

Examiner's really amazing revision guide.
Everything you need and a little bit more!

GCSE Short Course Revision Guide

Route A

Eduqas GCSE Religious Studies



Name:

Tutor Group:

Key concepts

Tawhid	'Oneness' in reference to God. The basic Muslim belief in the oneness of God
Prophethood or 'risalah'	The term used of the messengers of God, beginning with Adam and ending with the Prophet Muhammad
Halal (permitted)	Actions or things which are permitted in Islam, such as eating permitted foods
Haram (forbidden)	Actions or things which are forbidden in Islam, such as eating forbidden foods
Jihad	Means to 'strive'. There are two forms of jihad. The greater jihad is the daily struggle and inner spiritual struggle to live as a good Muslim. The lesser jihad is a physical struggle of 'holy war' in defence of Islam
Mosque or 'masjid'	A 'place of prostration' for Muslims, it is a communal place of worship for the Muslim community
Shari'ah (straight path)	A way of life; Muslims believe that God has set out a clear path for how Muslims should live. Shari'ah law is the set of moral and religious rules that put the principles set out in the Qur'an and the Hadith into practice
Ummah	Means 'community'. Refers to the worldwide community of Muslims who share a common religious identity



YOU MUST, MUST, MUST LEARN THESE AS THEY WILL BE THE FOCUS OF YOUR a) QUESTIONS FOR THIS UNIT

Overview of Islam and its place in Britain and worldwide

What is Islam?

The basics!

- Originates from the Middle East
- Islam means 'submission' in Arabic, it also means 'peace'
- Believe in one God as the divine creator
- Believe that Prophet Muhammad was the last prophet in a long line of prophets
- The Qur'an is the direct word of God
- Through following the Shari'ah they can live in a fair and just society on earth

*1.6 billion Muslims worldwide
 *Fastest growing religion
 *Middle east and North Africa have the largest Muslim populations, but many live in the Asia Pacific region

*3 million Muslims in Britain
 *4.5% of the population
 *Many came to work after WWII
 *Community is very diverse, with Sunni, Shia communities

Sources of authority

Qur'an is the direct word of God

The Sunnah : the way of the Prophet.

All of Muhammad's actions and words to be used as an example for Muslims today

The Hadith: the saying of the prophet recorded by friends and family

The Shari'ah: the straight path. This sets of rules and laws that are based on the principles of the Qur'an

The Islamic community—Ummah

The ummah is the worldwide community of Muslims. Within the ummah all Muslims are equal, whatever their language, culture or nationality. There is a great diversity across the Islamic world. There is no one single pattern for what it means to be Muslim, but there are certain fundamentals they all hold to. The central belief for Muslims is that there is one God (Allah) who has revealed his divine teachings to the Prophet Muhammad, in the Qur'an.

In Islam approximately 90% are Sunni and 10% are Shia.

This number is reflected in the UK population statistics.

Sunni and Shi'a Muslims share many central beliefs

Islam split following the death of the Prophet Muhammad.

Some people felt that a blood relative should be the one to carry on the faith while others disagreed and said that it should be someone who is the most knowledgeable.

Sunni

Shia

Abu Bakr was a good friend and companion of Muhammad. He became Khalifah/next leader after the prophet's death.

Ali was the cousin and son-in-law of the Prophet Muhammad. He was appointed as the blood-related ancestor of Muhammad.

Both believed they were carrying out Muhammad's wishes.

Religious guidance only comes from the Allah through the Qur'an and Hadith. These things provide the basis of Shariah law.

Follow appointed leaders set out as the descendants of the Prophet Muhammad.

