

## LITERACY LIFELINE - GCSE - Islam- Beliefs

### TOP TIPS

Use **capital letters** and **full stops** in your sentences.

Use **paragraphs** to organise longer pieces of writing.

Take care with all **spelling** and **punctuation**.

Word/phrase	Meaning
Allah	The name given to God in Islam. For Muslims, he is the one true God.
Al Qadr	The belief that Allah is supreme and has power over everything. Nothing happens unless it is his will.
Akhirah	The idea or concept of an afterlife
Caliph	The leader of the Sunni Muslim community, considered to be a political and religious successor to Muhammad
Five Roots of Usul ad Din	A set of key beliefs that are important to Shi'a Muslims
Imam	With a small 'i' The leader of the Mosque (imam) With a capital 'I' one of the special leaders believed by Shi'a Muslims to have been chosen from the descendants of Muhammad to lead the Islamic community at various points in history (Imam)
Immanent	The belief that Allah is close to us and involved in the world
Jahannam	A place of suffering and punishment (Hell)
Jannah	Paradise a place of reward where good Muslims go to be with God when they die
Jibril	An important angel who first spoke the words of God to Muhammad
Jihad	This literally translates as 'struggle' and is something that Muslims do for their faith even though it is hard
Mosque	A holy building and place of worship for Muslims.
Muhammad	The most important prophet of Islam. God's messenger.
Prophet	A person chosen by Allah to give his message to humankind
Shahada	This is a declaration or statement which means that there is only one God and Muhammad (pbuh) is his prophet. Muslims say this as part of the five pillars of Islam.
Shi'a	A type or denomination of Islam, there are two main denominations
Six Articles of Faith	A set of key beliefs that are important to Sunni Muslims
Sunnah	These are the teachings and deeds of Muhammad (pbuh)
Sunni	A type or denomination of Islam, there are two main denominations
Surah	This means chapter of the Qu'ran
Tawhid	This means the unity or oneness of God
Transcendent	The belief that Allah is far away, distant, above all things, beyond the world
Qur'an	The holy book of Islam, revealed to Muhammad by the Angel Jibril



# (Key Quotes)

<p>"A place in Paradise as small as the bow or lash of one of you is better than the entire world and whatever is in it."</p>	<p>Useful for-            Akhirah            Judgement day            Jannah            The nature of Allah (beneficent)</p>
<p>"But he whose balance (of good deeds) is found to be light, will have his home in a (bottomless) Pit. And what will explain to you what this is? A Fire blazing fiercely!"</p>	<p>Useful for-            Akhirah            Judgement day            Jahannam            The nature of Allah (fair, powerful, the judge)</p>
<p>"He begot no one nor was he begot"</p>	<p>Useful for-            Tawhid            The nature of Allah            Transcendence of Allah            Allah is supreme</p>
<p>"Be conscious of the Day on which you shall be brought back to God, whereupon every human being shall be repaid in full for what he has done"</p>	<p>Useful for-            Judgement day            Nature of Allah (fairness)            Accountability of mankind (free will= punishment)</p>
<p>"Every affliction that falls on the earth or yourselves, already exists in a Book before it is brought into being by us."</p>	<p>Useful for-            Predestination            The nature of Allah (knows everything, Al-Qadr)</p>
<p>"This Book is not to be doubted.... As for the unbelievers, it is the same whether or not you forewarn them; they will not have faith."</p>	<p>Useful for-            The importance of the Qur'an</p>
<p>"Praise be to Allah, who created (out of nothing) the heavens and the earth, who made the angels, messengers with wings ..."</p>	<p>Useful for-            Angels            Nature of God (power, creator)            Risalah</p>



**Top tip!**

Avoid saying 'One teaching from the Qur'an is...' instead say '**One Muslim teaching is...**' That way you won't accidentally say something is from the Qur'an when in fact it is from the Hadith or another Muslim holy book. You can't go wrong if you say '**Muslim teaching**'.

When Muhammad (pbuh) died there were disagreements about who should be the new leader.

Most people believed that Abu Bakr should be leader as he knew the job well having followed and worked closely with Muhammad for years. This group became known as **Sunni Muslims** as the Sunnah (the words and deeds of Muhammad) is very important to them.

A smaller group of people believed that Muhammad's relative should be leader. They believed that only people blood related to Muhammad were 'divinely appointed' (selected by God) to lead. They became known as **Shi'a Muslims**.



What about now?

Sunni leaders are called **Caliphs**, ordinary men who wish to lead. They lead prayer and read from the Qur'an but cannot interpret it.

