



Islam is the second largest religion in the world. It shapes the lives of millions and impacts the communities around it.

The story of Islam

Muslims believe that Abraham is the founder of Islam. Abraham is also the founder of Judaism and Christianity.

Muslims believe that the Torah (the Jewish Holy book) was changed over time so God sent his message again to a new prophet.

Muslims believe God sent his message to other prophets, such as Jesus, whose Holy Book was the Gospels.

Muslims believe that the Gospels were changed over time so God had to resend his message.

Muslims believe Muhammad was the final prophet God chose to deliver his message to.

The final message was written down and is known today as the Qur'an. Muslims believe that the words in the Qur'an have never been changed. There is no need for God to choose another prophet to deliver his message to, as God's message is on Earth in the form of the Qur'an.



The Five Pillars

The first 3 of the Five Pillars are:

1. The **Shahadah** is the declaration of faith. "There is no God but Allah, Muhammad is His messenger" summarises the core beliefs for Muslims, that they believe in one God and Muhammad was the final prophet. To become a Muslim, the Shahadah is said 3 times in front of 2 other Muslims.

2. **Salah** is the pillar of prayer. Muslims pray 5 times a day. Before Muslims pray they wash themselves in a ritual called Wudu. This washing process is completed because Muslims want to be clean in front of God before they pray to Him. All Muslims face the Ka'aba, a black building in Mecca, Saudi Arabia. In a Mosque, a Mihrab (an indentation in the wall) indicates which way Mecca is located.

3. **Zakah** is performed by all adult Muslims. Muslims give 2.5% of their money to charity (after bills have been paid.) Muslims are able to give more than 2.5% if they wish.

Key words and definitions

Islam	The name of the religion
Muslims	The name of the followers of Islam
Qur'an	The Holy Book. It is written in Arabic and is infallible (it has never been changed)
Allah	The Arabic word for God.
Muhammad (PBUH)	The final prophet
PBUH	Peace be upon him – a saying which shows you are respecting the prophets.
Mosque	A holy place of worship.
The Five Pillars	Five practices Muslims follow which shows dedication to their faith.
Shahadah	A declaration of faith which is recited by Muslims. "There is no God but Allah, Muhammad is His messenger"
Salah	Praying – Muslims pray 5 times a day
Sawm	Fasting (not eating or drinking during daylight hours) during the month of Ramadan.
Zakah	Giving 2.5% of wages to charity.
Hajj	A pilgrimage (religious journey) to Mecca.
Arabic	A language in which the Qur'an is written.
Prophet	A messenger chosen by God to deliver God's message.



The Five Pillars

The last two of the Five Pillars are:

4. Sawm is fasting during the month of Ramadan. Muslims do not eat or drink during daylight hours. Muslims do this to remember those who are less fortunate than themselves who often go hungry and to be thankful for what God has provided them with.

5. Hajj is a pilgrimage (religious journey) to Mecca, Saudi Arabia. Only Muslims can enter the city as it is a Holy place where Muhammad (PBUH) was born and the Qur'an was revealed on the Night of Power. Muslims take part in many rituals which strengthen their faith, such as circling the Ka'aba 7 times anti clock wise and throwing rocks at the Jamarat Pillars to signify warning off the devil.

Zakah is the compulsory giving of a set amount of a person's wealth to charity. Muslims believe it is a form of worship and a way to purify themselves. Zakah is the third Pillar of Islam. The benefits of Zakah, apart from helping the poor, are as follows:

- Obeying God
- Helping a person acknowledge that everything comes from God on loan and that we do not really own anything ourselves
- And since we cannot take anything with us when we die we need not cling to it
- Acknowledging that whether we are rich or poor is God's will
- Freeing oneself from the love of possessions and greed
- Freeing oneself from the love of money
- Freeing oneself from love of oneself
- Behaving honestly

In what ways are people motivated to act? What impact do these actions have? When people carry out actions for religious reasons, are their actions good?



Intrinsic Motivation: when people do something for the joy of doing it, or because they think it is right (a hobby).



Extrinsic Motivation: when people do something for an external reward or tangible result (doing work to get paid).

What is altruism?

Altruism is when a person carries out an un-selfish action. When a person does something for somebody else without getting anything in return.



Actions that are right and allowed according to Islam

Actions that are wrong and prohibited (not allowed) according to Islam e.g. eating pork, drinking alcohol

