

# GCSE (9-1) Religious Studies B

Beliefs in Action



**Content Support: Paper 1C: Islam**

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Pearson Edexcel Level 1/Level 2 GCSE (9-1) in Religious Studies B (1RB0)

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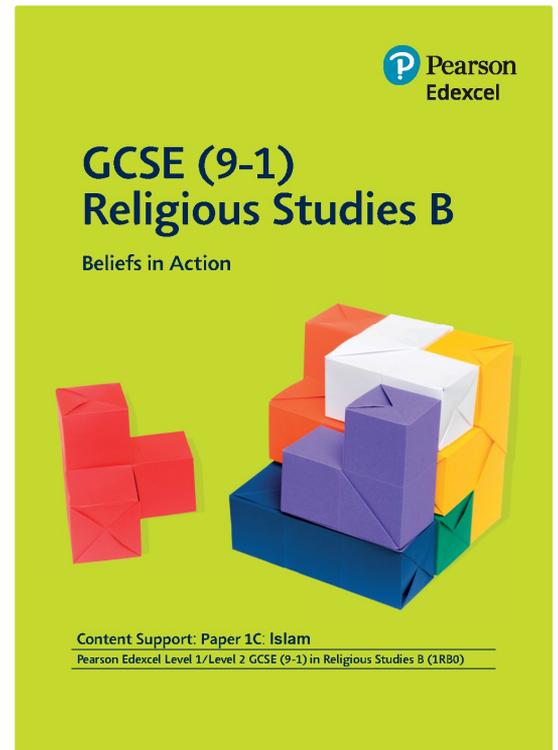
# GCSE Religious Studies B Content Support

## Paper 1C: Islam

### About this resource

This resource is designed to provide support on content covered in the GCSE Religious Studies B specification for Islam, Paper 1C: Religion and ethics. This area of study comprises an in-depth study of Islam as a lived religion within the United Kingdom and throughout the world, and its beliefs and teachings on life, specifically within families, and with regard to matters of life and death. There are four sections: Muslim Beliefs, Marriage and the Family, Living the Muslim Life and Matters of Life and Death.

This content can be found in the specification:  
<https://bit.ly/3SLnush>



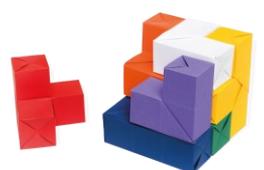
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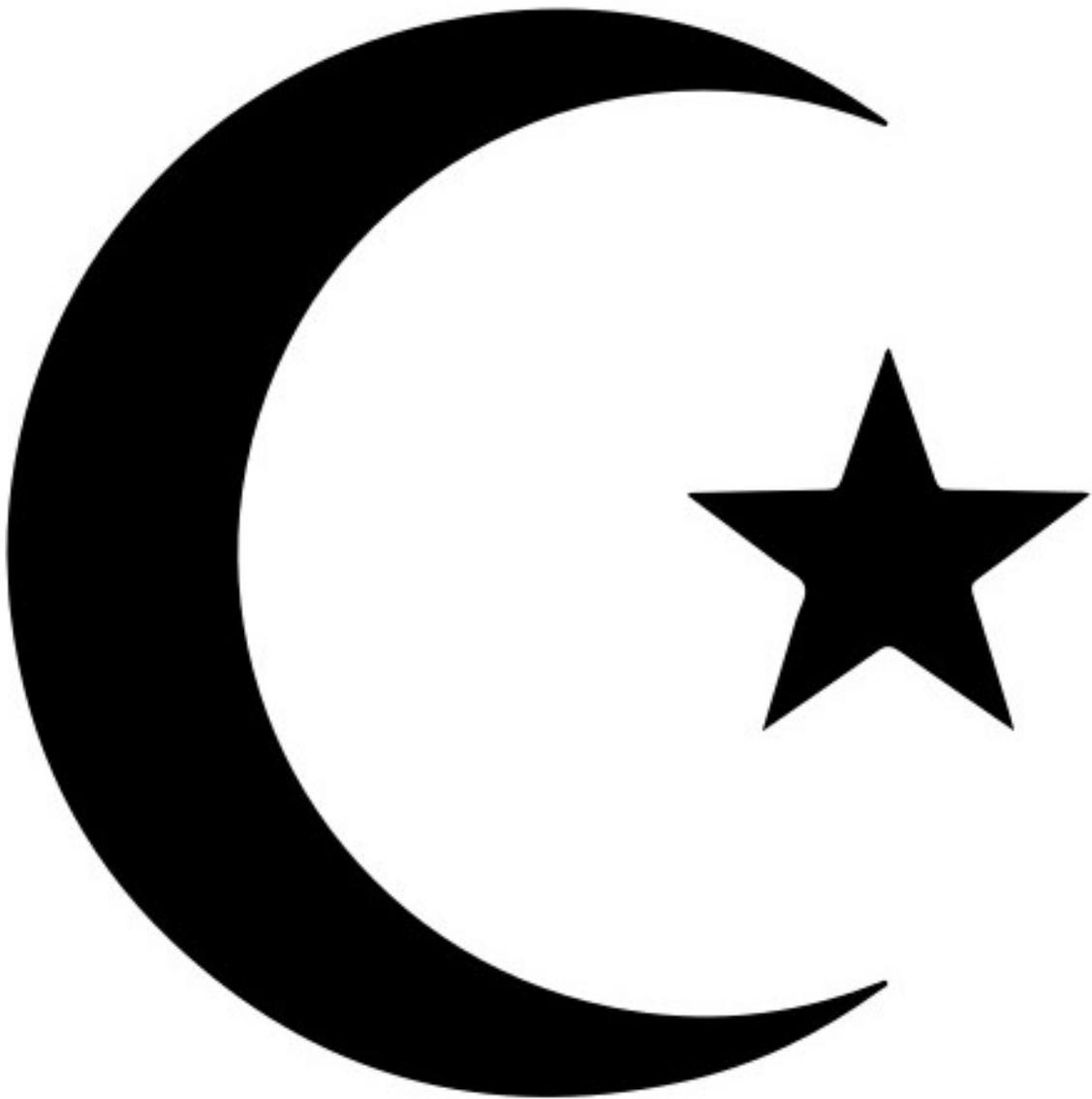
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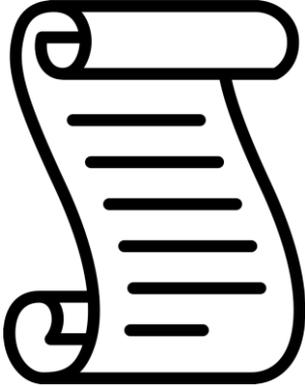


## Paper 1C: Islam

### Section 1: Muslim Beliefs



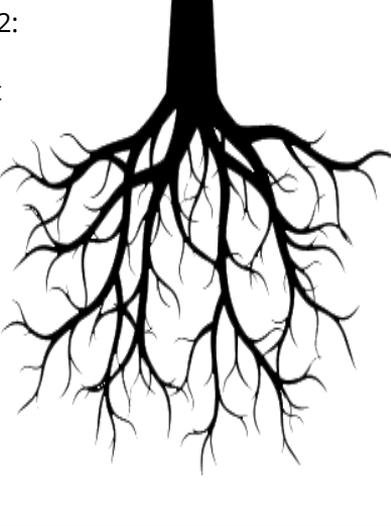
## 1.1: The Six Beliefs of Islam

<p><b>What are the Six Beliefs of Islam?</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Belief in the oneness of Allah (<b>Tawhid</b>), which is the most important belief.</li> <li>2. Belief in the existence of angels as messengers of Allah (<b>Malaikah</b>). They are created from light and don't have free will. They communicate messages from Allah to the prophets.</li> <li>3. Belief in the authority of holy books, e.g. the Qur'an, the Hadith, and other revealed books shared with the Abrahamic religions of Christianity and Judaism (<b>Kutub</b>).</li> <li>4. Belief in Allah's prophets, who are the link between Him and humans (<b>Risalah</b>). It is the Islamic term for prophethood and refers to the communication channel between Allah and humans.</li> <li>5. Belief in the Day of Judgement and the afterlife (<b>Akhirah</b>). On that day, humans will account for their actions and Allah will reward them with al-Jannah (Paradise) or will punish them in Jahannam (Hell).</li> <li>6. Belief in predestination/divine decree (<b>Al-Qadr</b>). Allah is all-knowing and knows what will happen.</li> </ol>	
<p><b>What is the nature of the Six Beliefs of Islam?</b></p>	<p>The Six Beliefs of Islam, known as the Articles of Faith, are found in the Kitab al-iman ('The Book of Faith'), written in the 13th century by Islamic scholar Ibn Taymiyya.</p> <p>It has been used by many Muslim scholars throughout history to understand and explain the key Islamic beliefs.</p>	
<p><b>What is the history of the Six Beliefs?</b></p>	<p>The Six Beliefs come from a Hadith about the Archangel Jibril. He asked Prophet Muhammad to summarise the Islamic faith, and Prophet Muhammad responded by listing these specific beliefs.</p>	
<p><b>How are the Six Beliefs of Islam understood and expressed in Sunni and Shi'a Muslim communities today?</b></p>	<p>The Six Beliefs of Islam are mainly used by Sunni Muslims. Shi'a Muslims accept the Six Beliefs of Islam but may have a different understanding of them. Some of the Six Beliefs from Sunni Muslims are shared beliefs with Shi'a Muslims, but sources of authority for Sunni and Shi'a Muslims are slightly different. Shi'a Muslims have a different summary of beliefs (the Five Roots of 'Usul ad-Din – see <b>point 1.2</b>).</p> <p>For example, the second root for Shi'a Muslims is Adalat, the idea that Allah is fair and just. Sunni Muslims accept this idea is important, but don't place the same emphasis on it as Shi'a Muslims.</p>	
<p><b>What is their importance and purpose for Muslims?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They summarise the shared beliefs of Islam and help Muslims understand their religion better.</li> <li>• They unite Sunni Muslims from all over the world and make them feel part of the same community (ummah).</li> <li>• They give direction and a reason for why Muslims behave and carry out their worship and practices.</li> </ul>	

### Sources of Wisdom and Authority

**The Six Beliefs of Islam:** "That you affirm your faith in Allah, His angels, His Books, His meeting, His Messengers and that you affirm your faith in the Resurrection hereafter." (Hadith of Prophet Muhammad - Kitab al-iman 1:4).

## 1.2: The Five Roots of 'Usul ad-Din in Shi'a Islam

<b>What are the Five Roots of 'Usul ad-Din?</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Oneness of Allah (<b>Tawhid</b>), stated clearly in Surah 112: Allah is the one and only God.</li><li>2. Divine Justice (<b>'Adl</b>). Allah acts in a fair and just way at all times.</li><li>3. Prophethood (<b>Nubuwwah</b>). Allah has appointed prophets and messengers to send his message to humanity.</li><li>4. Successors to Muhammad; Imams as a source of authority (<b>Imamah</b>). They were specially appointed by Allah.</li><li>5. The Day of Judgment and the Resurrection (<b>Mi'ad</b>). There will be a resurrection of soul and body and all humans will be judged.</li></ol>	
<b>What is the nature of the Five Roots of 'Usul ad-Din?</b>	The Five Roots of 'Usul ad-Din, also known as the Roots of Religion, are the key beliefs for Shi'a Muslims.	
<b>What is the history of the Five Roots of 'Usul ad-Din?</b>	<p>Shi'a Muslim scholars throughout history have used verses of the Qur'an and the Hadith to compile this list.</p> <p>These have been agreed upon by most Shi'a Muslims in order for their key beliefs to be summarised.</p>	
<b>What is the purpose of the Five Roots of 'Usul ad-Din?</b>	Their purpose is to help Shi'a Muslims understand the foundation and basis of their beliefs and practices, and to unite Shi'a Muslims as a community (ummah).	
<b>What is the importance of these principles for different Shi'a communities today?</b>	<p>They summarise the main beliefs of Shi'a Islam. They help Shi'a Muslims understand the meaning of life and how to understand Islam.</p> <p>They give a reason for why Shi'a Muslims carry out their worship and practices. Shi'a Muslims may understand Imamah differently. Twelver Shi'a Muslims believe Allah picked 12 Imams after the death of Muhammad, whereas Ismailis or Seveners believe in a different number of Imams.</p> <p>This is due to a difference of opinion on who the successor of the sixth Imam was, which caused divisions within Shi'a Muslims.</p>	

### Sources of Wisdom and Authority

**Tawhid:** Say "He is Allah, [who is] One, Allah, the Eternal Refuge. He neither begets nor is born, Nor is there to Him any equivalent." (Qur'an - Surah 112 - Al-Iklās).

