

# GCSE Ethics and Society Islam – Living the Muslim Life

## Ten Obligatory Acts-

- Shi'a Muslims believe the Ten Obligatory Acts based on the Qur'an, the Hadith and the work of early Shi'a scholars.
- These principles are important for Shi'a Muslims because they show commitment to their faith through action, not just words.

## Shahadah-

- Shahadah is the first pillar of Islam, recited by Sunni and the Shi'a Muslims.
- Tawhid and Risalah are the two universal elements of the Shahadah.
- Shahadah is a testimony and commitment a Muslim's faith.

## Salah-

- Muslims believe worship is the purpose of human creation.
- Salah is a daily act of prayer and is the second pillar of Islam.
- Salah is mostly performed in the mosque and sometimes at home or work.

## Sawn

- Sawn is one of the pillars of Islam. All healthy Muslims, male and female, are required to fast during Ramadan.
- The primary aim of fasting is to become closer to Allah.
- The Night of Power was experienced by the Prophet Muhammad when he received the first of many revelations from Allah.
- Muslims also seek Laylat al-Qadr during the last ten days of Ramadan as a way of developing a closer relationship with Allah.

## Zakah and Khums-

- Zakah is one of the pillars of Islam. All Muslims must give 2.5 per cent of their annual savings if they meet the nisab
- Shi'a Muslims also pay Khums, fixed at 20 per cent, towards community causes.

## Hajj-

- Hajj is one of the Five Pillars of Islam.
- The pilgrimage is compulsory for those who are physically capable and can afford all the expenses.
- Though there are challenges in completing Hajj, it brings many benefits, such as the forgiveness of sins.

## Jihad-

- Jihad means to strive or to struggle.
- There are two types of jihad: greater jihad and lesser jihad.
- Greater jihad is about becoming a better person (e.g. praying); lesser jihad involves taking physical action to remove evil (e.g. fighting a war).
- Most Muslims believe greater jihad is more important than lesser jihad.

## Celebrations and Commemorations-

- All Muslims celebrate two main festivals- Id-ul-Adha and Id-ul-Fitr. Shi'a Muslims also have two additional commemorations, known as Id-ul-Ghadeer and Ashura.
- Muslim celebrations and commemorations honour people and events in the past.
- Their purpose is to make Muslims turn more to Allah in gratitude and prayer.

## Sources of Wisdom

1. "There is no God but Allah, and Muhammad is his messenger." The Shahadah
2. "Keep up the prayer: prayer restrains outrageous and unacceptable behaviour." Qur'an, Surah 29:45
3. "Fasting is prescribed for you." Qur'an, Surah 2:183
4. "Proclaim the Pilgrimage to all people." Qur'an, Surah 22:27
5. "You who believe, strive so you may prosper." Qur'an, Surah 5:35

## Key Terminology

1. **Adalat** Divine justice. Also known as adl
2. **Ahl ai-bayt** People of the Prophet Muhammad's house (family)
3. **Amr bil ma'roof** Encouraging good action.
4. **Apostacy** Leaving a religion
5. **Ashura** Shi'a commemoration of Imam Hussain's martyrdom
6. **Blasphemy** Offending religions belief
7. **Five Pillars** The most important duties of a Muslim known as Arkaan al-islam
8. **Greater jihad** Striving spiritually to resist evil within oneself
9. **Hajj** The pilgrimage made Muslims to Makkah
10. **I'tikaf** A period of retreat in the mosque during last ten days of Ramadan for worship
11. **Id-ul-Adha** Festival commemorating the devotion of Ibrahim and Isma'il
12. **Id-ul-Fitr** festival celebrated at the end of Ramadan
13. **Imam** Person who leads Salah
14. **Jihad** Struggling or striving
15. **Jummah prayer** Congregation held every Friday, usually in the mosque
16. **Khalifah** A religious leader (caliph) representing Allah or a prophet
17. **Khums** A system for Shi'a Muslims to pay an additional 20 percent of their savings towards community causes.
18. **Lesser jihad** Striving physically to resist an evil in the world
19. **Madinah Charter** A constitution or set of laws for the state Muhammad established in Madinah
20. **Nahi anil munkar** Discouraging evil actions
21. **Nisab** The amount of wealth above which a Muslim needs to pay Zakah
22. **Pilgrimage** A journey to a place which is special for religious disputes
23. **Rak'at** Set of movements and words in each Salah
24. **Ramadan** A month of fasting, one of the Pillars of Islam
25. **Sadaqah** Voluntary charity, not fixed at any rate
26. **Salah** The Muslim prayer
27. **Sawn** To keep away from something, also known as fasting
28. **Shahadah** Declaration of belief which Muslims are required to say
29. **Shirk** A sin that involves setting up equals to Allah, worshipping anyone or anything besides him.
30. **Sin** An action against Allah's will
31. **Tawaf** Anti-clockwise circuit of the Ka'ba completed seven times during Hajj.
32. **Tawrat** Torah
33. **Ten Obligatory Acts** The most important duties of a Shi'a Muslim
34. **Usul ad-Din** Name given to the principles of faith in Shi'a Islam.
35. **Wudu** Purification ritual to ensure one is clean before prayer
36. **Zakah** Literally 'purification' (of wealth), one of the pillars of Islam.