**Imams are divinely appointed** (this is called the **imamate**) by Allah, they can trace their family tree back to Muhammad (pbuh). One group of Shi'a Muslims (called the twelvers) believe that there have been twelve Imams and God is keeping the last Imam alive somewhere on Earth until he is needed.

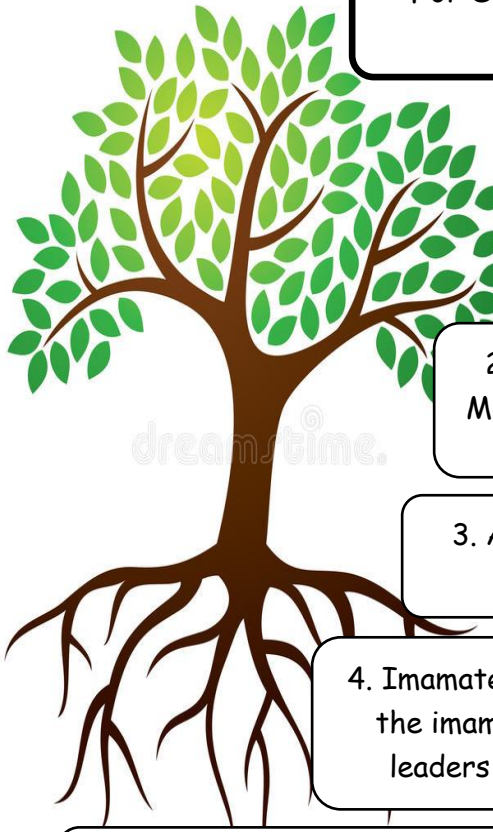
Sunni and Shi'a Muslims both have a set of **core beliefs** that define what it means to be that type of Muslim.



## Articles of Faith

What	Importance
The Oneness of Allah- Allah is One, eternal, the absolute creator	If Allah has absolute power, then Muslims will trust in his will and accept the challenges that happen in their lives
Angels- do the work of Allah and record all words and actions	Muslims will try and live their lives well to earn a place in paradise
Holy books- Sources of authority in written form	Holy books allows Muslims to know and understand the right path and how to live their lives
Prophets- deliver messages from Allah to help guide humanity	If Muslims listen to the words and examples of prophets, they will follow the right path
Day of judgement- Allah judges Muslim actions to decide on heaven or hell for eternal life	The whole of this life is a test for the life to come and facing Allah's judgement
Al-Qadr- Allah's will is supreme so everything is ordered by Him	Allah determines everything and even with human free will Allah knows the choices before humans make them

For Shi'a Muslims they have the 5 roots of Usul ad-Din.



1. Tawhid (Oneness)- Allah is one, eternal, supreme, the absolute creator

Important because One God means there's a single path for Muslims to follow (no confusion)

2. Nubuwwah (Prophethood)- Messengers from Allah to show people how to live.

Provides guidance on how to live a good life

3. Adalat (Justice)- Allah is supremely fair

Even when things in life are hard, Muslims trust that Allah's ways are right and fair

4. Imamate (Leadership) - the imams are earthly leaders of the faith

They protect the Muslim religion and offer guidance on modern day issues by interpreting the teachings of the Qur'an

5. Al-Ma'ad (resurrection) - humans will live again after death

Muslims will try to live good, moral lives to pass the test and have a good afterlife



**TAWHID**

"And your Lord has decreed that you worship none but Him..."

God is one. He is whole. Not only is he the only God but you cannot divide him or break him down into parts (like saying he has a son for example).

**BENEFICENT/ MERCIFUL**



"He (Allah) is the Entirely Merciful, the Especially Merciful."

**OMNIPOTENT**



"When He wills a certain thing, He commands it 'Be!' and it is" Allah is all-powerful and knows everything. He knows your innermost thoughts- You can't hide anything from him.

**What is Allah like?**  
(The nature of Allah)

**IMMANENT**



"He is closer than your jugular vein"

Allah is in the world to guide and help. He is vital for our survival and close to us.



**FAIR/JUST**

"God commands justice and fair dealing"

Allah is supreme- He has power over everything. Nothing happens without his will.