### 1.3: The nature of Allah

<b>What are some of the characteristics of Allah?</b>	<p><b>Tawhid</b> - the main characteristic of Allah; it shows Muslims He is the one and only, unique God and cannot be given partners. Islam is a monotheistic religion.</p> <p><b>Transcendence</b> - Allah is beyond time and space. He can never be fully understood by humans.</p> <p><b>Immanence</b> - Allah is always with humans to help them and respond to their prayers.</p> <p><b>Omnipotence</b> - Allah is all-powerful. He is in control of everything that occurs. He has no weaknesses.</p> <p><b>Beneficence</b> - Allah is kind and all-loving.</p> <p><b>Mercy</b> - Allah forgives when people do wrong. He is compassionate and helps Muslims seek forgiveness.</p> <p><b>Fairness and Justice</b> - Allah will never treat any creature of His creation in a way that is unfair; everyone will get what they deserve, in this life as well as after death.</p> <p><b>Adalat</b> - 'Adl is one of the Five Roots of 'Usul ad-Din for Shi'a Muslims and reminds them to act justly towards others in the same way Allah is fair and just to His creation.</p>
<b>Why are these characteristics important?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• They are contained in the Qur'an, which is the holy book revealed to Muhammad, and so, Muslims believe Allah wants Muslims to know all these characteristics.</li><li>• They are accepted by everyone, and this brings the ummah (community) together, making Muslims share their beliefs.</li><li>• They help Muslims have more understanding of Allah and, therefore, allow them to be closer to Him.</li></ul>
<b>Why is understanding the nature of Allah important to Muslims?</b>	<p>So Muslims understand who they are worshipping. For example, during prayer, they would direct their worship towards Allah alone.</p> <p>The more Muslims understand Allah, the closer their relationship with Him becomes. For example, when understanding Allah's mercy, they would turn to Him for forgiveness.</p> <p>Belief in Allah is the foundation of all other beliefs. The other beliefs and practices that Muslims have come from belief in Allah.</p>

### Sources of Wisdom and Authority

**Tawhid:** "...If Allah had willed, we would not have worshipped anything other than Him...We certainly sent into every nation a messenger, [saying], 'Worship Allah and avoid Tāghūt.'" (Qur'an - Surah 16:35-36, an Nahl).

## 1.4: Risalah (prophethood)

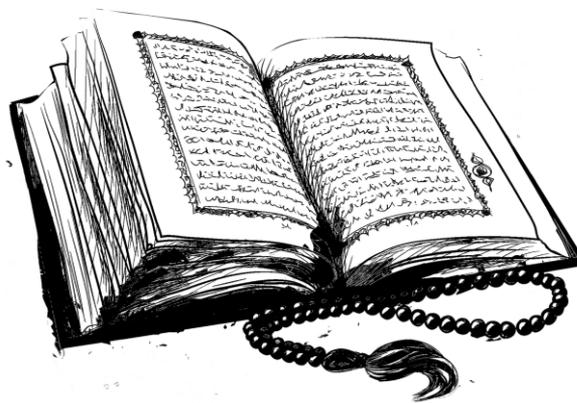
<p><b>What is the nature of Risalah (prophethood) for Muslims?</b></p>	<p><b>Risalah</b> means 'message' in Arabic. Muslims believe that Allah used prophets to communicate His message to people.</p> <p>The main role of each prophet was to teach people about worshipping <b>one</b> God (Tawhid) and living in a way that Allah wants. Most Muslims believe Allah sent 124,000 prophets, who travelled to every nation. All prophets shared the same beliefs but may have had different laws and practices.</p>
<p><b>What is the importance of Risalah (prophethood) for Muslims?</b></p>	<p>Prophethood is important to Muslims as it emphasises that Allah has sent guidance throughout history to different people. This shows Allah's justice for Muslims since Allah constantly has communicated to different prophets in order for people to worship Him.</p>
<p><b>What was the role of Prophet Adam?</b></p>	<p><b>Adam</b> is the first human created by Allah and is considered the first prophet by Muslims. Allah gave him the role of <b>khalifah</b> (Arabic word that means 'steward' or 'vicegerent').</p> <p>Adam's role was to look after the world. Adam was married to Hawwa, and they were both put on the Earth after being deceived by Shaytan into eating from the forbidden tree. He taught humans how to repent, how to seek for Allah's forgiveness.</p>
<p><b>What were the roles of Prophet Ibrahim and Isma'il?</b></p>	<p>Ibrahim was one of the most important prophets, as he was raised in a pagan environment but understood that there is only one God. He had his faith tested by Allah, who asked him to sacrifice his son, Isma'il; a test that he passed. This teaches Muslims to be prepared to submit to Allah. Muslims believe that Isma'il built the <b>Ka'ba</b>, the sacred shrine, in Makkah, which all Muslims face when they pray.</p> <p>Ibrahim and Isma'il are both commemorated during Hajj and on Id-ul-Adha.</p>
<p><b>What was the role of Prophet Musa?</b></p>	<p>Musa was commanded by Allah to tell the Pharaoh of Egypt and his people to worship Allah and to stop worshipping idols. He performed miracles which included the Parting of the Red Sea.</p> <p>His main role was to teach and practise the religion of his ancestors, confirming the scriptures and prophets who came before him.</p>
<p><b>What was the role of Prophet Dawud?</b></p>	<p>Dawud was a righteous king known for defeating the giant Jalut. Dawud also received the divine revelation of the Zabur, one of the holy books of Islam, which contains poetic prayers of praise for Allah, recited by Dawud. These Psalms of Dawud are referred to in the Qur'an as having been revealed to him by Allah.</p>
<p><b>What was the role of Prophet Isa?</b></p>	<p>Isa is one of the most influential prophets in Islam and his stories from the Gospels are understood, although not all stories are accepted by Muslims as true. Muslims believe that he was born miraculously to Maryam, who was a virgin. However, most Muslims do not believe that Isa was killed on a cross and resurrected; Muslims do not believe in Isa's divinity as Christians do. Muslims view him as a human being only. That is why in Islam Isa is known as the 'son of Mary' rather than the 'son of God'.</p> <p>The Qur'an refers to Isa as the Messenger of Allah. It is believed he will return before Judgement Day.</p>
<p><b>What was the role of Prophet Muhammad?</b></p>	<p>Muhammad is the founder of Islam and is considered the final prophet (he is known as the 'Seal of the Prophets') who was given the final revelation (the Qur'an). Muslims accept that the Qur'an is the complete message from Allah to humanity.</p> <p>Muhammad's example (<b>Sunnah</b>) is something Muslims try to follow in their daily lives.</p>

### Sources of Wisdom and Authority

**Risalah:** "We have believed in Allah and what has been revealed to us and what has been revealed to Abraham and Ishmael and Isaac and Jacob and the Descendants...and what was given to Moses and Jesus and what was given to the prophets from their Lord. We make no distinction between any of them." (Qur'an – Surah 2:136 – al-Baqarah).

## 1.5: Kutub (Muslim holy books)

**What are the Kutub and their history?**



**Qur'an** – The Arabic word Qur'an means 'recitation'. It is the main holy book for Muslims. Its messages were revealed to Prophet Muhammad by the Archangel Jibril in a cave on Mount Hira, over a period of 23 years. It is considered the final revelation and the main source of wisdom and authority for Muslims.

**The Tawrat (Torah)** - revealed to Prophet Musa. Contains laws that the followers of Musa had to live by.

**Zabur (Psalms of Dawud)** - revealed to Prophet Dawud. It contains poetic prayers of praise for Allah recited by Dawud.

**Injil (Gospel of Isa)** - revealed to Prophet Isa. Believed to contain the teachings of Isa, including Muhammad's upcoming prophecy.

**Sahifah of Ibrahim (Scrolls)** - revealed to Prophet Ibrahim which were written down by him and his followers.

**What are their significance?**

The Kutub are significant since they show Muslims that Allah communicated with humans throughout history. They also show the importance of the role of specific prophets who were given these.

**What are their purpose?**

The purpose of Kutub is to provide guidance for Muslims, particularly the Qur'an. They allow Muslims to learn about stories of the past prophets and what Allah expects from them.

**What are the different Muslim views about the importance of the holy books?**

Muslims believe that all the Kutub were revealed by Allah to certain prophets. The Qur'an is considered to be the only one that has no errors. The Kutub before the Qur'an are believed to have either been lost or that their original teachings or words have been modified. Some Muslims may accept some aspects of the Kutub before the Qur'an if they are in line with Islamic teachings.

### Sources of Wisdom and Authority

**Qur'an:** "It is not but a revelation revealed. Taught to him by one intense in strength [i.e. Gabriel]. One of soundness. And he rose to [his] true form...And he revealed to His Servant what he revealed [i.e. conveyed]. The heart did not lie [about] what it saw...He certainly saw of the greatest signs of his Lord." (Qur'an – Surah 53:4-18 – an-Najm).

**Tawrat (Torah):** "...how is it that they come to you for judgement while they have the Torah, in which is the judgement of Allah?  
We sent down the Torah, in which was guidance and light...And We have revealed to you, [O Muhammad], the Book [i.e. the Qur'an] in truth, confirming that which preceded it of the Scripture and as a criterion over it." (Qur'an – Surah 5:43-48 – Al Mā'ida).

**Zabur (Psalms):** "and to David We gave the book [of Psalms]." (Qur'an – Surah 4:163-171 – an-Nisā).

## 1.6: Malaikah (Belief in Angels)

<p><b>What is the nature of angels?</b></p>	<p>This is the Arabic word for '<b>angels</b>' in the Qur'an. Angels are believed to be special creations of Allah that are created from light. They cannot sin as they don't have free will. They follow the orders of Allah and communicate Allah's message to humanity.</p>	
<p><b>What is the importance of angels?</b></p>	<p>Angels are important due to their different roles. They are used by Allah to perform specific duties that ensures the universe works the way Allah intends. Some angels are given higher ranks (they are known as <b>archangels</b>). Three archangels are: <b>Jibril</b>, <b>Izra'il</b> and <b>Mika'il</b>.</p>	
<p><b>What is the role of Archangel Jibril?</b></p>	<p>He is the Angel of Revelation – Jibril communicated Allah's messages to specific people; he revealed the holy books to specific prophets, e.g. he revealed the Qur'an to Muhammad.</p>	
<p><b>What is the role of Archangel Izra'il?</b></p>	<p>He is the Angel of Death – takes the soul from humans at the point of death at the appointed time.</p>	
<p><b>What is the role of Archangel Mika'il?</b></p>	<p>He is the Angel of Mercy – friend to humanity who provides rain, gives rewards for good deeds and prays for humans to be forgiven.</p>	
<p><b>Why is belief in Malaikah significant for Muslims today?</b></p>	<p>Angels are the bridge between Allah and the Prophets and, thanks to them, Muslims received the word of Allah, e.g. thanks to Jibril, the Qur'an was written.</p> <p>Angels such as Izra'il and Mika'il influence how Muslims live, as these angels remind Muslims of the importance of living as Allah wants them to, in order to be rewarded after death.</p>	

### Sources of Wisdom and Authority

**Izra'il:** "Say, The angel of death will take you who has been entrusted with you. Then to your Lord you will be returned."(Qur'an, Surah 19, 32:11 – As Sajdah).

**Jibril and Mika'il:** Say, "Whoever is an enemy to Gabriel – it is [none but] he who has brought it [i.e. the Qur'an] down upon your heart, [O Muhammad], by permission of Allah, confirming that which was before it and as guidance and good tidings for the believers. Whoever is an enemy to Allah and His angels and His messengers and Gabriel and Michael – then indeed, Allah is an enemy to the disbelievers."(Qur'an, Surah 2:97-98 – al-Baqarah).

