions or voluntary payments that are undertaken for charitable reasons.

Khums: a 20% tax paid by Shi'a Muslims on their excess income.

Ramadan: the ninth month of the Muslim calendar, during which Muslims have to fast from dusk to sunset.

Fasting: not eating or drinking for a certain length of time, usually for a religious purpose.

The Night of Power: (1) the night when the first revelation of the Qur'an was made to Muhammad (2) the festival that marks the start of God's revelation to Muhammad.

Jihad: a struggle against evil, this may be an inward, personal struggle or an outward, collective struggle.

Greater jihad: the personal inward struggle of all Muslims to live in line with the teaching of their faith.

Lesser jihad: the outward struggle to defend one's faith, family and country from threat.

Holy war: fighting for a religious cause or God, probably controlled by a religious leader.