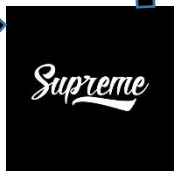
**TRANSCENDENT**



He is Allah, other than whom there is no deity, the Sovereign, the Pure, the Perfection, the Bestower of Faith, the Overseer, the Exalted in Might, the Transcendent"

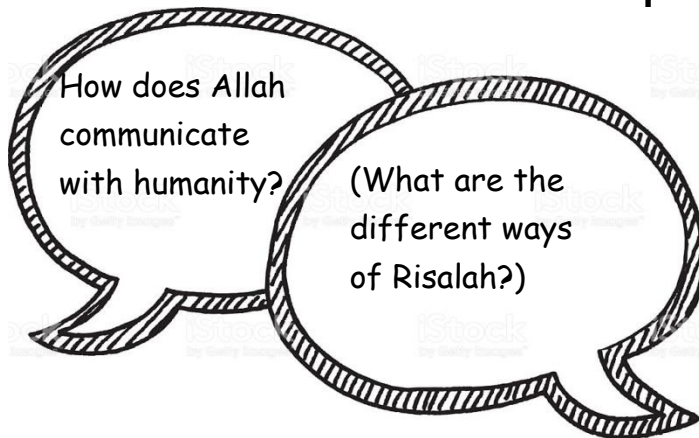
God is separate from the universe, time and his creation. He is superior above and apart from all things.

**AL-QADR**



Muslims say "inshallah" in conversation sometimes which means 'if God wills it.'

**RISALAH → MEANS COMMUNICATION → (PROPHETHOOD)  
BETWEEN ALLAH AND  
HUMANITY**



There are three main ways:

1. Prophets like Adam and Ibrahim, - Allah (because he is just and fair) sent 124,000 prophets to guide humankind and give them a good chance of reaching paradise. Muhammad was the last prophet as his message came directly from Allah and has never been changed. (The seal of the prophets).
2. Angels guide people and the prophets and communicate what God wants through this guidance.
3. The prophets inspired holy books like the Qur'an, Injil (Gospel) and Tawrat (Torah). These offer guidance on how to live.

<b>ADAM</b>	<b>IBRAHIM</b>	<b>MUHAMMAD</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First man on Earth</li> <li>• Taught everything by Allah; ability to learn, farm, reason, make choices. We inherited this knowledge from him.</li> <li>• After Adam and Hawwa disobeyed Allah and were thrown out of Eden, Allah was merciful to them and Adam taught mankind about Allah</li> <li>• Built the Ka'aba, prophet until he died, father of all mankind</li> <li>• Adam did wrong but shows Muslims today that if you repent Allah will show your mercy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Believed in one true power- Allah</li> <li>• Rejected idol and statue worship</li> <li>• Allah saved Ibrahim with a miracle when people were angry about what Ibrahim preached</li> <li>• Ibrahim passed Allah's test showing he was so obedient that he was willing to sacrifice his son for Allah</li> <li>• Ibrahim rebuilt the Ka'aba and his son led the community to Makkah</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The 'seal of the prophets' the final prophet</li> <li>• Allah chose Muhammad because he had the personality to be faithful and to lead and convert many people</li> <li>• The angel Jibril revealed the Qur'an to Muhammad on Mount Hira</li> <li>• Preached the Qur'an in Makkah but was driven out and had to escape to Madina</li> <li>• Became a political and religious leader and set up belief system with 5 pillars at its foundation</li> <li>• He delivered the Qur'an in Madina and set up a community with rules. This was the first Muslim community.</li> <li>• The Sunnah and Hadith provide guidance on how to live your life in any era. They are accounts of his actions and life.</li> </ul>

Why is Muhammad important?

- Fair and wise leader
- Sets perfect example of how to live
- Loving and loyal family man
- Patient and charismatic teacher
- Qualities of good role model today- determination, patience, courage etc.
- Very moral and strong sense of duty



# The Qur'an



When was it written?	What does it contain?	How was it compiled?	Where was it received?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Qur'an was first revealed to Muhammad on the Night of Power</li> <li>- It took many years for Muhammad to receive the full message</li> <li>-It was compiled into a single book only after Muhammad's death, to preserve his message</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-114 chapters (surahs)</li> <li>-Shari'ah law</li> <li>- The will of Allah</li> <li>-Allah's message to mankind</li> <li>-basic guidance on worship</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Revealed to Muhammad by the angel Jibril</li> <li>- Muhammad verbally spoke the Qur'an as he could not read or write</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Mount Hira originally</li> <li>-People in Makkah originally rejected the message</li> <li>-was well received in Madina when Muhammad fled there and set up the first Muslim community</li> </ul>
<b>Why is it important?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-It is the will of Allah, his message in full (revelation)</li> <li>-Helps you live a good Muslim life</li> <li>-Contains advice on worship so you can become a good Muslim</li> </ul>		

## OTHER HOLY BOOKS IN ISLAM.

### Torah (Tawrat)

- Revealed to Musa (Moses)
- Referred to in the Qur'an as 'guidance and light'
- Current version imperfect/ distorted
- Muhammad thought they were important