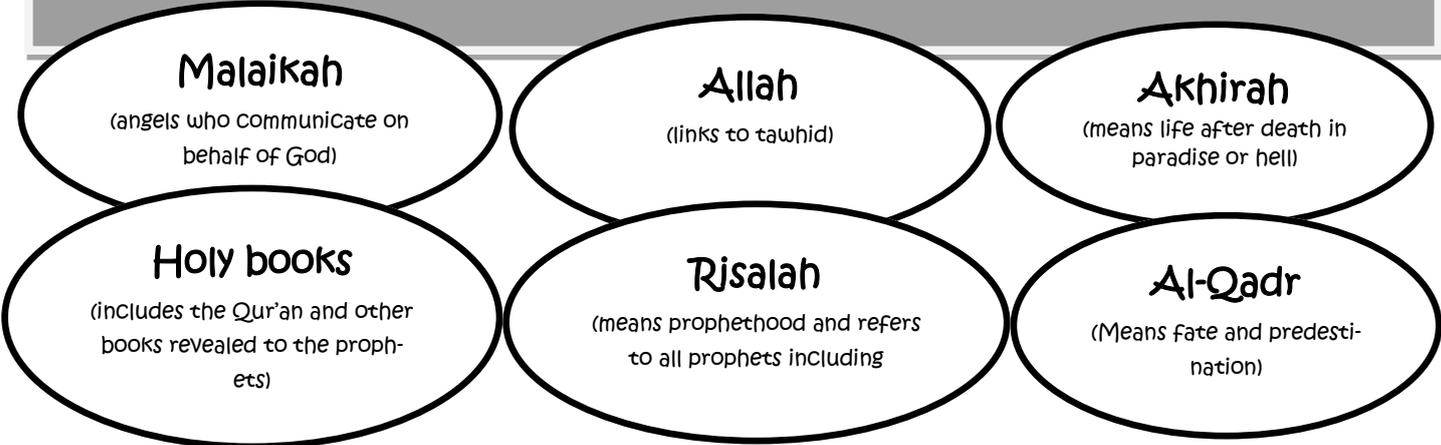
Do not follow a religious hierarchy—they believe that Imams are good teachers and leaders.

The last Imam will appear at the end of the world.