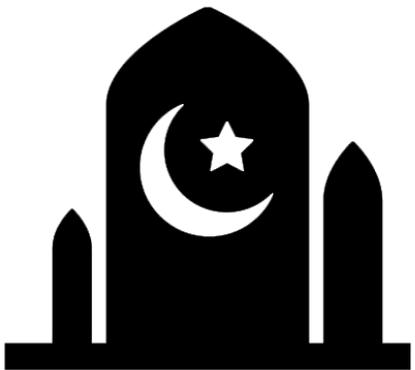
## 1.7: Al-Qadr (predestination)

<b>What is the nature of Predestination for Muslims?</b>	<b>Al-Qadr</b> (predestination) is the idea that Allah is all-knowing; He knows everything and has control over everything, including all future events. Its nature has been debated by Muslims throughout history, which means there are different understandings of it.
<b>What is the importance of Predestination for Muslims?</b>	Predestination is important for Muslims as they believe everything that takes place is due to Allah's permission. This highlights Allah's omnipotence and omniscience (all-knowing). Predestination also affects how Muslims view life after death, in particular the Day of Judgement.
<b>How does al-Qadr and human freedom relate to the Day of Judgement?</b>	For Muslims, life is a test from Allah. This means all humans have free will to make their own decisions. On the Day of Judgement, Allah will reward and punish people according to the actions they chose to do themselves. This is because Allah is fair and just.
<b>What are the different understandings of predestination in Sunni and Shi'a Islam?</b>	<p>All Muslims believe Allah has given humans free will. However, Muslims have different views on the limits of free will.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Some Sunni Muslims believe humans have total free will to create their own actions.</li><li>• Some Sunni Muslims believe humans have some freedom of action but total freedom of thought. Only Allah has the power to create actions.</li><li>• Most Shi'a Muslims believe that Allah knows what will happen, but this does not mean that He interferes. Allah doesn't want people to make the wrong decisions, but He accepts that this needs to happen sometimes, in order for humans to have free will. Allah knows what people will do but they still have the free will to make all choices for themselves.</li></ul>
<b>How does belief in al-Qadr affect Muslims today?</b>	Muslims would trust that Allah has a plan for them if things do not go their way or if experiencing suffering. When making plans for the future, they would say <b>'insha'Allah'</b> (if Allah wills) to emphasise that nothing ever happens without Allah's permission.

## Sources of Wisdom and Authority

**Al-Qadr:** "Allah says: 'The vow, does not bring about for the son of Adam anything I have not decreed for him, but his vow may coincide with what has been decided for him, and by this way I cause a miser to spend of his wealth. So he gives Me (spends in charity) for the fulfillment of what has been decreed for him what he would not give Me before but for his vow.'" (Hadith of Prophet Muhammad - Sahih Al-Bukhari 78:685).

## 1.8: Akhirah (life after death)\*

<b>What are Muslim teachings about Akhirah (life after death)?</b>	<p>Muslims believe that life on this Earth is temporary, and death is the pathway to a life that is eternal; death is not the end.</p> <p>How someone behaved in this life will determine what will happen in the life after death. Muslims believe everyone goes through different stages after death until they reach their final destination.</p> <p>These stages include judgement, and paradise or hell.</p>	
<b>What are Muslim teachings about the nature of judgement?</b>	<p>Muslims believe that every single human will be resurrected on the Day of Judgement.</p> <p>Allah will judge each individual fairly, with justice, based on how they lived their life on Earth. This judgement will decide if a person ends up in paradise <b>Al Jannah</b> (Paradise) or <b>Jahannam</b> (Hell).</p>	
<b>What are Muslim teachings about Paradise and Hell?</b>	<p>Muslims believe Paradise is the final resting place for those who have submitted to Allah. It is described as a place of peace where those who live there are close to Allah.</p> <p>Muslims believe Hell is a place of eternal punishment for those who were evil. It is described as a place that is far from Allah where there is endless physical and mental suffering.</p>	
<b>How do teachings about life after death affect the life of a Muslim?</b>	<p><b>Akhirah</b> is a belief that affects Muslims' lives in many ways. Muslims try to perform good deeds to please Allah and avoid sinful behaviour that displeases Him. They would think about Allah before performing any action, because they believe life is a test from Allah.</p> <p>Muslims know that death is not the end, and they try to prepare for life after death by performing sacred duties, like reading the Qur'an and caring for those around them. They know that every action should be an act of worship to Allah, as these will lead them to a place of eternal reward.</p>	

## Sources of Wisdom and Authority

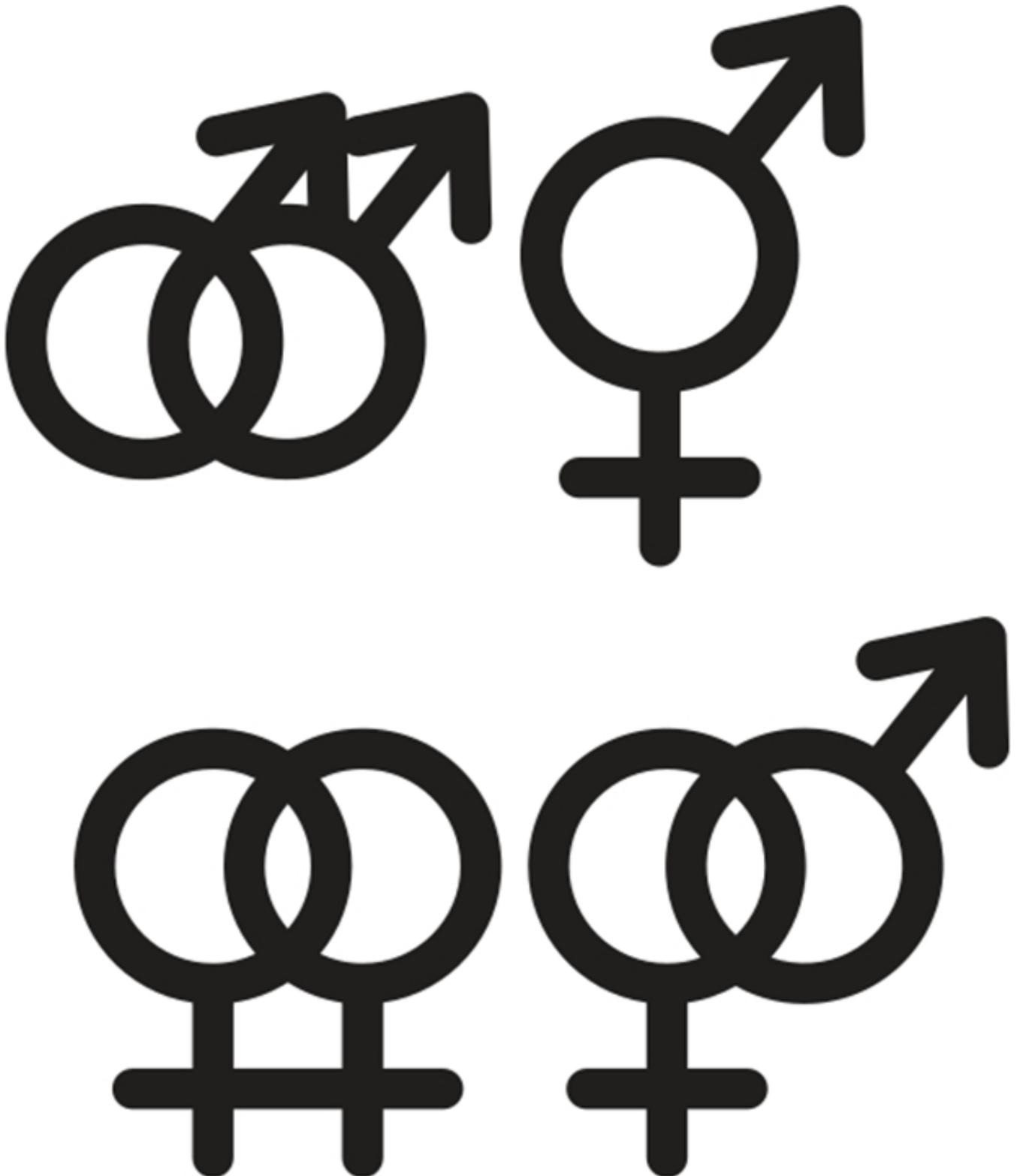
**Life After Death:** "And whoever is blind in this [life] will be blind in the Hereafter and more astray in way." (Qur'an, Surah 17:72 – al Isrā').

**Judgement:** "...And they will say, Who will restore us?...He who brought you forth the first time..." (Qur'an Surah 17:51 – al Isrā').

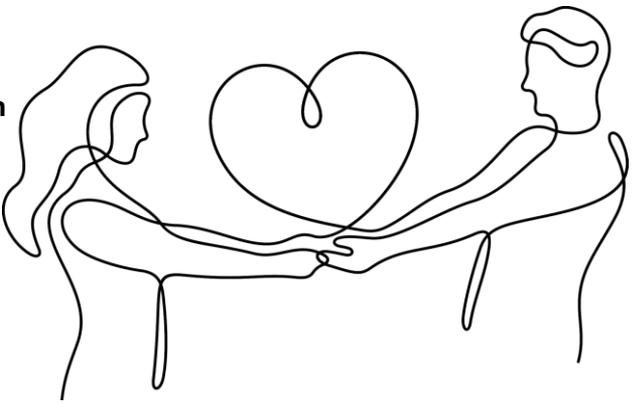
**Paradise and hell:** "...If He wills, He will have mercy upon you; or if He wills, He will punish you..." (Qur'an Surah 17:54 – al Isrā').

**Paper 1C: Islam**

**Section 2: Marriage and the Family**



## 2.1: The importance and purpose of marriage in Islam

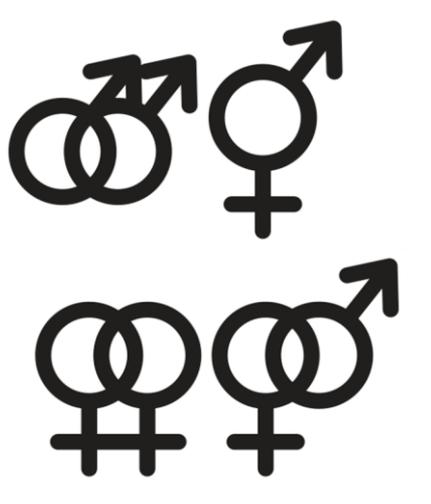
<b>What is the significance and importance of marriage in Muslim life?</b>	<p>All Muslims are strongly encouraged to get married.</p> <p>Marriage is important since it is a <b>Sunnah</b> of Prophet Muhammad which is an example that should be followed.</p> <p>It also allows Muslims to have a sexual relationship in a way that Allah sees as acceptable.</p>	
<b>What is the purpose of marriage in Muslim life?</b>	<p>Marriage gives the opportunity for procreation and for a married couple to grow closer to Allah together. When a couple gets married, it can bring two families closer together which strengthens the ummah.</p>	
<b>What are Muslim teachings about marriage?</b>	<p>Muslims are encouraged to act and dress modestly in order to be respectful. Most Muslims believe that marriage can only take place between a male and female who are mentally and physically ready to give consent.</p> <p>Most Muslims believe that a Muslim man may marry a Muslim, Jewish or Christian woman, but a Muslim woman may only marry a Muslim man.</p>	
<b>What are the Muslim responses to non-religious attitudes about the importance of marriage in society?</b>	<p>Some non-religious people view marriage as something that is not important, and they do accept cohabitation. However, most Muslims would disagree and respond that marriage is important since it is heavily encouraged by Allah, and Prophet Muhammad did get married.</p> <p>Most Muslims would reject cohabitation as an alternative to marriage since a sexual relationship can only take place between a man and woman in a relationship that is recognised by Allah, e.g. marriage.</p>	

## Sources of Wisdom and Authority

**Marriage:** "O mankind, fear your Lord, who created you from one soul and created from it its mate and dispersed from both of them many men and women." (Qur'an, Surah 4:1 – an-Nisā).

**Chastity and Modesty:** "Tell the believing men to reduce [some] of their vision and guard their private parts... And tell the believing women to reduce [some] of their vision and guard their private parts and not expose their adornment [i.e. beauty] except that which [necessarily] appears thereof." (Qur'an, Surah 24:30–31 – an-Nūr).

