

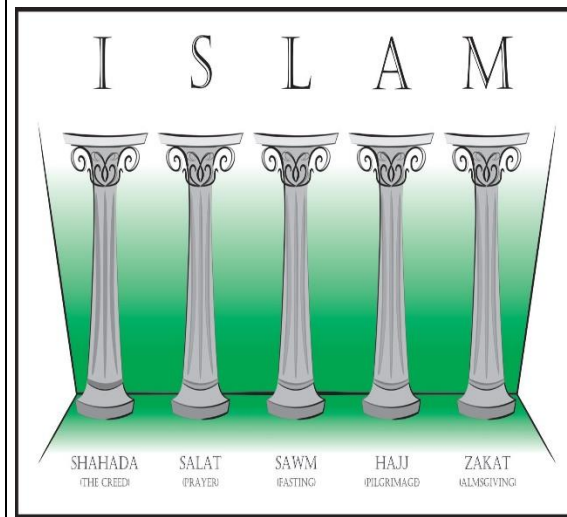
RE: ISLAM – THE FIVE PILLARS KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER

Overview

Muslims are the people who follow Islam. As a part of their beliefs, Muslims consider that there are five basic duties expected of them. These are called the 'five pillars of faith.'

The five pillars underpin the beliefs of the Arabic faith. Muslims believe that in his last sermon, the Prophet Muhammad said these words to Muslims:

"O people, listen to me in earnest. Worship Allah (the one creator of the universe), perform your five daily prayers, give what you are obliged to out of your wealth and fast during the month of Ramadan. Perform Hajj if you can afford to."



Shahadah and Salah

Pillar 1: Shahadah ('declaration of faith').

-Muslims should recite the Shahadah as often as they can – it reads: 'La ilaha illa Lahu Muhammadur rasulullah'

-This means: 'I bear witness that there is no god but Allah and I bear witness that the Prophet Muhammad is his messenger.'

-This is a Muslims pledge to live life in obedience to Allah. Muslims believe that their actions are judged by their intentions, rather than their consequences, so they believe that it is very important to live life with good intentions.



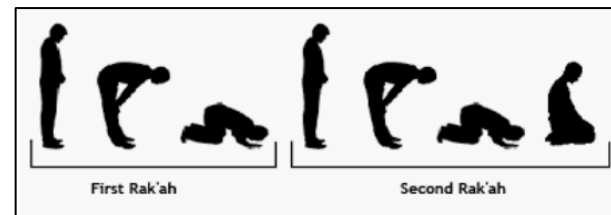
Pillar 2: Salah ('worship of Allah').

- Salah (worship of Allah) takes place five times a day. The mu'adin calls people to prayer from the top of the minaret. The words used are known as the adhan.

-Generally, Muslims are required to pray at fajr (dawn), zuhr (midday), asr (late afternoon), maghrib (after sunset) and eisha (late evening).

--Before Muslims pray, they perform washing (wudu) following a ritual sequence. They also follow the Rak'at (a sequence of movements and words).

-Muslims can pray anywhere as long as it is clean. Their feet must face away from Makkah.



Zakah and Fawm

Pillar 3: Zakah ('poor due')

-Muslims are required to purify their wealth by giving to others who are less fortunate than themselves.



- Zakah is not a choice, but is strictly enforced by Islamic law. Muslims should give 2.5% of their annual wealth away, normally at the end of Ramadan.

-Zakah supports the 'Ummah' (the worldwide community of Muslims) by helping the poor and the needy. Many Muslims also give to charities such as Red Crescent and Islamic Relief.

Pillar 4: Sawm ('fasting during Ramadan')

-Adult Muslims who are able are expected to follow the example of Prophet Muhammad and fast during the month of Ramadan.

-During Ramadan, Muslims should not eat, drink, or smoke from just before dawn until sunset. After sunset, families gather to eat a good meal together, which is known as Iftar.



-By fasting, Muslims feel able to empathise with the poor and needy, and control desires and cravings.

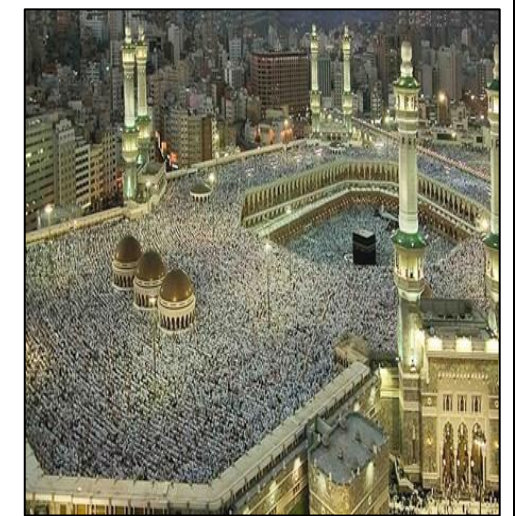
Hajj

Pillar 5: Hajj ('pilgrimage to Makkah')

-The Hajj is an annual pilgrimage made to Makkah by around 2-3 million Muslims during the month of Dhul Hijjah.

-All Muslims who are fit and able are expected to do this pilgrimage at least once in their lives. During the pilgrimage, they must wear special clothes called ihram.

-When they reach Makkah, pilgrims should walk around the Ka'aba seven times, touching or saluting to the sacred black stone as they pass the south-eastern corner.



Key Vocabulary

Islam

Muslim

Mosque

Shahadah

Salah

Zakah

Sawm

Hajj

Ummah

Ramadan

Pilgrimage

Ihram

Ka'aba

Personal Spirituality – Key Questions

What are good intentions? What good intentions do you have?

What daily rituals do you have in your own life? Why?

How does discipline impact on your life?

Which charities do you support? Why?

How/ when do you quietly reflect?

How do you show self-control in your own life?

Have you ever given anything up? Why?

What journeys have you been on? How have these experiences changed you? What are your attitudes to travel?