### Gospel (Injil)

- Revealed to Isa (Jesus) written down after he died
- The Qur'an refers to these books so must be important
- However, been distorted/ changed and contains shirk- really bad sins (saying Jesus is the son of God, for example)

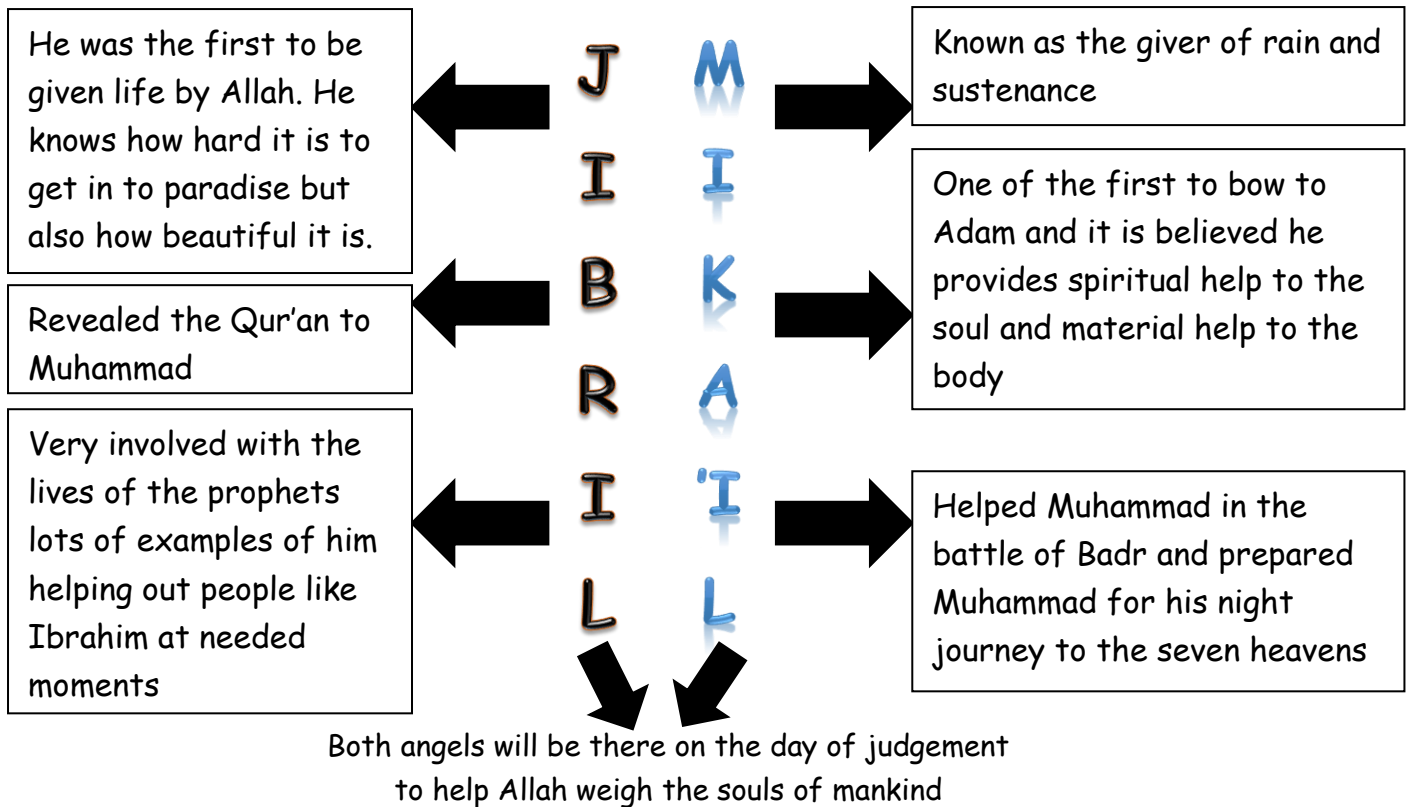
### Psalms (Zabur)

- Collection of prayers and poems revealed to Dawud (David)
- Allah gave them as a form of guidance
- Current versions are incomplete

### The Scrolls of Ibrahim (Suhuf)

- Revealed to Ibrahim
- Believed to contain prayers and ways of worship
- Are now lost

# ANGELS



## Akhirah (Life after death)



- We know there is life after death because the Qur'an (the word of Allah) says so
- Life is a test- To see who deserves to go to paradise or Hell
- Angels record your actions when you're alive to help decide where you go

When you die Muslims believe that an Angel called Azra'il takes your soul out of your body. You then watch your funeral which is why it is important to say nice things about that person at a funeral as they will be listening!

