

Years 7-10

Topic	Detail
Sacred Texts	<p>Quran</p> <p>The Qur'an is a book of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 equal parts (juz) • 604 pages (suhuf) • 114 chapters (surah) • 6238 verses (ayah) <p>Muslims believe the Qur'an is the verbatim word of God that was revealed to the Prophet Muhammad in wording & meaning. The Qur'an was revealed to the Prophet Muhammad over a 23-year period. Revelation in instances was tied to certain events, questions of believers & nonbelievers and on the needs that appeared.</p> <p>Prophecy and revelation are two linked and interconnected concepts that are central to an understanding of the Islamic faith.</p>
Sacred Texts	<p>Hadith</p> <p>The hadith (or prophetic narratives) are collections of recorded sayings of the Prophet Muhammad. There are hadith covering almost every issue that help inform and direct a Muslim's life.</p>
Year 7 Achievement Standard	<p><i>They explain some ways in which Christianity shares common beginnings of faith with the other monotheistic religions (Judaism and Islam).</i></p>
Content Descriptor – BEWR 8	<p>Religious Knowledge and Deep Understanding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The monotheistic religions (Christianity, Judaism and Islam) share common beginnings of faith which are found in the patriarchs, Moses and the prophets. <p>Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyse and explain the ways in which Christianity, Judaism and Islam are connected through the stories of the patriarchs, Moses and the prophets, including Genesis 17:1-22 (Abraham and Sarah) and Exodus 13:17-14:30 (Moses).
Basic articles of faith	<p>Muslims have six main beliefs.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Belief in Allah as the one and only God 2. Belief in angels 3. Belief in the holy books 4. Belief in the Prophets... e.g. Adam, Ibrahim (Abraham), Musa (Moses), Dawud (David), Isa (Jesus). Muhammad (peace be upon him) is the final prophet. 5. Belief in the Day of Judgement... The day when the life of every human being will be assessed to decide whether they go to heaven or hell. 6. Belief in Predestination... That Allah has the knowledge of all that will happen.

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	Muslims believe that this doesn't stop human beings making free choices.
3 Monotheistic Religions share common beginnings	<p>All three monotheistic religions of Judaism, Christianity and Islam share common beginnings of faith through common founders or patriarchs, of the faith in Abraham, Moses and The Prophets.</p> <p>Although Judaism, Christianity and Islam do share common beginnings of faith particularly with Abraham. There are several differences in the story of Abraham between the Bible and the Qur'an. See The Story of Abraham from an Islamic perspective to see the main differences.</p> <p>Moses is another key figure in all three monotheistic religions. However, again we do see differences in the story surrounding Moses between the Bible and the Qur'an. See The Story of Moses from an Islamic perspective to see the main differences.</p>
Year 8 Achievement Standard	<i>They explain the significance of initiation rituals in the Abrahamic religions (Christianity, Judaism, Islam) for the faith journey of believers.</i>
Content Descriptor – BEWR 9	<p>Religious Knowledge and Deep Understanding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Although there is a strong connection between the 'People of the Book', there are distinct differences among their core beliefs and practices. Initiation rituals in the Abrahamic religions begin the journey of faith for believers. <p>Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify similarities and differences in the core beliefs of the monotheistic religions. Recognise key elements in the birth rituals of the Christian, Jewish and Islamic faith traditions. Describe how the initiation rituals of the three religions act as the foundation for the faith journey.
Core Beliefs of Islam	Read about the core beliefs about the Islamic faith and God here.
Personal Practice of Islam	<p>A Muslim must follow the 5 Pillars of the faith or of spiritual devotion and are initiated into each one at different times of their lives. The 5 Pillars of Islam are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shahadah – Bearing witness to God and His messenger Prophet Mohammad Salat – Daily prescribed prayers Zakat – alms giving Sawm – Fasting in Ramadan Hajj – Pilgrimage to Mecca <p>Here is a short video that outlines the 5 Pillars of Islam.</p>
Personal Practice of Islam	<p>When the Prophet Muhammad was once asked what the most basic of information was required to understand Islam replied; "Say, I believe in one God, and then be straight." (See Qur'an 41:30) This statement summarises the two halves of Islam, right belief and right action. "I believe in one God" asserts the monotheism of Islam, that is, the oneness and uniqueness of God; an "be straight" refers to being balanced, following the middle ground and having</p>

