The Oneness of God

- One of the most important beliefs for Muslims is Tawhid (the belief that there is only one God).
- This belief is repeated daily in the Shahadah (one of the five pillars).
- A Muslim’s most important duty is to declare faith in one God.
- God is unique. No one can picture God which is why there isn’t any pictures or statues of Him in Islam.
- God is the only creator and controller of everything.
- Muslims believe they should accept whatever happens as the will of God (supremacy of God’s will)

Nature of Allah

Muslims believe God is:
- Immanent (present in earth and involved with humanity)
- Transcendent (outside life and beyond understanding)
- Omnipotent (all-powerful)
- Beneficent (all-loving and all-good)
- Merciful (compassionate and forgiving)
- Just (fair and judges humans actions)

Angels

Muslims believe angels bring the words of God to the prophets. They have no free will and are made from elements of light. Their roles are:
- Messengers
- Guardians of people
- Recording actions of humans
- An angel of death
- Purify hearts
- Bring natural disasters

Jibril:
- Archangel
- Relayed the Qur’an to Muhammad
- Guided Muhammad through his entire life

Mika’il:
- Archangel
- Angel of Mercy
- Responsible for sending rain, thunder and lightning

Predestination

Sunni:
- Believe God has already determined everything that will happen in the universe.
- Linked to Sunni belief of the supremacy of God’s will.
- Doesn’t mean that people have no choice about how they behave.

Shi’a:
- Believe that God knows everything that is going to happen, but does not decide what is going to happen.
- Shi’a Muslims do not see conflict between supremacy of God’s will and human freed to act freely and make choices as God knows what you will choose but does not choose for you.

Prophethood

- God has chosen people to bring the message of Islam to the people. These chosen people are called prophets.
- They are important because they provide communication between God and humans.
- In order for humans to live how God wants it is necessary for instructions to be delivered through prophets.
- 25 are named in the Qur’an
- They are important role models as they were good people who lived according to God’s will.

Adam:
- First man on earth and first prophet of Islam
- Father of the human race so treated with great respect
- God created Hawwa (Eve) to stop Adam being lonely
- They were told not to eat from the tree in the middle of the garden but they did and so sin entered the world.
- Adam is important as God gave him understanding which he passed on through his descendants. God revealed to him the foods they can eat, how to repent for wrong doing and how to bury the dead.

Ibrahim:
- Fulfilled all the tests and commands God gave him.
- Was promised to be the father of all nations.
- Demanded people to stop idol worship. Was supposed to be burnt alive but survived (miracle) so people began to follow God.
- Re-built the Ka’aba after it was destroyed.
- Important as he stopped idol worship, gave the message of one God and rebuilt the Ka’aba

Holy Books

Other holy books have been revealed by God. Some Muslims believe these books have been lost, whilst others believe they can be found in the Bible, although the original text has been corrupted so does not have the same authority as the Qur'an.

The Qur’an:
- The Qur’an is the direct word of God, which was revealed to Muhammad over a period of around 22 years.
- Contains the foundation of every believer’s faith.
- Is most sacred of all the holy books.
- Is infallible (without error and non-changing)
- Contains a mixture of historical accounts and advice on how to follow God.
- There are 114 surahs (chapters) in total.
- Those who can recite the Qur’an from memory are given the title ‘Hafiz’.

The Torah (Tawrat):
- Given to Moses (Musa).
- Mentioned 18 times in the Qur’an
- Essentially the first five books of the Bible but additions and subtractions have been made.

The Psalms (Zabur):
- Revealed to David
- Mentioned 3 times in the Qur’an
- Similar to the Psalms in the Bible.

The Gospel (Injil):
- Revealed to Jesus (Isa)
- Mentioned 12 times in the Qur’an.
- It is thought to have been lost but some of its message is still found in the Bible.

The Scrolls of Ibrahim:
- One of the earliest scriptures of Islam, revealed to Ibrahim.
- Referred to in the Qur’an
- No longer exist as they have been lost.

Shi’a:
- Linked to Sunni belief of the supremacy of God’s will.
- Believe that God knows everything that is going to happen, but does not decide what is going to happen.
- Shi’a Muslims do not see conflict between supremacy of God’s will and human freed to act freely and make choices as God knows what you will choose but does not choose for you.

Shi’a:
- Does not mean that people have no choice about how they behave.

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- In order for humans to live how God wants it is necessary for instructions to be delivered through prophets.
- 25 are named in the Qur’an
- They are important role models as they were good people who lived according to God’s will.

Muhammad:
- Known as the last and greatest prophet.
- Religious from an early age and would go into the mountains to a cave to pray and meditate.
- In 610CE on Mount Hira received his first revelation from God through the angel Jibril.
- For more than 20 years received further revelations, which were combined together to make the Qur’an.
- 3 years after the first revelation began preaching the words he received and continued to do it for the rest of his life.
- He challenged the people of Makkah to give up their sinful ways (cheating, drinking, gambling and idol worshipping).
- He was persecuted by the leaders of Makkah and so fled from the city in 622CE. This is known as the Hijrah (departure) and marks the beginning of the Ummah (worldwide community).
- Before the departure Muhammad was taken on an amazing experience where Jibril took him to Jerusalem. Muhammad was carried on a horse like creature with wings. From Jerusalem he ascended to heaven and saw signs of Gods and spoke to prophets such as Isa. This is where he was told to pray 5 times a day. This journey is known as the Night Journey.