## 2.2: Muslim teaching about the importance of sexual relationships

<p><b>What are Muslim teachings about the importance of sexual relationships?</b></p>	<p>Muslims accept that Allah created humans with different desires, which include sexual desires, that should be fulfilled in a way that Islam accepts.</p> <p>Most Muslims believe that this should be done only within marriage. Sexual relationships within marriage can help bring love between a married couple.</p>	
<p><b>What are the different Muslim teachings about sexual relationships fulfilling needs?</b></p>	<p>Sexual relationships within marriage fulfil physical needs such as sexual desires that humans have. They also fulfil emotional needs as it makes the couple involved feel love from one another.</p> <p>They also fulfil spiritual needs since they bring a married couple closer together and closer to Allah, as it is done in a way that Allah accepts.</p>	
<p><b>What are Muslim teachings on sexual relationships outside of marriage?</b></p>	<p>Most Muslims believe sexual relationships can only happen within marriage.</p> <p>They are encouraged to remain celibate until their marriage and they are expected to have a sexual relationship with only their husband or wife during this marriage. Anything outside this would be seen as sinful since it goes against the laws of Allah.</p>	
<p><b>What are Muslim teachings on same-sex relationships?</b></p>	<p>Most Muslims believe that any sexual relationship must take place between a married man and a woman. Since the Islamic marriage contract can take place only between man and woman, a homosexual relationship would not be recognised under Islamic law.</p> <p>Most Muslims may accept that <b>same-sex relationships</b>, e.g. same-sex sexual attraction is not sinful but acting upon this, i.e. being in a same-sex relationship is.</p>	
<p><b>What are the Muslim responses to non-religious attitudes about sexual relationships?</b></p>	<p>Some non-religious people may accept sexual relationships outside of marriage and same-sex relationships as long as those involved are consenting and there is no harm done.</p> <p>However, most Muslims would disagree and respond that the only recognised relationship by Allah is between a man and a woman in a marriage. This would mean sexual relationships outside of marriage and same-sex relationships aren't accepted.</p>	

### Sources of Wisdom and Authority

**Sexual Relationships Outside of Marriage:** "And they who guard their private parts. Except from their wives or those their right hands possess, for indeed, they will not be blamed – But whoever seeks beyond that, then those are the transgressors." (Qur'an, Surah 23:5-7 al-Mu'minūn).

## 2.3: Muslim teaching about the purpose and importance of the family

**What are Muslim teachings about the purpose of families?**

Muslims believe the purpose of having a family is to have a strong relationship built on love, forgiveness and mercy.

Another purpose is to teach children the value of respect, which parents do by respecting their own parents and by not neglecting them, especially when they are at an old age.

Parents should also teach their children Islamic practices and good manners so that they grow up to be good Muslims.



**What are Muslim teachings about procreation and the strengthening of the ummah?**

Muslim married couples are encouraged to procreate so that the teachings of Islam can be passed on to the next generation.

This would help the ummah have a strong foundation.

**What are different Muslim responses to the different types of family within 21st-century society?**

**Nuclear** - most Muslims would see this as the ideal type of family as it allows a mother and father to support each other in raising their children.

**Single parent** - if someone is divorced or widowed with children, Muslims are expected to support those in this situation so that the parent and children are cared for.

**Same-sex parents** - most Muslims would not see this as an ideal family since same-sex relationships are not recognised in Islamic law.

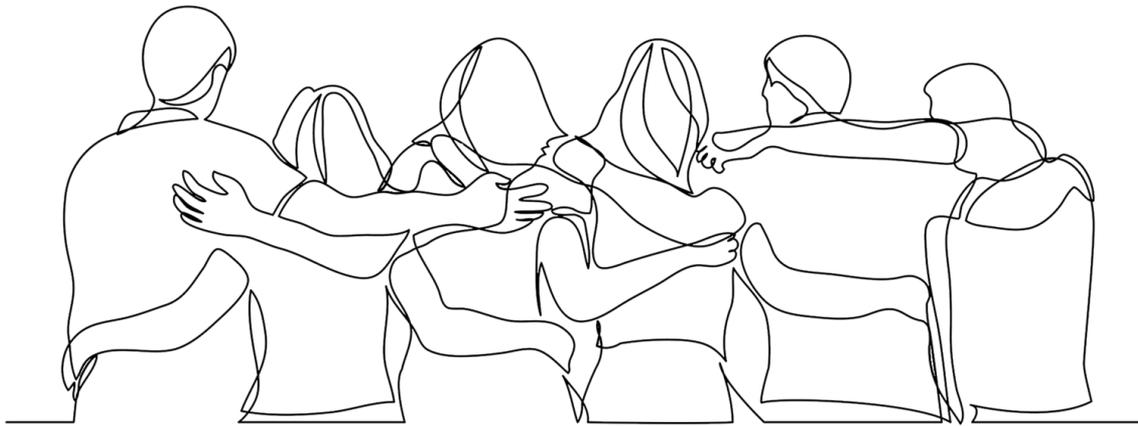
**Extended** - most Muslims would accept this type of family since it offers extra support and encourages strong relationships between all blood relatives.

**Blended** - step-parents are expected to treat their children as if they were their own.

### Sources of Wisdom and Authority

**Treatment of Parents:** "And We have enjoined upon man, to his parents, good treatment. His mother carried him with hardship and gave birth to him with hardship..." (Qur'an, Surah – 46:15 – al-Ahqāf ).

## 2.4: Support for the family in the ummah



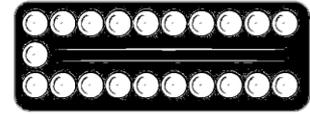
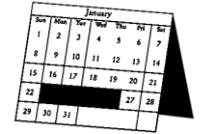
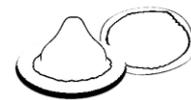
<p><b>Why does the community try to support families?</b></p>	<p>The community (or <b>ummah</b>) tries to support families since Muslims believe that every single Muslim is a part of the ummah. This means that Muslims should be concerned about other Muslims, whether they live local to them or in another country.</p> <p>Any family that is in need should be supported by the ummah in any way possible.</p>
<p><b>How does the community try to support families?</b></p>	<p><b>Worship</b> - the ummah can pray to Allah to help families who need support. They can also offer charity (e.g. zakah) for families who are struggling financially.</p> <p><b>Rites of passage</b> - the ummah can help support single Muslims in getting married. When a Muslim dies, they support through attending the funeral prayer and helping with the burial.</p> <p><b>Classes for parents</b> - many mosques offer parenting classes to support parents in how to raise their children.</p> <p><b>Groups for children</b> - many families send their children to the mosque to learn Arabic, how to recite the Qur'an and other important aspects of Islam.</p> <p><b>Counselling</b> - qualified Muslims can offer fellow Muslims mental health support and guidance.</p>
<p><b>What are the different understandings of the importance of the support for Muslims today and how it might strengthen the ummah?</b></p>	<p>Islam is a religion that has a strong social element. This means that Muslims are not just expected to care for themselves and worship privately. Since the ummah are connected, Muslims are expected to care for others and support those who are in need. This support can be in many forms: financial, spiritual, emotional, moral, professional, etc.</p> <p>Different Muslims communities, such as Sunni and Shi'a, can also support one another. Some Muslims consider all humans, not just Muslims, as part of the ummah.</p>

### Sources of Wisdom and Authority

**Unity of Ummah:** "And hold firmly to the rope of Allah all together and do not become divided..." (Qur'an, Surah 3:103 – Āli 'Imrān).

## 2.5: Muslim teaching on contraception

<p><b>What are the Muslim teachings towards contraception and family planning?</b></p>	<p><b>Contraception</b> is the deliberate use of artificial and natural methods to prevent pregnancy. Natural methods (e.g. withdrawal) and artificial methods of contraception (e.g. condom, contraceptive pill, implant) are considered acceptable forms of contraception by many Muslims.</p> <p>Some Muslims believe that not all contraception is allowed since the purpose of sex is procreation and contraception stops this. Allah has control over birth whether contraception is used or not.</p>
<p><b>What are the Muslim attitudes towards contraception and family planning?</b></p>	<p>Even though procreation is encouraged, most Muslims accept the use of contraception within marriage, as long as it doesn't harm anyone's health and a couple doesn't permanently put off having children. Muslims are expected to eventually start a family and raise children. Others are against it and discourage its use.</p>
<p><b>What are the Muslim responses to non-religious attitudes to family planning?</b></p>	<p>Some non-religious people may argue that all forms of contraception can be used; it is the choice of the couple, particularly the woman. Contraception can also be used in a relationship outside of marriage, i.e. cohabitation.</p> <p>Most Muslims would respond by saying that contraception can only be used within marriage. Contraceptives such as the morning-after pill would not be accepted by most Muslims since it might terminate an already fertilised egg, whereas other forms that are allowed prevent fertilisation.</p>
<p><b>What are the Muslim responses to the application of ethical theories to family planning?</b></p>	<p>The theory of situation ethics suggests we should do the most loving thing in each situation. When applied to contraception, if using contraceptives is the most loving thing to do, they can be used.</p> <p>For example, if someone cannot afford to have a child, using contraceptives would be the most loving thing to do. Muslims would not use this to guide their decision on contraception. Instead, they would try to follow Islamic law that comes from the Qur'an and Sunnah when deciding on using contraception.</p>

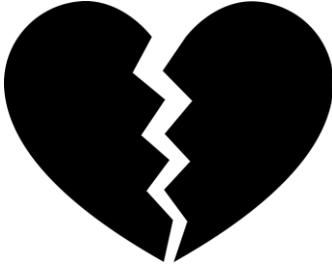


### Sources of Wisdom and Authority

**Against Contraception:** "Do you really do that (withdrawal method)? It is better for you not to do it. No soul that which Allah has destined to exist but will surely come into existence." (Hadith of Prophet Muhammad - Sahih al-Bukhari 34:432).

**In Support of Contraception:** "We used to practice coitus interruptus (withdrawal method) during the lifetime of Allah's Prophet while the Qur'an was being revealed." (Narrated by Jabir: Sahih al-Bukhari 62:136).

## 2.6: Muslim teaching about divorce

<p><b>What are the different Muslim beliefs towards divorce and remarriage?</b></p>	<p>Since Islamic law has given a process for <b>divorce</b>, Muslims accept that divorce is something that is allowed but not encouraged. Once divorced, the man and woman are free to remarry.</p>	
<p><b>What are the different Muslim teachings towards divorce and remarriage?</b></p>	<p>Some Muslims allow divorce for any reason whereas other Muslims only allow divorce for valid reasons, e.g. a complete breakdown of a marriage.</p> <p>Many Muslims are taught that if a divorce is to happen, elders within the family should be involved to support. If a man and woman remarry after divorcing, they are able to marry following the normal process and laws of marriage.</p>	
<p><b>What are the different Muslim attitudes towards divorce and remarriage?</b></p>	<p>Most Muslims believe divorce should be prevented if there is a way a marriage can be stopped from breaking down. Divorce would be a last resort. Muslims are expected to support couples who choose to remarry after a divorce.</p>	
<p><b>What are the different rules for performing a divorce in Shi'a and Sunni Islam?</b></p>	<p>According to <u>Sunni Muslims</u>, divorce proceedings can begin by the husband in any form e.g. verbal, written, indirectly. The divorce doesn't require witnesses.</p> <p>According to <u>Shi'a Muslims</u>, divorce proceedings can begin by the husband only verbally. The divorce must have two witnesses present.</p> <p>According to most Muslims, once a divorce has been declared, the woman should observe a waiting period known as <b>iddah</b>. This is to determine whether she is pregnant and also gives time for reconciliation. If they do reconcile, they can continue their marriage but if they do not reconcile, they are free to remarry.</p>	
<p><b>What are the Muslim responses to non-religious attitudes to divorce and remarriage?</b></p>	<p>Some non-religious people may argue that divorce is acceptable as long as the couple both agree, and it is for their happiness. Once the couple are legally divorced according to the law of the country, they are free to remarry. Most Muslims would respond by saying that although divorce is permissible, there must be a good enough reason to go through with it.</p> <p>Furthermore, the couple need to be divorced according to Islamic law, not just the law of the country.</p>	
<p><b>What are the Muslim responses to the application of ethical theories to divorce and remarriage?</b></p>	<p>The theory of situation ethics suggests we should do the most loving thing in each situation. When applied to divorce, if divorce is the most loving thing to do, it should be done.</p> <p>For example, if a married couple do not love one another anymore, divorce would be the most loving thing to do, and then individuals can get remarried and find love with their new husband or wife. Muslims would try to follow Islamic law that comes from the Qur'an and Sunnah when deciding on divorce. Being in an unloving marriage could be seen as a valid reason for divorce by Muslim scholars.</p>	

### Sources of Wisdom and Authority

**Waiting Period:** "Divorced women remain in waiting [i.e. do not remarry] for three periods...And their husbands have more right to take them back in this [period] if they want reconciliation..." (Qur'an, Surah 2:228 – al- Baqarah).