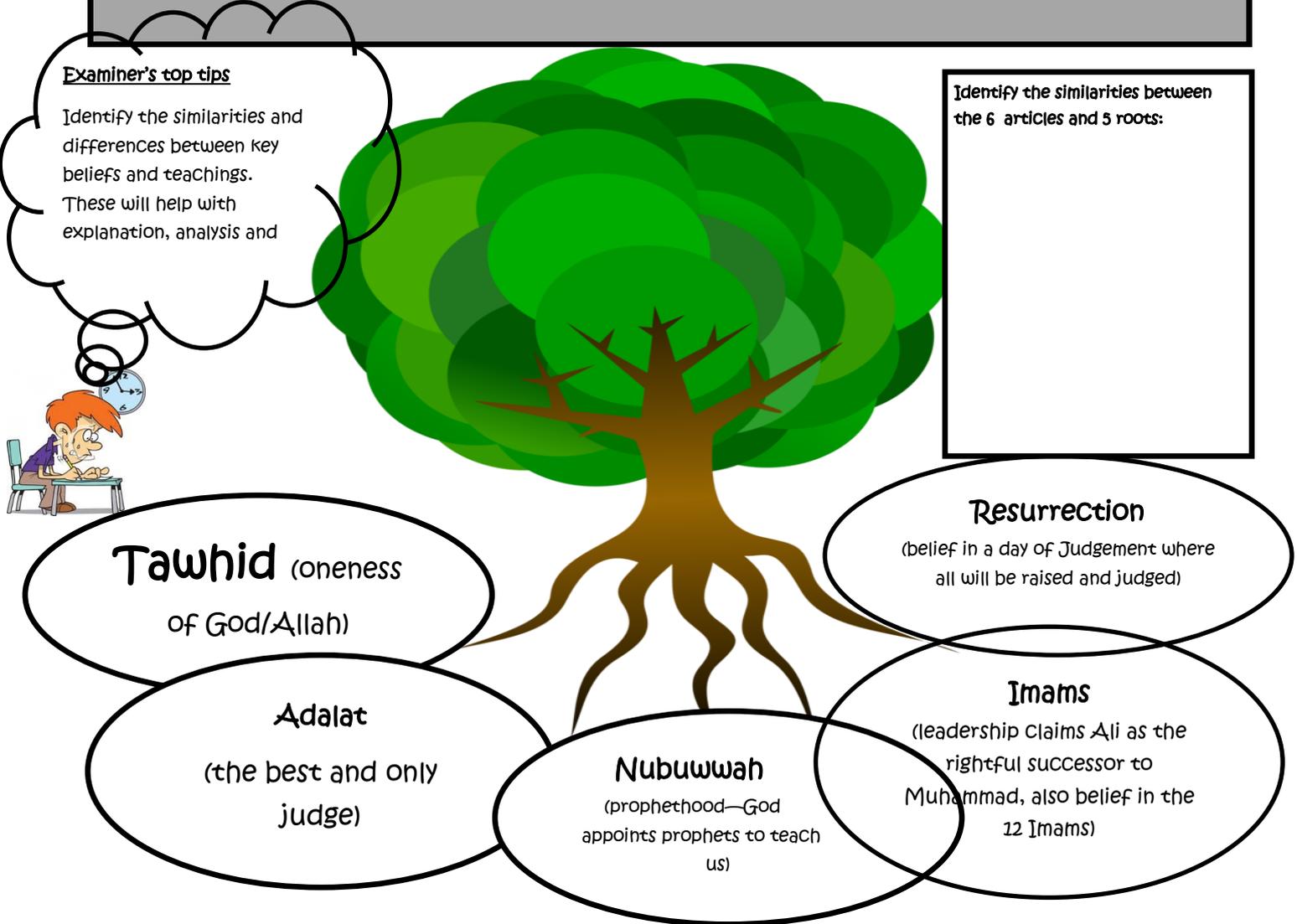
The foundations of faith

The 6 beliefs define Sunni Muslim's understanding of God. It can be found in a hadith which states you should have belief in Allah, his angels, his holy books, his messengers,

The 6 articles of faith in Sunni Islam are:

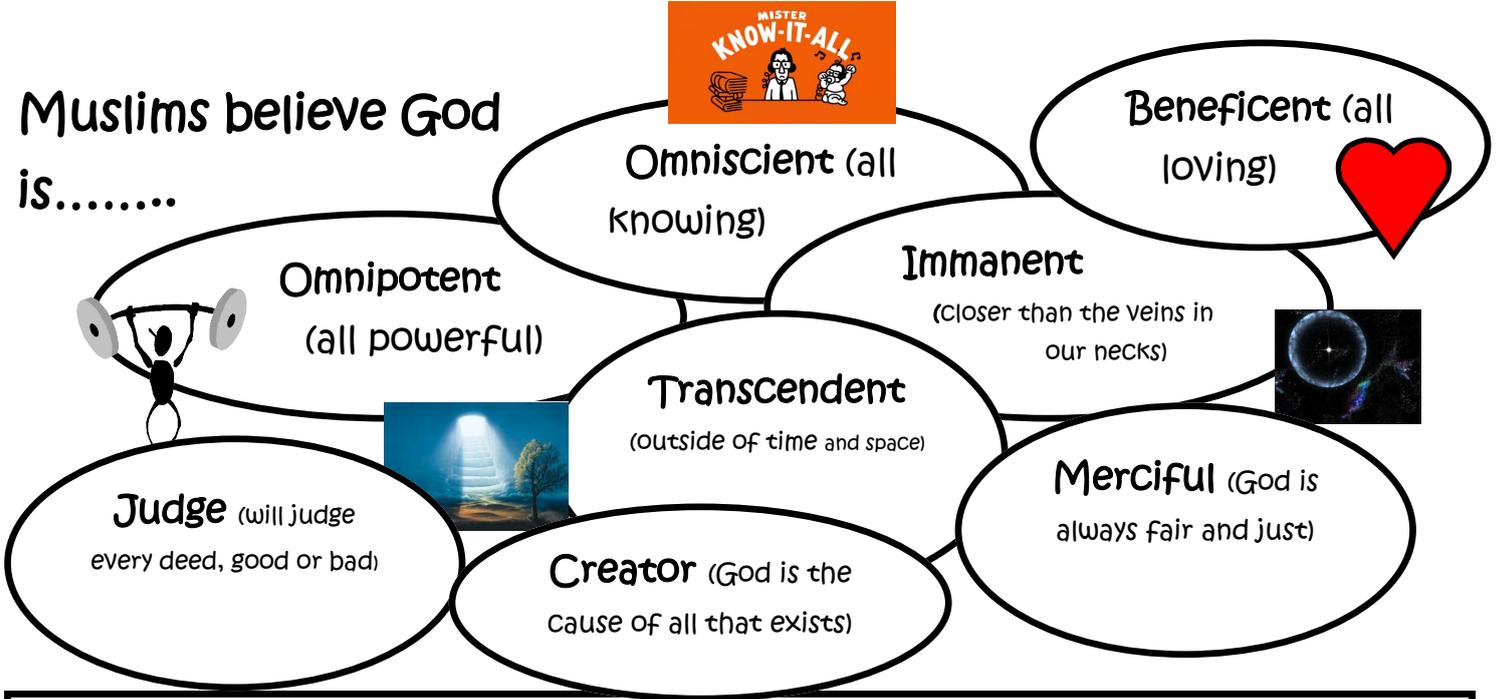


Shia Muslims and The 5 roots of Usul ad-Din



Belief in tawhid is the single most important belief in Islam.

Muslims believe God is.....



These ideas come from the Qur'an:

Al-Fatihah:
The opening Surah of the Qur'an Reflects the understanding of God. Many learn and recite it

99 names of Allah: in no way can god's nature really be understood. This is why Muslims describe some of God's attributes instead. "vision perceives him not"

One God:
Tawhid
Surah 112:1-4 reflects god's oneness and nature
'In the names of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful say 'He is God the One and Only, God the Eternal, Absolute. He begetteth not, nor is he begotten; and there is none like unto him'

In the name of Allah (God), the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful.
All the praise is due to Allah, Lord of the worlds (universe).
The Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful
Lord of the Day of Judgment.
You (Alone) we worship, and You (Alone) we ask for help.
Guide us to the Straight Path.
The path of those You have blessed, not (the path) of those who earned Your Anger, nor of those who went astray.
(Qur'an 1:1-7)

Examiner's top tips:
You must refer to sources of authority and wisdom in b,c and d.



Committing the sin of shirk

This is one of the biggest sins that a Muslim can make

- ⇒ Shirk means associating other beings or things with God
- ⇒ This is why Muslims do not use pictures/images of Muhammad or other figures because people might worship them instead of God
- ⇒ The prophets are very important but are only human. Only God should be worshipped

Revelation: God revealing his truth.

Allah does not communicate with us directly with humans, but instead he uses special beings—humans and angels.

Allah guides Muslims—we have a duty to serve Allah, to follow the laws he has given to us.

Revelation is the idea that God has made his special truth known to humans.

The prophets received God's divine message that instructed humans on how to live their life. God's final and perfect message was given to the Prophet Muhammad.

It was remembered and recorded by the Prophet Muhammad's followers and compiled to form the Qur'an.

Fitrāh: the need for God

- ◆ We are all born with an instinctive need for God
- ◆ It draws us to worship God
- ◆ It is where our conscience comes from

Taqwa: awareness of God

- ◆ This is a desire for a personal connection with God
- ◆ Taqwa is the highest quality a Muslim can have and draws them to worship sincerely and often
- ◆ It is sometimes seen as a shield against wrongdoing

Hanifs, the devout people.

C) Explain Muslim beliefs about the nature of God (5)

Muslims believe that God is the sustainer and creator of the universe and is the only thing that should be worshipped as is shown in Surah 3:18. This is shown through the idea 'tawhid' which means the oneness of God. Muslims believe that due to God's nature as the only divine being that should be worshipped, that it is a terrible sin to worship anything else. This is known as the sin of shirk.

In addition to this, Muslims try to contemplate upon god's nature through using his 99 names. Muslims recognise that it is impossible to fully understand God's nature because he is transcendent and therefore outside of space and time and not subject to natural laws. By thinking about his different characteristics such as 'The Judge, The Designer and the Loving' they can work out what his will is and live by it

Furthermore, they can look to the Qur'an to understand God's nature. In the Al-Fatihah it states that God is 'entirely merciful, especially merciful' and also that god is the 'sovereign of the Day of Recompense' which means the Day of Judgement. Muslims can learn from this that God is forgiving but is also going to judge them on the day of judgement and decide their fate

Muslims believe that they can have a personal connection with God because we are instinctively drawn to him. This is know as fitrah. Alongside this Muslims should practice developing their taqwa (awareness of God) in order to stay on the straight path that God has set them on