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**Key Words**

**Muslim** One who has submitted to the will of God and has accepted Islam.

**Islam** The name of the religion followed by Muslims; to surrender to the will of God; peace.

**Allah** The Arabic name for God.

**Tawhid** The Oneness and unity of God.

**Monotheistic** A religion that believes there is only one God.

**Supremacy** Supreme power or authority; a quality of God.

**Qur'an** The Holy book revealed to Mohammad by the angel Jibril; God’s final revelation to humankind.

**Sunni** Muslims who believe in the successorship to Mohammad of Abu Bakr, Umar, Uthman and Ali.

**Shi’a (Shi’i)** Muslims who believe in the Imamate, the successorship of Ali.

**Immanent** The idea that God is present in and involved with life on earth and in the universe; a quality of God.

**Transcendent** The idea that God is beyond and outside life on earth and the universe; a quality of God.

**Omnipotent** Almighty, having unlimited power; a quality of God.

**Beneficent** Benevolent, all-loving, all-good; a quality of God.

**Merciful** The quality of God that shows compassion or forgiveness to humans, even though he has the power to punish them.

**Fairness** The idea that God treats people fairly and impartially without favour or discrimination.

**Justice (Adlalat in Shi’i Islam)** The idea that God is just and fair and judges human actions, rewarding the good and punishing the bad.

**Angels** They are spiritual beings created from elements of light. They gave God messages to the prophets and watch over humans.

**Day of Judgement** The day when Allah will decide about individual deeds, good and bad, and on reward or punishment.

**Jibril** Jibril is the most important of the angels and spoke with many of the prophets of Allah. Jibril dictated the Qur’an to Muhammad. On Judgement Day he will assist with the weighing of a person’s deeds.

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**Life after death**

- For Muslims death isn’t the end but the start of a new stage of life called Akhirah.
- After death you lie in the grave waiting for the day of Judgment this is called Barrakh.
- Angels are sent to question them about their life. If they are good and honest they will be rewarded if they are bad an untruthful they will be punished.

**The Day of Judgement**

- When God’s purpose for the world has been fulfilled He will destroy it.
- The world will be transformed into a new world.
- Everyone who has ever lived will be resurrected and judged by God.
- If people are given the book of deeds in their right hands they will go to heaven, if in their left they they will go to hell.

**Heaven and Hell**

**Heaven:**
- Described as the gardens of happiness
- It is a reward for faith and good deeds

**Hell:**
- Described as a place of fire and great torment
- Punishment for those who reject God and do evil.

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**Sunni and Shi’a Islam**

**Sunni:**
- When Muhammad died it wasn’t clear who should succeed him.
- Muslims split in to two groups Sunni and Shi’a.
- Sunni’s elected Abu Bakr as their first Caliph (leader, teacher).
- Shi’a believe that Muhammad named his cousin Ali as his successor so he became the first Imam.
- For Shi’as it was important that Ali took control because they believe that Muhammad appointed him under divine instruction and leadership should follow in the family line.
- When Ali died his son became the Imam. Each Imam that followed was the son of the previous Imam.
- The Sunni believe that there have been twelve Imams in total. The last one they believe has been kept alive by God and is hidden somewhere on earth who will return to bring peace, justice and equality.
- They believe that the receiving of God’s law was through Mohammad and that the Imams had the authority to guide the beliefs and leadership should follow in the family line.

**Shi’a:**
- Another group believed that Muhammad named his cousin Ali as his successor.
- Ali and his supporters thought that the true leader had to be a descendent of Muhammad and chosen by God.
- Ali’s claims to be leader were ignored by many Muslims. Over time a split developed between those who followed Ali (the Shi’as) and the Sunnis.
- Shi’as have their own interpretations of the Law and only accept sayings of Muhammad which have been passed down through Ali or his followers.

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**Six Articles of Faith in Sunni Islam:**

1. There is only one God Allah.
2. Angels communicate the message of God to humans.
3. The Qur’an is the most important written document and the highest authority in Islam.
4. Muhammad is the most important prophet of God.
5. The Day of Judgement is when all humanity will be judged by God and sent to paradise or hell.
6. The supremacy of God’s will means that God already knows but also makes happen everything that occurs in the world and in human lives.