**Remarriage:** "And when you divorce women and they have fulfilled their term, do not prevent them from remarrying their [former] husbands if they agree among themselves..." (Qur'an, Surah 2:232 – al- Baqarah).

## 2.7: Muslim teaching about the equality of men and women in the family

<b>What are the different Muslim beliefs about the role of men and women in the family?</b>	Within a family context, it is traditionally believed the man is in charge according to some understandings of the Qur'an. He should therefore provide for his family financially while the woman's responsibility is to look after the home and children. This includes teaching the children about Islam and how to practice the religion.
<b>What are the different Muslim teachings about the role of men and women in the family?</b>	Many Muslims believe that a woman is free to work and financially support the family if she wishes to do so.  Islam teaches that men and women should act as role models for their children in the family and set a good example for them to follow.
<b>What are the different Muslim attitudes about the role of men and women in the family?</b>	Some Muslims may believe that the roles of men and women in a family are equal and that not one person is in charge.  Another attitude is that Allah created men and women differently so they should have specific roles.
<b>What was the role of men and women in the family at the time of Muhammad?</b>	In pre-Islamic Arabia, women were wrongly treated as property. They believed women 'belong' to their father or husband. Whilst Islam was being revealed, Prophet Muhammad brought about changes, such as women being given rights, e.g. inheritance.  Many Muslims look at the marriage of Prophet Muhammad and <b>Khadija</b> or the marriage of <b>Ali</b> (the first Shi'a Imam) and <b>Fatima</b> (Muhammad's daughter) as examples they should follow of the role of men and women in a family.

### Sources of Wisdom and Authority

**Role of men and women in the family:** "Men are caretakers of women, since Allah has made some of them excel the others, and because of the wealth they have spent." (Qur'an, Surah 4:34 – an-Nisā).

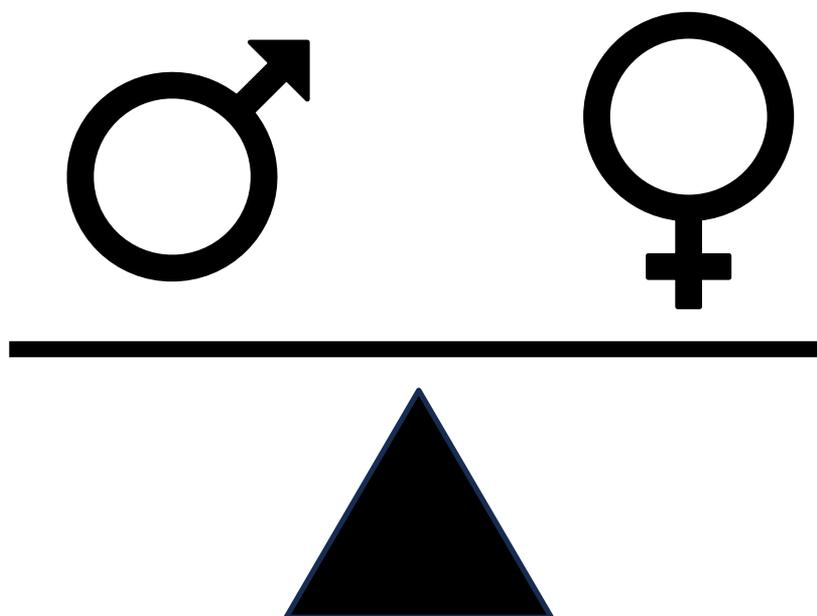
## 2.8: Muslim teachings about gender prejudice and discrimination

### What are Muslim attitudes to gender prejudice and discrimination?

Muslims believe that Allah created men and women equal and Allah views people based on how God-conscious they are, not their gender. Men and women can both be close to Allah.

Some Muslims believe that men and women should have different roles in the family and in society, even though they are created equally. For example, they would not allow women to lead prayer for men, whereas men can. They believe that just because men and women have different rights, doesn't mean they are not equal.

Other Muslims believe that men and women can absolutely have the same roles. They would say the laws of Islam were revealed in a different generation and, in the modern day, such laws are seen as prejudicial and discriminatory towards women.



### What are some examples of gender equality in action in Islam?

Although the rights of women are different to those of men, women have a number of freedoms. Examples of gender equality include the fact that both men and women have the right to choose whom they marry, to divorce, to study, to own property, to conduct business and to take part in politics.

Prophet Muhammad's first wife, Khadija, was a wealthy businesswoman and this is used as an example to show that both men and women can take part in public life.

In the modern day, **Baroness Sayeeda Warsi** was the first Muslim to serve in a British cabinet and also worked as a lawyer, a businesswoman and a campaigner.

## Sources of Wisdom and Authority

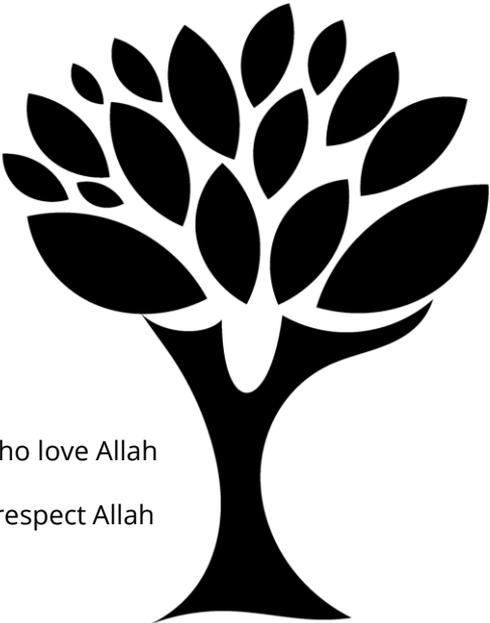
**Gender equality:** "...Muslim men and Muslim women, the believing men and believing women, the obedient men and obedient women, the truthful men and truthful women, the patient men and patient women, the humble men and humble women, the charitable men and charitable women, the fasting men and fasting women, the men who guard their private parts and the women who do so, and the men who remember Allah often and the women who do so - for them Allah has prepared forgiveness and a great reward." (Qur'an, Surah 33:35 - al-Ahzāb).

## Paper 1C: Islam

### Section 3: Living the Muslim Life



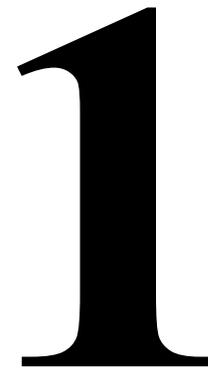
### 3.1: Ten Obligatory Acts of Shi'a Islam

<p><b>What is the nature of the Ten Obligatory Acts?</b></p>	<p>The Ten Obligatory Acts are ten key practices of Shi'a Muslims they believe they have a duty to perform for Allah.</p> <p>These are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Daily prayers (<b>Salah</b>)</li> <li>2. Charity, almsgiving (<b>Zakah</b>)</li> <li>3. Fasting during Ramadan (<b>Sawm</b>)</li> <li>4. Pilgrimage to Makkah (<b>Hajj</b>)</li> <li>5. 20% charitable tax (<b>Khums</b>)</li> <li>6. Struggling for Allah (<b>Jihad</b>)</li> <li>7. Encouraging Good (<b>Amr bil Maroof</b>)</li> <li>8. Forbidding what is Evil (<b>Nahy Anil Munkar</b>)</li> <li>9. Expressing love towards good and loving those who love Allah (<b>Tawalla</b>)</li> <li>10. Keeping away from evil and from those who disrespect Allah (<b>Tabarra</b>).</li> </ol> 
<p><b>What is the significance of the Ten Obligatory Acts?</b></p>	<p>The Ten Obligatory Acts were identified as the foundations of Islamic practice for Shi'a Muslims. They summarise the key actions and ways to worship Allah that are expected for Shi'a Muslims in order for them to live a life in the way Allah expects.</p>
<p><b>What is the history of the Ten Obligatory Acts?</b></p>	<p>The Ten Obligatory Acts are also known as <b>The Furu ad-Din</b> (branches of faith).</p> <p>Shi'a Muslim scholars throughout history have used verses of the Qur'an and the Hadith to compile this list. The Ten Obligatory Acts were given by the 'Twelve Imams' who Shi'a Muslims believe were twelve divinely ordained leaders, chosen by Allah.</p> <p>Shi'a Muslims believe they were the spiritual successors to Muhammad after his death.</p>
<p><b>What is the purpose of the Ten Obligatory Acts?</b></p>	<p>Their purpose is to help Shi'a Muslims practice Islam and express their beliefs (that can be found in the Five Roots of 'Usul ad-Din).</p> <p>They give them direction on how to behave and live their lives and they also bring them closer to Allah.</p>
<p><b>What is the difference in practice and importance of the Ten Obligatory Acts for Shi'a Muslims today?</b></p>	<p>Each of the Obligatory Acts have different rules and understandings. Some of the Obligatory Acts are practiced daily, e.g. Salah, whereas others are performed at certain times, e.g. Sawm.</p>
<p><b>What are different understandings of the Ten Obligatory Acts within Sunni Islam?</b></p>	<p>Sunni Muslims have a different list of practices (<b>the Five Pillars</b>). Most of these practices are also listed in the Ten Obligatory Acts (<b>Salah, Sawm, Zakah and Hajj</b>). Sunni Muslims accept the Ten Obligatory Acts but may understand and practice some of them differently compared to Shi'a Muslims.</p> <p>This is because the sources of authority for Sunni and Shi'a Muslims are slightly different.</p>

#### Sources of Wisdom and Authority

**Salah and Zakah:** "The believing men and women...establish prayer and give zakāh..." (Qur'an, Surah 9:71 – at-Tawbah).  
**Amr Bil Ma'ruf and Nahy Anil Munkar:** "The believing men and women...enjoin what is right and forbid what is wrong..." (Qur'an, Surah 9:71 – at-Tawbah).  
**Tawalla and Tabarra:** "The believing men and believing women are allies of one another..." (Qur'an, Surah 9:71 – at-Tawbah).

### 3.2: Shahadah as one of the Five Pillars

<b>What is the nature of Shahadah for Sunni and Shi'a Muslims?</b>	<p>The <b>Shahadah</b> is the Declaration of Faith: "There is no God except Allah and Muhammad is His Messenger."</p> <p>It is a statement that highlights two key beliefs of Islam and sum up what it means to be a Muslim:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tawhid (oneness of Allah) – The belief in the oneness of Allah</li><li>• Risalah (prophethood) – The belief that Muhammad is the prophet of Allah.</li></ul> <p>Although optional, Shi'a Muslims sometimes add the phrase: "and Ali is divinely appointed by Allah" to express their belief in Imamah (successors to Muhammad), which is part of the Five Roots of 'Usul ad-Din.</p>	
<b>What is the role of Shahadah for Sunni and Shi'a Muslims?</b>	<p>For both Sunni and Shi'a Muslims, the Shahadah's role is to act as a creed (a formal statement of key beliefs). It is used at several points throughout a Muslim's life.</p>	
<b>What is the significance of Shahadah for Sunni and Shi'a Muslims?</b>	<p>For both Sunni and Shi'a Muslims, the Shahadah is significant as it is a very short summary of the key Islamic beliefs that are seen as the foundation for Muslims.</p> <p>The Shahadah is something Muslims believe all prophets in history used and believed in.</p>	
<b>Why is reciting Shahadah important for Muslims and what is its place in Muslim practice today?</b>	<p>The Shahadah is considered the first of the Five Pillars in Sunni Islam since all the other Pillars come from this. To practice the other Pillars, there needs to be belief in Allah and Prophet Muhammad. It is considered the minimum belief to be considered a Muslim.</p> <p>Muslims believe their entire life should be lived in submission to Allah and stating the Shahadah demonstrates this: it shows Muslims' continuous commitment to Allah.</p> <p>Reciting the Shahadah is done at many points in a Muslim's life: in the call to Salah, during Salah, when a baby is born and during a funeral. If someone chooses to convert to Islam, all they are required to do is recite the Shahadah. It is also used in Islamic art and architecture.</p>	

### Sources of Wisdom and Authority

**Shahadah:** "Allah witnesses that there is no deity except Him...if they argue with you, say, 'I have submitted myself to Allah [in Islam], and [so have] those who follow me.'" (Qur'an, Surah 3:18-20 – Āli 'Imrān).