Islam. The nature of God: Sources of wisdom

Read and summarise the main meanings. **These are important** and you need to know the main ideas or be able to quote from it and explain it

Qur'an 3:18

Allah witnesses that there is no deity except Him

Summarise it/paraphrase it

Qur'an 46:33

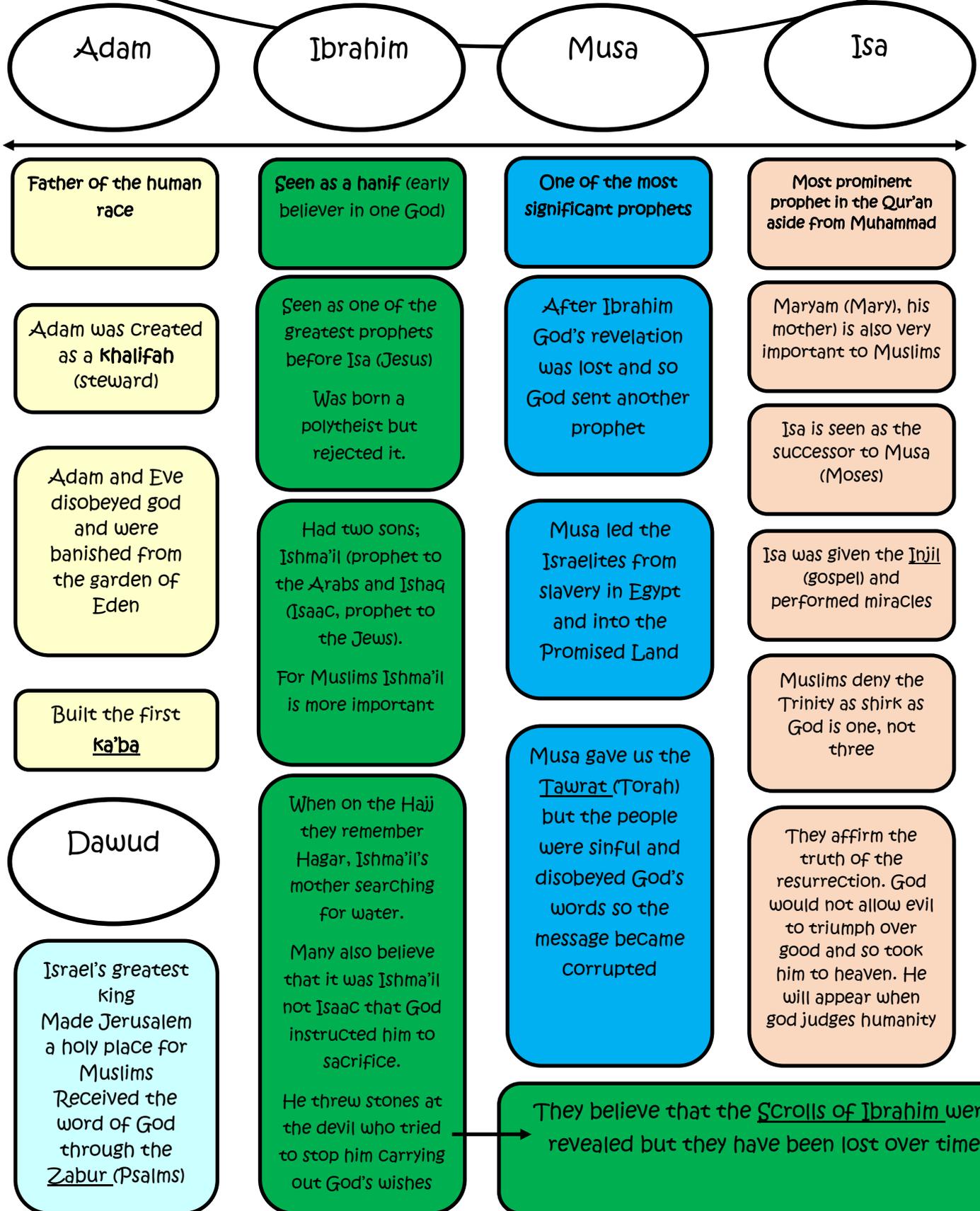
And the evil consequences of what they did will appear to them, and they will be enveloped by what they used to ridicule.