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**The Five Roots of ‘Usul ad-Din’ in Shi’a Islam:**

1. Tawhid means that God is one.
2. Prophethood means accepting that Muhammad is God’s last prophet.
3. God is just and wise and cannot do wrong. He holds humans accountable for their actions.
4. The Imamate means accepting that twelve Imams are the leader of Islam and guard the truth of the religion without error.
5. After death you will be resurrected and judged by God.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Sub-topics</strong></th>
<th><strong>Islam</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **The Oneness of God & the Supremacy of God’s Will** | “He is God, the One, God the eternal. He begot no one nor was He begotten. No one is comparable to Him.” Qur’an 112:1-4  
“You who believe, obey God and the Messenger.” Qur’an 4:59  
“Misfortunes can only happen with God’s permission.” Qur’an 64:11 |
| **The Nature of God** | “The Most Excellent Names belong to God: use them to call on Him”. Qur’an 7:180  
“This is God, your Lord there is no God but Him, the Creator or all things, so worship Him; He is in charge of everything. No vision can take Him in, but He takes all vision. He is the All Subtle, the All Aware”. Qur’an6:102-103  
“He is with you wherever you are.” Qur’an 57:4 |
| **Angels** | “Praise be to God, Creator of the heavens and earth, who made angels messengers with two, three, four (pairs of) wings.” Qur’an 35:1  
“Each person has angels before him and behind, watching over him by God’s command”. Qur’an 13:11  
“The record of their deeds will be laid open and you will see the guilty, dismayed at what they contain, saying, “woe to us! What a record this is! It does not leave any deed, small or large, unaccounted for!” They will find everything they ever did laid in front of them: you Lord will not be unjust to anyone.” Qur’an 18:49 |
| **Predestination** | “Only what God has decreed will happen to us. He is our Master: let the believers put their trust in God.” Qur’an 9:51  
“God does not change the condition of a people (for the worse) unless they change what is in themselves”. Qur’an 13:11  
Those who believe, do good deeds, keep up the prayer, and pay the prescribed alms will have their reward with their Lord”. Qur’an 2:277 |
| **Life After Death** | “On couches of well-woven cloth they will sit facing each other; everlasting youths will go round among them with glasses, flagons, and cups of a pure drink that causes no headache or intoxication; (there will be) any fruit they choose; the meal of any bird they like; and beautiful-eyed maidens like hidden pearls: a reward for what they used to do”. Qur’an 56:42-44  
“They will dwell amid scorching wind and scalding water in the shadow of black smoke, neither cool nor refreshing”. Qur’an 56:42-44  
“Garments of fire will be tailored for those who disbelieve; scalding water will be poured over their heads, melting their insides as well as their skins; there will be iron crooks to restrain them; whenever, in their anguish, they try to escape, they will be pushed back in and told, ‘taste the suffering of the fire’.” Qur’an 22:19-22 |
| **Prophethood & Adam** | “Every community is sent a messenger, and when their messenger comes, they will be judged justly; they will not be wronged.” Qur’an 10:47  
“One of the HIs signs is that He created you from dust and – lo and behold! – you became human and scattered far and wide.” Qur’an 30:20  
“He firstly created man from clay ... The He moulded him;; He breathed from His Spirit into him; He gave you hearing, sight and minds.” Qur’an32:7 & 9  
“He taught Adam all the names of things, then He showed them to the angels and said, ‘Tell me the names of these if you truly think you can.’ They said, ‘May you be glorified! We have knowledge only of what you have taught us. You are All Knowing and All Wise’.” Qur’an 2:31-32 |
| **Ibrahim** | “Who could be better in religion than those who direct themselves wholly to God, do good, and follow the religion of Abraham, who was true in faith? God took Abraham as a friend.” Qur’an 4:125 |
| **Muhammad & the Imams** | “Muhammad is not the father of any one of you men; he is God’s Messenger and the seal for the prophets: God knows everything.” Qur’an 33:40 |
| **The Holy Books In Islam** | “This is the Scripture in which there is no doubt, containing guidance for those who are mindful of God.” Qur’an 2:2  
“This is truly a glorious Qur’an (written) on a preserved Tablet.” Qur’an 85:21-22  
“We sent Jesus, son of Mary, in their footsteps, to confirm the Torah that had been sent before him: We gave him the Gospel with guidance, light and confirmation of the Torah already revealed – a guide and lesson for those who take heed of God.” Qur’an 5:46 |
**Homework Tasks**

Homework will be set every _______________ and will be expected to be in every _______________.

**Task 1**
Complete the map given to you in class. Make sure you add a key and 5 fascinating facts.

**Task 2**
Find out at least 4 examples of angels in Islam. You might want to complete a table like this.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Angel</th>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Duties</th>
<th>Why this role is important</th>
<th>How it affects the lives of Muslims</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malik</td>
<td>Keeper of hell</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ridwan</td>
<td>Keeper of Paradise</td>
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<tr>
<td>Munkar and Nadir</td>
<td>Questioners</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FOUR ARCHANGELS
- Mikail - Protector of holy places
- Israfil - Calls the soul on the Day of Judgement
- Azra’il - Angel of Death
- Jibril - Bearer of revelation

**Task 3**
Learn the key words and the definitions. You must also learn the correct spellings of the words.

**Task 4**
Learn any 6 quotes for this topic. You must be able to write them accurately.

**Task 5**
Create a poster explaining the difference between Sunni and Shi’a beliefs. It must include leadership and core beliefs.

**Task 6**
Revise for an end of unit assessment. Make sure you know the key facts, quotes and key words.