### 3.3: Salah as one of the Five Pillars

<p><b>What is the nature of Salah for Sunni and Shi'a Muslims?</b></p>	<p><b>Salah</b> is seen as the main way Muslims worship Allah. It is something Muslims are expected to learn from a young age, and it should be a part of their daily routine.</p> 
<p><b>What is the history of Salah for Sunni and Shi'a Muslims?</b></p>	<p>Salah is a practice that was established by Prophet Muhammad in order for people to only worship Allah. Most Muslims believe that all prophets practiced a form of Salah, but Prophet Muhammad's method is the way that should be followed.</p> <p>Muslims would practice Salah the way their Imams did since they believe they knew the correct way Prophet Muhammad performed Salah.</p>
<p><b>What is the significance and purpose of Salah for Sunni and Shi'a Muslims?</b></p>	<p>The purpose of Salah is to show submission to Allah, to continuously remember Him and to keep away from evil. It is seen as a very important duty that should be performed by all Muslims.</p> <p>Salah is significant since it is mentioned in the Five Pillars of Sunni Islam as well as in the Ten Obligatory Acts of Shi'a Islam. It is therefore something that is important to most Muslims.</p>
<p><b>How is Salah performed by Sunni Muslims?</b></p>	<p>For Sunni Muslims, there are <b>five</b> prayers that are performed daily at <b>five</b> different times.</p> <p><b>Fajr</b> – morning prayer  <b>Zuhr</b> – midday prayer  <b>Asr</b> – late afternoon prayer  <b>Maghrib</b> – sunset prayer  <b>Isha</b> – night prayer</p> <p><u>Preparing for Salah:</u></p> <p><b>Wudu</b> (ablution) - A ritual where Muslims wash their face, arms, head and feet. This is done before performing Salah. This is to ensure Muslims are physically and spiritually clean.  <b>Dress</b> - Appropriate and clean clothes must be worn. Women are expected to cover their head.</p> <p><u>Actions followed during Salah:</u></p> <p><b>Direction</b> - A Muslim would then face <b>qibla</b>, which is in the direction of Makkah.  <b>Recitations</b> – There are different recitations (which include reciting certain chapters of the Qur'an, the Shahadah, praises of Allah, etc.)  <b>Movements</b> – Certain movements called <b>rakahs</b> (such as standing, bowing, prostrating and kneeling) are performed during Salah.</p> <p>Every Friday afternoon, a special prayer called the <b>Jumma</b> prayer takes place, usually in a mosque. This must be performed in congregation and involves the <b>imam</b> (leader of prayer) giving a sermon before the prayer is performed.</p>
<p><b>How is Salah performed by Shi'a Muslims?</b></p>	<p>Shi'a Muslims practice the act of Salah differently and give emphasis to different methods. Shi'a Muslims combine some of the Salahs and so pray the five Salahs at <b>three</b> times a day.</p> <p>The preparation for Salah and the directions followed by Shi'a Muslims while praying are very similar to Sunni Muslims. However, whilst standing, most Sunni Muslims would fold their arms whereas Shi'a Muslims would keep their arms by their side. When prostrating, Sunni Muslims would put their forehead directly onto the floor or prayer mat whereas Shi'a Muslims place their head on something natural, e.g. on a plank of wood.</p>

### Sources of Wisdom and Authority

**Salah:** "So exalt [Allah] with praise of your Lord and be of those who prostrate [to Him]." (Qur'an, Surah – 15:98 – al-Hijr).  
**Purpose of Salah:** "Indeed, prayer prohibits immorality and wrongdoing..." (Qur'an, Surah 29:45 – al-Ankabūt).

### 3.4: Sawm as one of the Five Pillars

<p><b>What is the nature of fasting during Ramadan?</b></p>	<p><b>Sawm</b> (fasting) during Ramadan involves staying away from food, drink and sexual relations from sunrise until sunset. Muslims are also expected to stay away from sinful actions too.</p>	
<p><b>What is the role of fasting during Ramadan?</b></p>	<p>The role of fasting is to mark <b>Ramadan</b> (the ninth month of the Islamic calendar) which is considered the holiest month. It is when the Qur'an is said to have been revealed to Prophet Muhammad. This is why reciting the Qur'an in this month is also emphasised.</p>	
<p><b>What is the significance of fasting during Ramadan?</b></p>	<p>Fasting during Ramadan is significant since Sawm is mentioned in the Five Pillars of Sunni Islam as well as in the Ten Obligatory Acts of Shi'a Islam. The Qur'an says Sawm is a mandatory duty for Muslims to perform during Ramadan. It is therefore something very important to many Muslims.</p>	
<p><b>What is the purpose of fasting during Ramadan?</b></p>	<p>Fasting during Ramadan helps Muslims become more righteous, practice self-restraint and show submission to Allah. By fasting, Muslims would be performing a duty that is expected of them in order to become closer to Allah.</p>	
<p><b>Who is excused from fasting and why?</b></p>	<p>Some people not required to fast include children, those who are ill or on medication, those who are travelling a long distance, women on their period, women who are pregnant or women who are breastfeeding. This is because fasting should not be an unbearable burden on anyone or their health. Those who cannot fast can make up for missed fasts later in the year or give a certain amount to charity for each fast missed as a substitute.</p>	
<p><b>What is the nature of the Night of Power?</b></p>	<p><b>Laylat al-Qadr</b> (The Night of Power) is considered to be the holiest night for most Muslims as it is believed this was the night the Qur'an was revealed to Prophet Muhammad.</p>	
<p><b>What is the history of the Night of Power?</b></p>	<p>The exact date of this night is unknown, but Prophet Muhammad indicated that it is most likely one of the odd nights in the last ten nights of Ramadan.</p>	
<p><b>What is the purpose of the Night of Power?</b></p>	<p>Muslims would show extra importance on these nights in order for them to become closer to Allah and mark the significant event of the revelation of the Qur'an.</p>	
<p><b>Why is Laylat al-Qadr important for Muslims today?</b></p>	<p>Muslims would spend these night in worship, seeking forgiveness, reciting the Qur'an and giving to charity. Many Muslims believe that this night is where Allah predestines the year to come for all people, so Muslims would pray to Allah to plan for them a successful year ahead.</p>	

### Sources of Wisdom and Authority

**Sawm and Ramadan:** "O you who have believed, decreed upon you is fasting as it was decreed upon those before you that you may become righteous – [Fasting for] a limited number of days. So whoever among you is ill or on a journey - then an equal number of days [are to be made up]...The month of Ramadan [is that] in which was revealed the Qur'an..." (Qur'an, Surah 2:183-185 – al-Baqarah).

### 3.5: Zakah and Khums as one of the Five Pillars

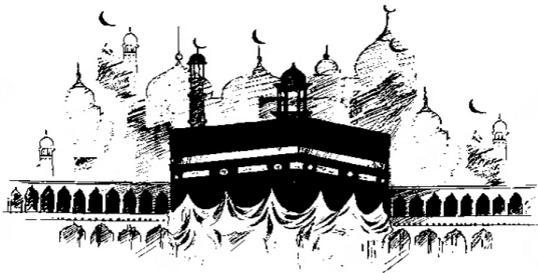
<p><b>What is the nature of Zakah and Khums?</b></p>	<p><b>Zakah</b> and <b>Khums</b> are both forms of charitable giving. They involve Muslims who have a certain amount of wealth to give a portion to those in need.</p>	
<p><b>What is the role of Zakah and Khums?</b></p>	<p>Because all money comes from and belongs to Allah and Muslims have a duty to give some money away to those who need it.</p>	
<p><b>What is the significance of Zakah and Khums?</b></p>	<p>Islam teaches that it is the right of people who are in need to receive wealth from those who have money. Giving Zakah and Khums helps remove selfishness from Muslims and purifies wealth.</p>	
<p><b>What is the purpose of Zakah and Khums?</b></p>	<p>Zakah and Khums gives Muslims a system of charitable giving and ensures everyone in the ummah has an acceptable standard of living.</p>	
<p><b>Why is Zakah important for Sunni Muslims?</b></p>	<p>Zakah is one of the Five Pillars of Sunni Islam. It is a way of worshipping Allah since a Muslim is showing submission to Allah by giving away a portion of their wealth. Traditionally, it requires Muslims who have saved above a certain amount of money to donate 2.5% of their savings.</p>	
<p><b>Why is Khums important for Shi'a Muslims?</b></p>	<p>Khums is one of the Ten Obligatory Acts of Shi'a Islam. It is a way of worshipping Allah as it recognises that all wealth belongs to Allah. It requires Shi'a Muslims to give away 20% of their yearly savings to those in need and to good causes.</p>	
<p><b>What are the benefits of receiving and giving Zakah or Khums?</b></p>	<p>Zakah and Khums benefits people individually as it allows them to have a standard of living that is decent. Zakah and Khums also benefits the ummah as it creates a society that recognises that wealth belongs to Allah. It also creates values such as generosity and empathy towards others.</p>	

### Sources of Wisdom and Authority

**Zakah:** "Zakah expenditures are only for the poor and for the needy and for those employed for it and for bringing hearts together [for Islam] and for freeing captives [or slaves] and for those in debt...and for the [stranded] traveler – an obligation [imposed] by Allah." (Qur'an, Surah 9:60 – at-Tawbah).

**Khums:** "...For Allah is one fifth of it and for the Messenger..." (Qur'an, Surah 8:41 – al-Anfāl).

### 3.6: Hajj as one of the Five Pillars

<p><b>What is the nature of Hajj?</b></p>	<p><b>Hajj</b> is a pilgrimage, a sacred journey, that takes place once a year on specific days during the final month of the Islamic calendar. It takes place in Makkah, Saudi Arabia. It is a physically demanding pilgrimage and that can be expensive, but it offers a huge spiritual benefit and allows Muslims to get closer to Allah.</p>	
<p><b>What is the role of Hajj?</b></p>	<p>Hajj is an opportunity to visit where Islam originated. It involves visiting the <b>Ka'ba</b>, considered the 'House of Allah' (which is the holiest place in the world for Muslims) as well as other important places.</p>	
<p><b>What are the origins of Hajj?</b></p>	<p>Prophet Muhammad taught Muslims how to perform Hajj. A lot of the Hajj rituals are based around remembering stories from the life of Prophet Ibrahim.</p>	
<p><b>What is the significance of Hajj?</b></p>	<p>Hajj is mentioned in the Five Pillars of Sunni Islam as well as in the Ten Obligatory Acts of Shi'a Islam. It is significant to Muslims as it is the only pilgrimage they are required to complete once in their lives.</p>	
<p><b>How is Hajj performed?</b></p>	<p>Hajj has several <u>rituals</u> that must be performed, each of which has certain rules to be followed.</p> <p><b>Ihram</b> - men wear two white cloths to cover their body. Women cover their body apart from the face.</p> <p><b>Tawaf</b> - the Ka'ba is circled seven times, anti-clockwise.</p> <p><b>Sa'y</b> - pilgrims walk between Mounts Safa and Marwa seven times.</p> <p><b>Wuquf</b> - pilgrims spend the day at Mount Arafah, seeking forgiveness from Allah.</p> <p><b>Jamarat</b> - pilgrims throw stones at three large pillars that represent Shaytan.</p> <p><b>Id-ul-Adha</b> - pilgrims have an animal sacrificed.</p>	
<p><b>What are the benefits and challenges from attending Hajj for Muslims?</b></p>	<p>A <u>benefit</u> of Hajj is that Muslims believe that once Hajj is completed properly, all previous sins are forgiven, and it is a new beginning for the pilgrim. Another <u>benefit</u> of Hajj is that it highlights equality and togetherness of the ummah since rich and poor cannot be told apart due to everyone dressed similarly yet are performing the pilgrimage together. A <u>challenge</u> of Hajj is that it is physically very demanding due to the amount of people present and the different rituals performed. Another <u>challenge</u> is that it can cost a lot of money which means not everyone can afford to go.</p>	

### Sources of Wisdom and Authority

**Importance of Prophet Ibrahim and Ka'ba:** "We made the House [i.e., the Ka'ba] a place of return for the people and [a place of] security'...when Abraham was raising the foundations of the House and [with him] Ishmael, [saying], "Our Lord, accept [this] from us." (Qur'an, Surah 2:125-127 – al-Baqarah).