Summarise it/paraphrase it

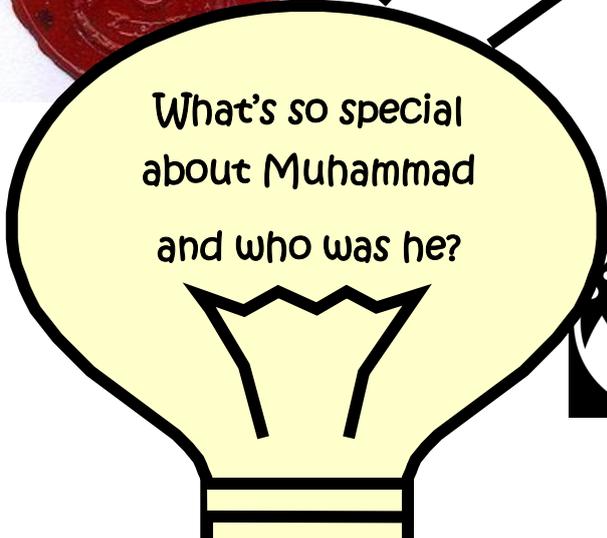
What are the prophets and why are they important?

The prophets are how God communicated his message over time to human beings. Each message has been corrupt or lost. Muhammad's text the Qur'an is perfect and free from error

Muslims believe that every age has been given a prophet as shown in Qur'an 10:47 'To every people was sent an apostle.'



Muhammad: the seal of prophets



He is the final prophet and a role model for all Muslims
 He is the perfect example of an ordinary man
 Because he is a man and **not divine** Muslims must be careful **not to worship him**. Instead they should follow his example

Orphaned when young
 Known as a truthful and intelligent person
 Married an older widow who was his employer at the time after she proposed to him
 They married and Muhammad had 6 children; 4 girls and 2 boys . The boys died in childhood
 He believed that Makkah had become sinful and corrupt and saw that people were worshipping false idols.
 He believed in one God



What's so special about Muhammad and who was he?

Muhammad and Madinah

- Many rejected Muhammad's revelation; Makkah was rich due to pagans paying worshipping the idols there
- He struggled in Makkah until his wife Khadijah died
- Muhammad embarked on what is know as the **hijrah** (migration) from Makkah to a town called Yathrib
- He was invited by pilgrims impressed by his message. He became known as a spiritual, political and military leader here and the city was renamed **Madinah (City of the Prophet)**
- By 630 CE he was strong enough to march 10,000 men on Makkah and retake it. He managed this without spilling any blood
- The Ka'aba was rededicated to Allah and the idols were removed and Islam established

The night of power: Laylat-ul-Qadr

As Muhammad grew more dissatisfied he spent more and more time in prayer and solitude. One night in 610 CE the Angel Jibril appeared to him and ordered him to recite the words that had appeared before him. It is now one of the holiest days of the year and celebrated on the 27th day of Ramadan.

Key information:

The revelations happed over 23 years; sometimes through angle Jibril, sometimes through a voice, some whilst he was in prayer and some in his day to day life

Main message:

- ◆ There is one God
- ◆ We must show thanks and praise to this God
- ◆ We will be judged on our actions by this God

Many did not believe him to begin with but those that did became known as **Muslims**

Differences in Islam

For **Shia Muslims** Ali is very significant because he was the first Imam and is the rightful successor to Muhammad for them
 For **Ahmadiyya Muslims**, Muhammad comes first but Ghulam Ahmed is the divinely appointed and promised Madhi that will come on the Day of Judgement

Examiner's model answers!

D) 'Muhammad is the greatest prophet of Islam.' 15 marks

Discuss this statement showing that you have considered more than one point of view.

(You must refer to religion and belief in your answer)

Use key words/specialist language in your answers

All Muslims would agree with this statement because Muhammad is known as the 'seal of prophets.' This is because he is the final prophet and his revelation in the form of the Qur'an contains the complete and final guidance from God to humankind. This is shown through the hadith about his last sermon where he said 'no prophet or messenger will come after me and no new faith will emerge.' This shows that he believed his message was the most significant of

Use appropriate connectives to show you are evaluating/ analysing

Use sources of wisdom to show your knowledge

all of the prophets.

