

# ISLAM PRACTICES

## KEYWORDS

Ten Obligatory Acts (**Shia**)  
Five Pillars of Islam (**Sunni**)

Shahada  
Salah  
Zakah (Alms)  
Sawm  
Hajj

Jihad  
The Mosque

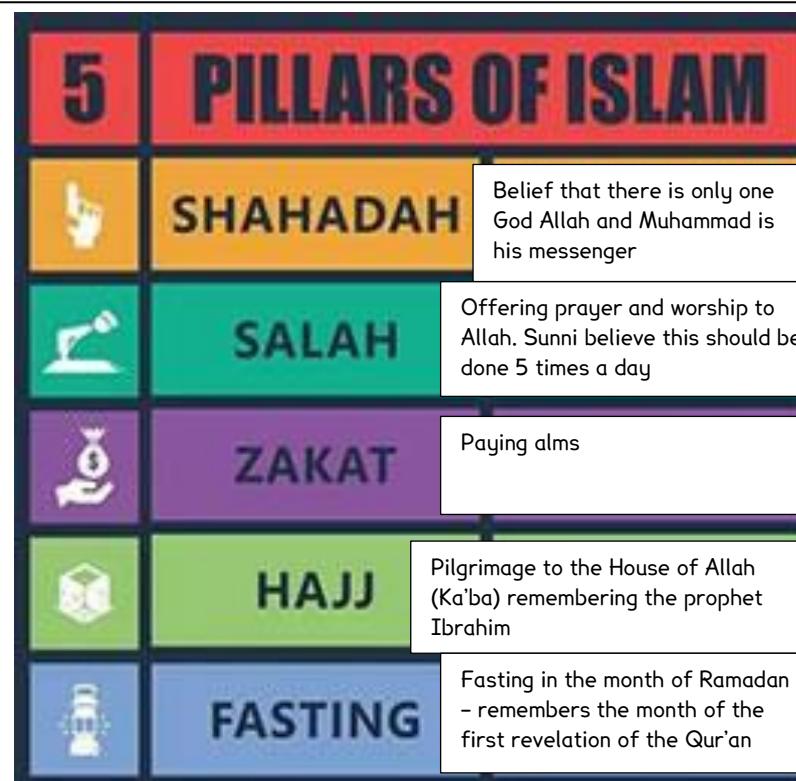
Eid il Fitr

Eid il Adha

Ashura

**SUNNI** (followers of Abu Bakr) is the largest denomination of Islam (approx. 90%). Its name comes from the word Sunnah, referring to the exemplary behaviour of the Islamic prophet Muhammad. They follow The 5 Pillars of Islam (see right)

**SHIA** (followers of Ali) is a denomination (approx. 10%) of Islam which holds that the Islamic prophet Muhammad chose Ali ibn Abi Talib as his successor to lead the religion. Shia Islam primarily contrasts with Sunni Islam, whose adherents believe that Muhammad did not appoint a successor and consider Abu Bakr to be the correct Caliph. There are other differences Shia Muslims follow the Ten Obligatory Acts. (see below)



**The Mosque** is the place of worship for Muslims. They must attend Mosque on a Friday - **Jummah prayers**, as there is a sermon from the Qur'an on this day. The Mosque has many features which help Muslims to pray e.g. Quibla and Mihrab



**SALAH** - All Muslims are commanded to pray 5 times a day. This was the command given by Muhammad after the Night Journey. Men must pray at the Mosque especially on a Friday, all Muslims face Mecca when praying - which is the direction of the Kabah - the House of Allah. Before Prayer Muslims must perform the ritual washing called **Wudu**. This ensures they are physically as well as spiritually and physically clean before prayer. During prayer Muslims perform a certain number of Rak'ah - sequences of actions and recitations

## TEN OBLIGATORY ACTS

<b>Salah</b>	Prayer
<b>Sawm</b>	Fasting
<b>Zakah</b>	Charitable 'Alms' Giving
<b>Khums</b>	20% tax to charity and religious leaders
<b>Hajj</b>	Pilgrimage
<b>Jihad</b>	The struggle to maintain the faith and defend Islam
<b>Amir-bil-Maruf</b>	Encouraging people to do what is good
<b>Nahi Anil Mukar</b>	Discouraging people from doing what is wrong
<b>Tawallah</b>	Showing love for Allah and his followers
<b>Tabarra</b>	Not associating with the enemies of Allah

**GREATER/INNER JIHAD:** striving to be better person, resist evil- help poor, do not let anger get to you, follow the laws of Islam as closely as possible

**LESSER JIHAD** (Striving with the sword) - resisting evil through military /physical ways e.g. defending land or places of worship. Muhammad fought against those who wanted to end Islam. BUT strict conditions: • Persecution • Religious freedom • Being attacked/defending land/religion • Authorized by a Muslim leader • Not target civilians eg women, kids • Not harm crops • Not to convert others

**HAJJ** - The journey allows Muslims to walk in the footprints of the Prophets. They remember significant events from the life of **Ibrahim**. **1. The Kaba h-** rebuilt by him and his son, **2. The sa'i** - the running (Hajirah and Ismael in the desert) and **3. The Stoning of the devil at the Jamrat Pillars**. Overall Hajj is important because it is a religious obligation and can lead to forgiveness of sins (**Mount Arafat**)

**EID UL FITR** Celebrates the end of Ramadan and allows Muslims to offer thanks to Allah for the revelation of the Qur'an on the **Night of Power**.

**EID UL ADHA** Celebrates Ibrahim's willingness to sacrifice his son to God, marking the end of Hajj. Many Muslims will sacrifice an animal in celebration.

**FESTIVAL OF ASHURA** - For Shia Muslims this marks the martyrdom of Hussein (Muhammad's grandson at the battle of Karbala). They mourn his loss by grieving - often wailing and beating their chests. Many Shia Muslims will donate blood in honour of the blood of Imam Hussein being spilt.

**You must learn the differences between how different Muslims celebrate their faith and worship Allah - e.g. Shia Muslims pray differently to Sunni. They also celebrate Ashurah in different ways.**