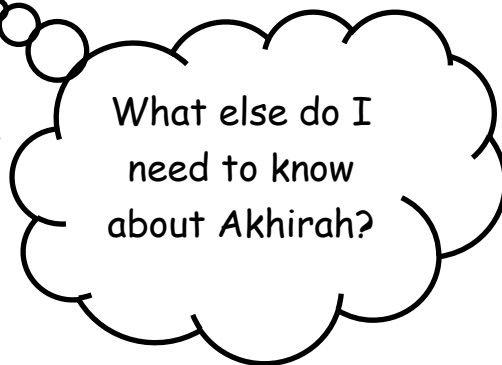
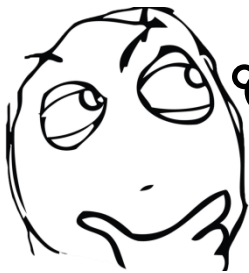
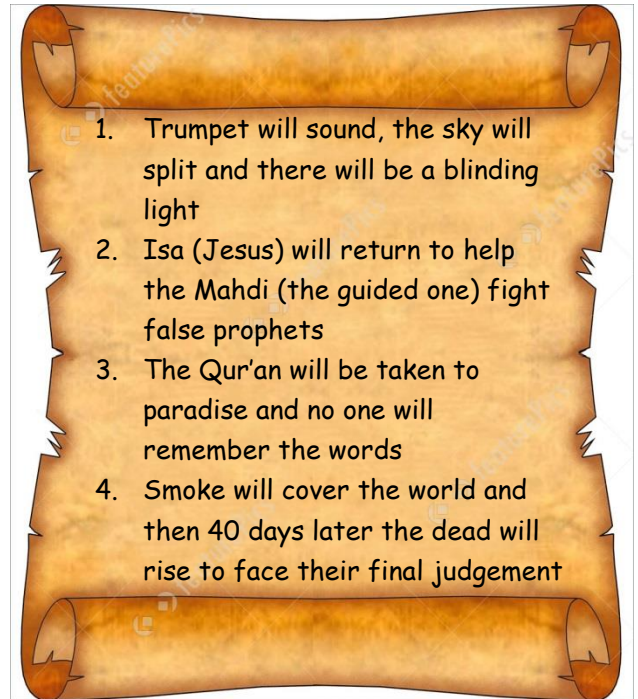
Two angels then ask the dead person questions:

- Who is your Lord?
- Who is your prophet?
- What was your life like?

Answer correctly and you rest peacefully until judgement day (at the end of the world) But get the answers wrong and your soul will be tormented in the grave until that time! The worse you were when you were alive, the worse the torment will be! Waiting in the grave until judgement day is called **Barzakh** because this means 'barrier' and it is like the barrier or divide between life and after life after judgement.



# What will happen at the end of the world?



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Jannah	Jahannam	Judgement Day
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paradise</li> <li>• Must be religious to get in</li> <li>• Should have good beliefs and actions</li> <li>• Need to have asked Allah for forgiveness</li> <li>• It is a reward</li> <li>• Wishes and desires are fulfilled</li> <li>• No illness/pain/worries</li> <li>• Family is there</li> <li>• Two angels welcome people</li> <li>• There are 8 gates to get in</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hell</li> <li>• You go here if you have lived a wicked life, taken no responsibility for your actions and/or rejected the teachings of the Qur'an</li> <li>• Place of punishment, punishment depends on your crimes in life</li> <li>• No escape</li> <li>• Seven levels of Hell</li> <li>• Extreme pain through boiling water and burning fires</li> <li>• You can be sent by Allah on judgement day or sent there immediately for terrible sins</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People are raised from the grave</li> <li>• People grouped together for the 'sorting'</li> <li>• Everyone has a book called 'your record'</li> <li>• Allah will show some people mercy</li> <li>• Scales will balance your good deeds against your bad</li> <li>• Bad people are thrown into Hell never to escape</li> <li>• A bridge will appear over Hell covered in glass. If you cross it safely you can go to paradise</li> </ul>

Is it fair?- Everything happens according to Allah's will which may cause you to wonder, well what is the point in life then if Allah already knows everything that is going to happen (predestination)? This life is a test, Akhirah gives this life purpose. Allah gives us free will so we can prove ourselves worthy of paradise. We have control because Allah gave us free will, we have help to make the right choices through Risalah. There are some things we can't control (e.g. natural disasters) but we can control how we react to them.