Whilst all would agree that Muhammad is the most important, some might argue that Adam is also very significant. This is because Adam was not only the first man, but also the first prophet. It is thought by Muslims that he built the first Ka'aba in Makkah. Adam was also the first khalifah and from him Muslims gain knowledge about their role on the earth as stewards. Without Adam the line of prophets would not have started so some could claim that Adam has equal significance to Muhammad.

Always remember to link back to the question

In addition to this, there are differences in belief over who some of the important prophets are. For Shia Muslims, Ali is very important because they believe him to be the rightful successor after Muhammad died. He is so significant that he forms part of their Shahada which states 'there is no God but God and Muhammad is his prophet, and Ali is a friend of God.' For Ahmadiyya Muslims, they also see Ghulam Ahmed as very important because they believe that he is the promised Madhi and Messiah that is going to come at the end of days on the Day of Judgement. This shows that there is not a clear consensus on who is the most significant.

Show you know that Muslims have different views

Examples can help develop your writing

Finally, many Muslims see Ibrahim as an important prophet for a number of reasons. Firstly, they see him as a great role model who passed the test of faith that God set him when he commanded him to sacrifice his son. Secondly, he is the father of Ishmael who went on to become a great prophet to the Arabs and many Muslims believe Muhammad is a descendant of his. Thirdly, many believe that Ibrahim had received a great revelation in the form of the Sahifah: the scrolls of Ibrahim but they were lost over time. All of these responsibilities show that Allah must have favoured Ibrahim which means that Muslims should also see him as highly significant

In conclusion, whilst

A well justified conclusion shows you have thought about the different viewpoints

Muhammad is clearly the most significant and best role model for Muslims, it is clear that other prophets can and should also be used as inspiration for living a good Muslims life.

Read and summarise the main meanings. **These are important** and you need to know the main ideas or be

Qur'an 2:136

Say, [O believers], "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 [al-Asbat] 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, and we are Muslims [in submission] to Him."

Summarise it/paraphrase it

Qur'an 2:87

And We did certainly give Moses the Scripture [i.e., the Torah] and followed up after him with messengers. And we gave Jesus, the son of Mary, clear proofs and supported him with the Pure Spirit [i.e., the angel Gabriel]. But is it [not] that every time a messenger came to you, [O children of Israel], with what your soul did not desire, you were arrogant? And a party [of messengers] you denied and another party you killed

Summarise it/paraphrase it

Angels are perfect male beings with no free will. They are sinless and can communicate with humans and God



Angels are seen as being made from light as opposed to clay which humans were fashioned out of. They are the link between God and his creation

Main angels mentioned in the Qur'an

- **Jibril (Gabriel)**: the angel of revelation
- **Mika'il (Michael)**: keeps the devil out of heaven and protects faithful worshippers. He is revitalising and brings rainfall to the earth and sustenance for the body and soul. He is linked to the idea of protecting and looking after earth.
- **Israfil (Raphael)**: will blow the trumpet to announce the Day of Judgement and the resurrection of all from the dead
- **Azrail**: the angel of death
- **Raqib** and **Atid**: the 'nobles recorders.' They sit on each shoulder and record all deeds. These will be read on the Last day
- **Munkar** and **Nadir**: the two terrifying judging angels, who will ask key questions about a Muslim's faith and understanding of Islam

Diversity in belief between Sunni and Shia Islam regarding angels

Sunnis and angels

Sunnis believe that angels were God's first creation, are immortal and are obedient to God

Sunnis believe that angels are made from light and have no free will

Shias and angels

Shias believe mainly the same things that Sunnis do about angels

Shias believe that angels have limited free will however it would not lead them to disobey God

Shias believe that Ali was informed that he would be the leader after Muhammad by an angel

Shias also believe that Fatima (Muhammad's daughter and the wife of Ali) received a visitation and special revelation from angel Jibril. This shows that Ali's family and Muhammad's



Read

and summarise the main meanings. **These are important** and you need to know the main ideas or be able to quote from it and explain it

Qur'an 2:97-98 97

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.