**Hajj:** "Masjid al-Haram, which We made for the people...Proclaim to the people the hajj...let them end their untidiness and fulfil their vows and perform tawāf around the ancient House." (Qur'an, Surah 22:25–29 – al-Hajj).

### 3.7: Jihad

<b>What is the origin of Jihad in Islam?</b>	<b>Jihad</b> is something that be found in the Qur'an and Sunnah. It is something the early Muslims practiced in different ways.
<b>What is the meaning of Jihad in Islam?</b>	Jihad literally means to 'struggle'. This can be a physical struggle or a spiritual struggle.
<b>What is the significance of Jihad in Islam?</b>	Jihad is one of the Ten Obligatory Acts of Shi'a Islam, and it is also accepted by Sunni Muslims as important. Jihad is the daily struggle against temptation. It is an act of sacrifice, as Muslims give up their time and money for Allah.
<b>What are the different understandings of Jihad within Islam?</b>	<b>Greater Jihad</b> is the spiritual struggle against evil temptations and the struggle to be a good Muslim. Greater Jihad is something that be found within the Five Pillars and Obligatory Acts. <b>Lesser Jihad</b> is the physical struggle against injustice or defending Islam. Lesser Jihad is often associated with going to war and can involve armed conflict.
<b>What are the conditions for declaration of lesser Jihad?</b>	For Muslims to perform lesser Jihad, many rules have been created using the Qur'an and Sunnah. The conditions to declare lesser Jihad include: it must be last resort, it must be for self-defence, it must be authorised by a legitimate Muslim leader and its aim should be to restore peace. During lesser Jihad, many rules should also be followed such as: no innocent people are to be harmed, places of worship should not be harmed, excessive force should not be used, etc.
<b>What is the importance of Jihad in the life of Muslims?</b>	<b>Greater Jihad</b> is important to most Muslims as they perform it daily through their practice of Islam. It teaches Muslims to show self-restraint and help them improve how to practice Islam. <b>Lesser Jihad</b> is only considered important in certain situations such as war. Some Muslims believe lesser Jihad is not important today as the rules around lesser Jihad were revealed in a different context when Islam was a new religion and had to preserve itself. There are non-violent methods that can be used today.

### Sources of Wisdom and Authority

**Conditions of lesser Jihad:** "Fight in the way of Allah those who fight you but do not transgress...Fight them until there is no [more] fitnah [i.e. trouble]...But if they cease, then there is to be no aggression [i.e. assault] except against the oppressors." (Qur'an, Surah 2:190-193 – al-Baqarah).

**Self-defence:** "Permission [to fight] has been given to those who are being fought, because they were wronged." (Qur'an, Surah 22:39 – al-Hajj).

### 3.8: The nature, origins, activities, meaning and significance of the celebration of Id-ul-Adha

<p><b>What is the significance of Id-ul-Adha in Sunni Islam?</b></p>	<p><b>Id-ul-Adha</b> literally means 'Festival of Sacrifice'. It is a celebration that remembers the sacrifice of Prophet Ibrahim when Allah commanded him to sacrifice his son. Muslims celebrate this day because it reminds them of the importance of developing faith and trust in Allah. There is a special Id prayer that is performed, and charity is given, usually through the distribution of meat.</p> 
<p><b>What is the significance of Id-ul-Fitr in Sunni Islam?</b></p>	<p><b>Id-ul-Fitr</b> means 'Festival of breaking the fast' and takes place the day after Ramadan ends. It is a celebration that marks the completion of Sawm (fasting). There is a special Id prayer that is performed, and charity is given, usually through the payment of Zakat-ul-Fitr.</p>
<p><b>What is the significance of Id-ul-Ghadeer in Shi'a Islam?</b></p>	<p><b>Id-ul-Ghadeer</b> is a celebration celebrated by Shi'a Muslims that commemorates when Prophet Muhammad officially announced Allah's decision that Ali should be his successor. For Shi'a Muslims, it marks the completion of Islam as a religion. This was done in the final year of Muhammad's life at a pond called Ghadeer Khumm, where Muhammad called Ali the 'mawla' after him.</p> <p>Shi'a Muslims believe this word means 'authority'. For them, it is important because it shows them the line of leadership to follow.</p> <p>Sunni Muslims interpret this event differently and believe Muhammad was addressing a dispute between Ali and some other Muslims. They believe 'mawla' means 'friend'.</p>
<p><b>What is the significance of Ashura in Shi'a Islam?</b></p>	<p><b>Ashura</b> is a commemoration done mainly by Shi'a Muslims. It remembers the killing of Prophet Muhammad's grandson Hussain, the third Imam, in the Battle of Karbala that took place fifty years after Muhammad died. It is a time of sadness and Shi'a Muslims mark Ashura in different ways such as by gathering in the mosque, with recitation of poetry, crying and performing processions.</p> <p>It expresses Tawalla and Tabarra, which are part of the Ten Obligatory Acts of Shi'a Islam. For Sunni Muslims, Ashura is also commemorated but some of the reasons differ. One reason was when Prophet Musa performed the Crossing of the Red Sea and was saved by Allah from the Egyptians. Sunni Muslims try to fast on this day as this is what Prophet Muhammad is reported to have done.</p>

### Sources of Wisdom and Authority

**Id-ul-Adha:** "Peace upon Abraham...Indeed, he was of Our believing servants." (Qur'an, Surah 37:111 – as-Saffāt).  
**Id-ul-Ghadeer:** "This day I have perfected for you your religion." (Qur'an, Surah 5:3 – al-Mā'idah).

## Paper 1C: Islam

### Section 4: Matters of Life and Death



#### 4.1: Muslim teachings about origins and value of the universe

**What are the scientific explanations for the origins of the universe and Muslim responses to them?**

The most widely accepted scientific explanation for the origins of the universe is the Big Bang Theory. This is the idea that the Universe began as just a single point billions of years ago and then, it expanded.

In response, most Muslims would accept the Big Bang Theory as it does not go against what the Qur'an teaches about the origins of the Universe. However, they would believe that Allah caused the Big Bang rather than it happening by itself.



**Is the Qur'an and science compatible according to Muslims?**

Even though most Muslims believe the Qur'an has no errors, they would not consider it a science book. If the Qur'an is read non-literally in some parts, then it would be compatible with science.

However, if the whole Qur'an is understood literally, then it would not be fully compatible with science.

**What are the different Muslim teachings about the value of the Universe in Islam?**

Islam teaches the whole Universe belongs to Allah since He created it. Therefore, most Muslims will value it by ensuring that they show respect to the Universe since it does not belong to them.

Despite this, some Muslims may view the Universe as a commodity. This means they can use it as they wish since Allah placed humans on the Universe and can use it to their advantage.

#### Sources of Wisdom and Authority

**Origins of the Universe:** “[He] who created seven heavens in layers. You do not see in the creation of the Most Merciful any inconsistency. So return [your] vision [to the sky]; do you see any breaks?” (Qur’an, Surah 67:3 – al-Mulk).

## 4.2: Muslim teachings about the sanctity of life

**What are Muslim teachings about why human life is holy and the sanctity of life?**

Islam teaches that all human life belongs to Allah since He created it. Therefore, Muslims are expected to value all human life, including their own. The human body is from Allah and should be treated in a way that is respectful. That is why a characteristic of human life is its **sanctity**.

Life is holy and a gift from Allah since Allah created each person individually and with a soul. Most Muslims consider the human being Allah's most special creation; humans were given a soul, freewill and intellect.



**What are the different understandings of the importance of sanctity of life for Muslims today?**

Muslims consider the taking of an innocent life as forbidden as it violates the sanctity of life. Many Muslims would consider the act of suicide as going against the sanctity of life.

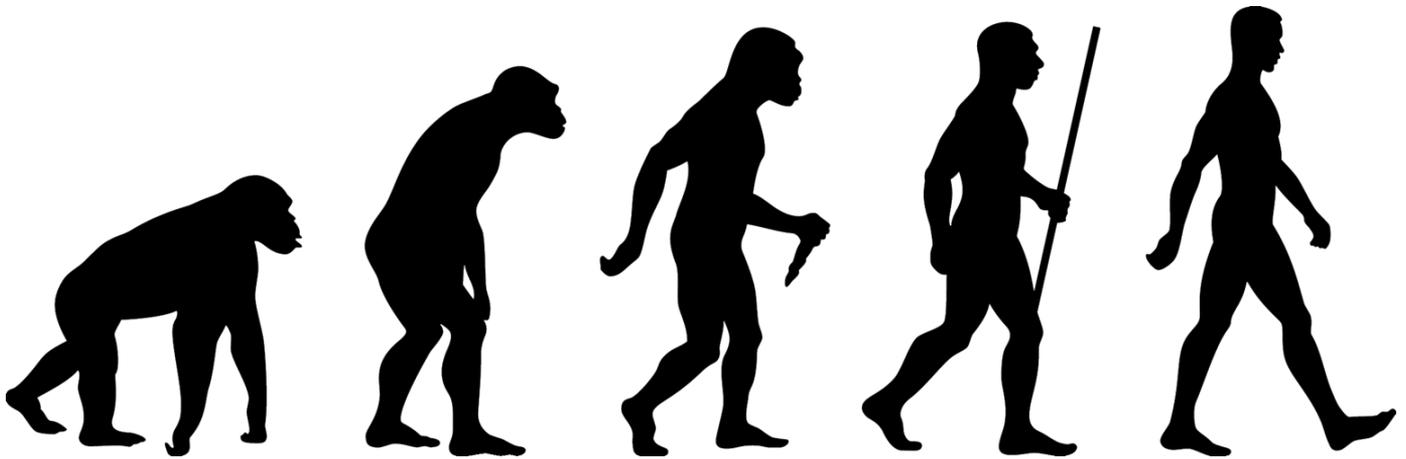
Most Muslims would consider human life as having a higher value than other life forms. Other Muslims believe the sanctity of life also extends to the natural world such as animals, since they are also creations of Allah.

### Sources of Wisdom and Authority

**Sanctity of life:** "...Whoever kills a soul - unless for a soul or for corruption in the land - it is as if he had slain [i.e. killed] mankind entirely. And whoever saves one - it is as if he had saved mankind entirely. (Qur'an, Surah 5:32 - al-Mā'idah).

**Harming life:** "Do not kill yourselves [or one another]. Indeed, Allah is to you ever Merciful." (Qur'an, Surah 4:29 - an-Nisā).

### 4.3: Muslim response to scientific and non-religious explanations about the origins and value of human life



**What are the scientific explanations for the origins and value of human life and Muslim responses to them?**

The most widely accepted scientific explanation for the origins of human life is evolution. This is the idea that all species are related and gradually change over millions of years through natural selection and survival of the fittest.

Many Muslims would find it difficult to accept that humans are a product of evolution and another species of the animal kingdom. This is because Allah created the first human in a special way, in its final form, according to the Qur'an. Other Muslims may understand the Qur'an non-literally and accept evolution as part of Allah's creation process of human life.

**What is the significance of the responses to scientific and non-religious explanations for Muslims today?**

For many Muslims, evolution challenges the idea that human life originated from Allah and that humans are a special creation.

Some Muslims may reject evolution, regardless of the scientific evidence, since they would look to the Qur'an for truth first.