Summarise it/paraphrase it

Qur'an 2:285

The Messenger has believed in what was revealed to him from his Lord, and [so have] the believers. All of them have believed in Allah and His angels and His books and His messengers, [saying], "We make no distinctions between any of His messengers."

Summarise it/paraphrase it

Which books are important for Muslims and why?

What Muslims believe about God's message to them

- They believe God has communicated through the prophets but that each time the message has become distorted or corrupted
- The Qur'an is perfectly inspired and is free from mistakes
- The Qur'an is known as Umm-ul-Kitab (Mother of Books)
- Sunnis believe the Qur'an is eternal and has always existed
- It exists in heaven and is carved into a stone tablet there
- It contains the solutions to any human problems
- It is a guide to life
- Many Muslims learn it by heart and recite it regularly, taking great care to get it right
- It should guide every action and thought
- The Qur'an says that 'People of the Book' are to be shown special respect, as they worship the one true God as well

The books

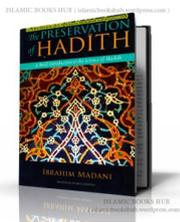
Sahifa Ibrahim = Scrolls of Abraham became so distorted they were all lost

Tawrat = Musa's message was distorted but remains part of the Jewish Torah

Zabur = Dawud's message survives in the Old Testament Psalms (there is a quote from this in the Quran)

Injil = gospel of Jesus, Muslims believe it was people remembering Jesus' life, not God's direct word that is recorded in the Gospels. Muslims believe that Jesus was a prophet, he went to heaven after death. They believe that the prophecy of Muhammad was removed from the Injil (gospels)

The Quran = final message, Muhammad later recited them to be recorded by his followers as he could not read or write. He then arranged them into Surahs based on length of the text.

What about the hadith??

The hadith, whilst very important **are not revelation**. They are the words associated with Muhammad rather than the direct word of God. **Muhammad's life** is seen as a **living example of the Qur'an**, so Muhammad's actions and sayings are very important as they help Muslims to live like Muhammad

B) Describe why two different kutub are significant for Muslims (5)

The **Qur'an** is the **most important kutub** for Muslims and is seen by them as perfectly inspired and the final revelation from God to humankind. They believe that there are no errors in the Qur'an and that it is a perfect guide to life. This is shown in the quote that says that '**the BOOK**' has been sent down for '**clarification for all things**.' Muslims believe all solutions can be found within it.

The **Injil** is also important though, these are Gospels about **Isa** (Jesus') life. They recognise their importance in telling the stories about Jesus' life but **don't think that they are the direct word of God**. They also believe that they are **incomplete** because the prophecy of Muhammad was removed from it to suit Christian purposes

Read and summarise the main meanings. **These are important** and you need to know the main ide-

(Surah 5: 47)

'It was we who revealed the Tawrat to Moses: therein was guidance and light'

Summarise it/paraphrase it

(Surah 4: 163)

'We have sent thee inspiration as We sent it to Noah and the Messengers after him...And to David We gave the Psalms'

Summarise it/paraphrase it

(Surah 4: 171)

'Jesus Christ the son of Mary was no more than an Apostle of God...so believe in God and His apostles. Say not 'Trinity': desist...For God is One God. Glory be to Him far exalted is He above having a son'

Summarise it/paraphrase it

Qur'an 16:89

We have sent down to you the Book as clarification for all things and as guidance and mercy and good tidings for the Muslims

Summarise it/paraphrase it

- 1.a) What do the following words mean? i) kutub, ii) Akhirah, iii) Adalat, iv) tawhid, v) al-Qadr
2. Design a poster/ collage/mind map to explain what the 6 beliefs are and also what the 5 roots are. Show the similarities and differences between them too
3. Explain the main reasons that there was a split within Islam. Ensure that you include the important people
4. Create a comic strip that shows what happens to people depending on whether they go to heaven or hell
5. Explain why malaikah are significant to Muslims (8)
6. Describe the 5 roots of Usul ad-Din (5)
7. Describe the significance of tawhid to Muslims (5)
8. Explain why Risalah is significant to Muslims (8)
9. 'The Qur'an is the only guide necessary to be a good Muslim.' (15)
'Evaluate this view showing you have considered more than one point of view.'
In your answer you must refer to religion and belief