Other Muslims may try to find a way to see if evolution and the Qur'an can be compatible. They may try to interpret Qur'an verses about human life in a way that fits with the scientific evidence.

### Sources of Wisdom and Authority

**Creation of human life:** "...He began the creation of man from clay. Then He made his posterity out of the extract of a liquid disdained. Then He proportioned him and breathed into him from His [created] soul and made for you hearing and vision and hearts [i.e. intellect]..." (Qur'an, Surah 32:7-9 – as-Sajdah).

**Origin of human life:** "The heavens and the earth were a joined entity, and We separated them and made from water every living thing." (Qur'an, Surah 21:30 – al-Anbiyā).

#### 4.4: Implications of Muslim teachings about the value and sanctity of life for the issue of abortion

<b>What are the different Muslim teachings about the nature and use of abortion?</b>	<p>Muslims believe in the sanctity of life and the Muslim teachings around <b>abortion</b> centre around when life begins. Muslims generally believe in '<b>ensoulment</b>', which is when Allah introduces the soul in the foetus.</p> <p>There are different opinions about when this takes place; some say conception, some would say at 40 days and others at 120 days after conception. Therefore, most scholars believe abortion after ensoulment is not permissible unless there is an urgent need to do so.</p> <p>What exactly justifies an 'urgent need' is considered in each situation and Muslims have differences of opinion on this.</p> <p>For example, if the foetus suffers from a defect that will cause great suffering to the child, a number of scholars would say that, in this case, it is permissible to have an abortion if the pregnancy is less than 120 days old.</p> <p>After 120 days of pregnancy, most scholars believe that abortion is only permissible to save the life of the mother.</p>
<b>What are the Muslim responses to non-religious attitudes to abortion?</b>	<p>Some non-religious people may argue that abortion is completely up to the mother since the foetus comes from her body. They wouldn't believe in 'ensoulment' as they don't believe there is a soul and may not consider a foetus a human life. Most Muslims would respond by saying that Allah is the creator of humans, from conception until birth. Abortion isn't a decision solely up to the mother since the foetus has a soul and therefore abortion can be considered taking the life of an innocent soul.</p>
<b>What are the Muslim responses to the application of ethical theories to abortion?</b>	<p>The theory of situation ethics suggests we should do the most loving thing in each situation. When applied to abortion, if having an abortion is the most loving thing to do, it can be performed. For example, if a female became pregnant through force, an abortion may be the most loving thing to do as it wouldn't be loving to bring an unwanted child into the world. Muslims would not use this to guide their decision on abortion. Instead, they would try to follow Islamic law that comes from the Qur'an and Sunnah when deciding on abortion. The mother is mainly considered if her life is in danger.</p>

#### Sources of Wisdom and Authority

**'Ensoulment':** "Every one of you is collected in the womb of his mother for the first forty days, and then he becomes a clot for another forty days, and then a piece of flesh for another forty days...Then the soul is breathed into his body." (Hadith of Prophet Muhammad - Sahih Al-Bukhari 55:549).

#### 4.5: Muslim responses to the existence of a life after death

<b>What are Muslim teachings and beliefs that support the existence of a life after death?</b>	<p>Muslims support belief in life after death by the Islamic teaching that all humans are made up of body and soul. The body is something temporary which will die, but the soul will live forever.</p> <p>Muslims also support belief in the life after death through the Qur'an and Sunnah which has several teachings about the different stages of life after death.</p>
<b>What are the different Muslim responses to arguments for life after death?</b>	<p><b>Remembered lives</b> - most Muslims wouldn't use this to support an afterlife as they do not believe in the idea of past lives or reincarnation.</p> <p><b>Paranormal</b> - although the soul lives on, most Muslims believe that the soul goes to another realm after death so wouldn't use paranormal activity to support the afterlife.</p> <p><b>Logic</b> - most Muslims would use logic to justify an afterlife. For example, they may say that this life may have no true meaning unless there is something afterwards.</p> <p><b>Reward</b> - most Muslims would use the idea of reward to justify an afterlife since they believe those who live righteously will be rewarded with paradise by Allah.</p> <p><b>Comfort</b> - although Muslims believe paradise will be a place of peace and comfort, most wouldn't use this as an argument to support an afterlife.</p> <p><b>Meeting loved ones</b> - most Muslims wouldn't use this to support an afterlife. This is because they believe every person is judged individually and it is not a guarantee one may meet their loved ones.</p>
<b>What is the significance of arguments for belief in life after death for Muslims?</b>	<p>The arguments for belief in life after death are significant since they support the Six Beliefs of Islam (<b>Akhirah</b>) for Sunni Muslims as well as the five roots of 'Usul ad-Din (<b>Mi'ad</b>) in Shi'a Islam. They are also significant so that Muslims live a life according to how Allah expects, and they see this life as temporary and a step to be prepared for life after death.</p> <p>Most Muslims place emphasis on the arguments the Qur'an gives for an existence in the afterlife rather than those arguments outside of Islam. However, they may accept opinions that fit with the Qur'an and the teachings of Prophet Muhammad.</p>

#### Sources of Wisdom and Authority

**Afterlife:** "What is with Allah is better and more lasting; so will you not use reason?...To Him is praise in the first [life] and the Hereafter. And His is the [final] decision, and to Him you will be returned...The reward of Allah is better for he who believes and does righteousness." (Qur'an, Surah 28:60-80 – al-Qasas).

#### 4.6: Muslim responses to non-religious arguments against life after death

**What are Muslim responses to non-religious arguments against life after death?**

The Qur'an responds to people who deny the existence of an afterlife. For example, the Qur'an teaches that the afterlife will be a way for Allah to reward and punish people as a form of justice for the way they lived on this Earth.

Since Muslims believe that the Qur'an is the direct word of Allah and contain no errors, they may accept the Qur'an as the best proof of the afterlife, despite what the non-religious arguments say.



**Why do Muslims reject arguments against belief in life after death?**

**A source of comfort** - although Muslims believe Paradise will be a place of peace and comfort, it won't be for all people. Hence, they would reject this argument. Also, just because a belief can be a source of comfort does not make it untrue.

**Lack of evidence** - Muslims may accept the Qur'an as the best evidence of the afterlife since they believe it the direct words of Allah. Also, different people will have different standards of what evidence is acceptable.

**Fraudulent accounts** - Muslims would verify any accounts of the afterlife with the Qur'an. They would also believe the accounts mentioned in the Qur'an and Sunnah since they would be deemed as reliable.

**Social control** - Muslims would respond that Allah has given **free will** to all humans so the afterlife cannot be used for social control as people can choose to follow Islamic teachings or not. Also, if something is used for social control that doesn't make it untrue.

#### Sources of Wisdom and Authority

**Muslim responses to non-religious arguments:** "And Allah created the heavens and earth in truth and so that every soul may be recompensed for what it has earned...They say: 'There is not but our worldly life; we die and live, and nothing destroys us except time'...Allah causes you to live, then causes you to die; then He will assemble you for the Day of Resurrection, about which there is no doubt, but most of the people do not know...you took the verses of Allah in ridicule, and worldly life deluded you." (Qur'an, Surah 45:22-35 – al-Jāthiya).

#### 4.7: Implications of Muslim teachings about the value and sanctity of life for the issue of euthanasia

<p><b>What are the Muslim teachings about the nature of euthanasia?</b></p>	<p>For most Muslims, <b>euthanasia</b> may be considered as a form of murder since life is being taken before it naturally ends.</p> <p>However, many Muslims also recognise that a situation where euthanasia is considered is extremely difficult for all those involved, be it the person suffering, the family and the medical professionals.</p> 
<p><b>What are the Muslim teachings about the use of euthanasia?</b></p>	<p>Muslims believe in the sanctity of life and the Muslim teachings around euthanasia centre around this. Muslims generally believe that euthanasia is not permissible. This is because only Allah decides when life ends, and life is sacred.</p> <p>The suffering someone may experience during an illness is viewed as a test, for both the patient and the family, where patience and prayer should be used. Many Muslims would, however, accept turning off life support systems if brain function stops and expert doctors judge this situation as irreversible.</p>
<p><b>What are the Muslim responses to non-religious attitudes to euthanasia?</b></p>	<p>Some non-religious people may argue that euthanasia is completely up to the patient as it is their life. They would consider the quality of life rather than the sanctity of life as they wouldn't accept that life is created by Allah.</p> <p>Most Muslims would respond by saying that only Allah takes life, and we have no right to decide this. A life of quality isn't just about pain and pleasure, but it is about being close to Allah. However, a Muslim may accept turning off a life support machine if the patient has no brain function.</p>
<p><b>What are the Muslim responses to the application of ethical theories to euthanasia?</b></p>	<p>The theory of situation ethics suggests we should do the most loving thing in each situation. When applied to euthanasia, if it is the most loving thing to do, it can be performed.</p> <p>For example, if someone's illness is causing unbearable suffering, euthanasia may be the most loving thing to do as it wouldn't be loving to live in such pain.</p> <p>Muslims would not use this to guide their decision on euthanasia. Instead, they would try to follow Islamic law that comes from the Qur'an and Sunnah when deciding on euthanasia. Terminal illness and pain are not valid reasons to request or perform euthanasia.</p>

#### Sources of Wisdom and Authority

**Euthanasia:** "O you who believe, seek help through patience and prayer. Indeed, Allah is with the patient...We will surely test you with something...but give good tidings to the patient..." (Qur'an, Surah 2:153-155 – al-Baqarah).

#### 4.8: Muslim responses to issues in the natural world

<b>What are Muslim teachings and responses to threats to the world?</b>	<p>Muslims believe Allah is the creator of the universe, and this means the Earth belongs to Him. Therefore, Muslims should act with this in mind.</p> <p><b>Natural resources</b> - Muslims would say that Allah gave us natural resources to help us, but we shouldn't exploit this since dominion belongs to Allah, e.g. they would not overuse water during wudu (washing before Salah)</p> <p><b>Pollution</b> - Since this affects others in a negative way, Muslims would avoid activities that cause pollution as it affects the ummah as well as the natural world, e.g. they would recycle in mosques to prevent land pollution.</p> <p><b>Global warming</b> - Since this affects others in a negative way, Muslims would avoid activities that cause global warming as it affects the ummah as well as the natural world. They would also promote sustainability, e.g. they may build eco-friendly mosques.</p> 
<b>What is stewardship and humanity's role as khalifah?</b>	<p>Most Muslims understand from the Qur'an that Allah has given them the special role of being a <b>khalifah</b>. This is to be a steward who looks after or manages the world for Allah. Being a khalifah means that Muslims should be mindful of reducing pollution, global warming and be mindful of how they use natural resources. This is because the world belongs to Allah, so Muslims have a duty to take care of it.</p>
<b>What are different Muslim responses to animal rights?</b>	<p>Many Muslims believe that animal experiments are acceptable if they result in benefits for human beings, e.g. advances in medical treatment, due to humans having a higher status. However, animals should be treated humanely, and their suffering minimised since humans should be stewards.</p> <p>Most Muslims believe that only certain animals can be used for food. For these animals to be <b>halal</b> (lawful) to eat, they must be slaughtered in a certain way with many conditions. For most Muslims, using animals for food is an important part of their practice. For example, on Id-ul-Adha and during Hajj.</p>
<b>What are the Muslim responses to the application of ethical theories to animal rights?</b>	<p>The theory of <b>utilitarianism</b> suggests a decision should be dependent on whether it is useful or for the benefit of the majority. When applied to the use of animals, if using animals is useful for the majority of humans, then it is allowed. For example, if animal experimentation helps cure diseases and create vaccines, it would be allowed as many humans would benefit from it. Muslims would not use this to guide their decision on using animals. Instead, they would try to follow Islamic law that comes from the Qur'an and Sunnah. However, Islamic law seems to agree that animals can be used to help humans.</p>

#### Sources of Wisdom and Authority

**Use of natural resources:** "There is none amongst the Muslims who plants a tree or sows seeds, and then a bird, or a person or an animal eats from it, but is regarded as a charitable gift for him." (Sahih al-Bukhari Volume 3. Book 39 – 513).

# GCSE Religious Studies B

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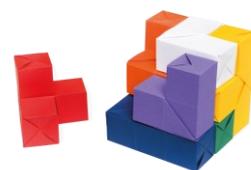
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