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	<p>integrity in one's self and one's actions. The message of Islam rests on four forms of oneness:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oneness of God • Oneness of the message of God • Oneness of the order of Prophets • Oneness of humanity
<p>Core rituals and ceremonies of Islam</p>	<p>Core rituals and ceremonies of Islam</p> <p>Islam practises a number of ablution ceremonies, but none of them has the character of a religious initiation rite. Belief in the monotheism of God in Islam is sufficient for entering in the fold of faith and does not require a specific ritual for like e.g. baptism in Christianity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birth • Marriage and weddings • Coming of age/Rites of passage • Death and burial
<p>Year 9 Achievement Standard</p>	<p><i>They examine the divergent understandings of God (Allah, God, G*d) in the monotheistic religions (Islam, Christianity, Judaism).</i></p>
<p>Content Descriptor BEWR 10</p>	<p>Religious Knowledge and Deep Understanding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christianity, Judaism and Islam are monotheistic religions that share a belief in the one God (Allah, God, G*d). The three monotheistic religions have divergent understandings of God that are reflected in their beliefs and practices. <p>Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain why Christianity, Judaism and Islam can be defined as monotheistic religions. • Examine and discuss the understanding of God/Allah/G*d in the monotheistic traditions that is reflected in the core beliefs and practices of the religion.
<p>Islamic Understandings of God Allah</p>	<p>Who is Allah? Understanding God in Islam</p> <p>Concept of God in Islam</p> <p><i>The following information is taken from "101 Questions you asked about Islam". By Mehmet Qzlap. 2014. Brandl & Schlesinger, page 27-28.</i></p> <p>The concept of God in Islam is described concisely in one of the short chapters in the Qur'an; "Say: He is God, the one and only); God, the Eternal, Absolute, He begets not, nor is He begotten; And there is none like into Him." (Qur'an 112:1-4) In this verse the Qur'an gives a very clear idea of God. At the same time, it tells us what God is and what He is not.</p> <p>The central concept is Islam is the absolute unity of God. No other entity, human or non-human, has any share in God's Lordship. Attributes or Divinity. He alone has created ad governs the universe, to Him belongs all attributes of perfection, and to Him should all devotion and worship be offered.</p> <p>God in Islam is both transcendent and personal. He is transcendent because in His essence He is not like anything in His creation. We cannot know God's</p>

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	<p>essence as he is beyond human comprehension. In this respect the Prophet Muhammad gave us a rule of thumb, saying that <i>"whatever mental picture you have for God, God isn't that"</i>. (Qur'an 42:11) God has no gender. He is neither male or female. The pronoun "He" is sometimes used because the word "it" does not exist in Arabic.</p> <p>Even though transcendent, God in Islam is not distant or unconcerned with human life. He is nearer to us than our own jugular vein (Qur'an 50:16). He is also a personal God because we can get to know His attributes by reflecting on His works in the universe. In Islam, God has many names, including a list of 99 names. Through these names we get a feel for God and see His presence in everyday life, in nature and the universe.</p> <p>The word for "God" in Arabic is "Allah". Since the Qur'an was originally revealed in Arabic, the name "Allah" was used to mean "the God". The word "Allah" is special in that it does not have plural forms (like "gods" in English) or female or male connotations (e.g. goddess) or miniature connotations (e.g. "demigod"). In this respect, Muslims consider the word "Allah" as the most appropriate name for God.</p>
<p>Year 10 Achievement Standard</p>	<p><i>They analyse core beliefs and practices of the major world religions (Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism and Buddhism) and explain how these reflect the human understanding of God or the 'Other'.</i></p>
<p>Content Descriptor BEWR 11</p>	<p>Religious Knowledge and Deep Understanding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The religions of the world contribute valuable insights into the idea of God or the 'Other'. The core beliefs and practices of the major world religions (Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism and Buddhism) reflect this mystery of God/Other which is beyond human understanding. <p>Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify the core beliefs of the major world religions and the religious practices that reflect these beliefs. Interpret how the importance of the founding figures is reflected in the celebrations of the world religions, including Islam, Buddhism or Hinduism. Explain how the diversity of the beliefs and practices of the major world religions reflects the human understanding of God or the 'Other'.
<p>Core Beliefs of Islam</p>	<p>Read about the core beliefs about the Islamic faith and God here.</p>
<p>Shari'ah and interpretations of Islam</p>	<p>Shari'ah or Sharia is simply the fundamental aspect of the Islamic faith's law.</p> <p>Main sects of Islam</p> <p>Jihad</p> <p><i>The following information is taken from "101 Questions you asked about Islam". By Mehmet Qzlap. 2014. Brandl & Schlesinger, page 313.</i></p>
<p>What is Holy War? What is jihad?</p>	<p>There is no concept of "holy war" in Islam. The phrase "holy war" is not used anywhere in the Qur'an, in the authentic saying of the Prophet Muhammad or in the early Islamic literature. The Arabic word <i>jihad</i> literally means "to struggle" or "strive" and applies to any effort exerted by anyone. In the religious context, the</p>

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	<p>broadest definition of <i>jihad</i> is the inner and outer struggle in proactively confronting adverse circumstances that one might find oneself in. In the words of the Prophet Muhammad, there are <i>greater</i> and <i>lesser</i> aspects of jihad.</p>
Resources	<p><i>101 Questions you asked about Islam</i>". By Mehmet Qzlap. 2014. Brandl & Schlesinger.</p> <p><i>"Islam Between Tradition and Modernity: An Australian Perspective."</i> By Mehmet Ozalp. 2012. Barton Books.</p> <p>Jewish Virtual Library – Religion: Islam</p> <p>BBC – World Religions – Islam</p> <p>Islam: Basic Beliefs</p>

Islam and the Religion Curriculum

Years 7-10



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Sacred Texts

Quran

The Qur'an is a book of:

- 30 equal parts (juz)
- 604 pages (suhuf)
- 114 chapters (surah)
- 6238 verses (ayah)

Muslims believe the Qur'an is the verbatim word of God that was revealed to the Prophet Muhammad in wording & meaning. The Qur'an was revealed to the [Prophet Muhammad](#) over a 23 year period. **Revelation** in instances was tied to certain events, questions of believers & nonbelievers and on the needs that appeared.

[Prophecy and revelation](#) are two linked and interconnected concepts that are central to an understanding of the Islamic faith.

Sacred Texts

Hadith

The hadith (or prophetic narratives) are collections of recorded sayings of the Prophet Muhammad. There are hadith covering almost every issue that help inform and direct a Muslim's life.

Year 7 Achievement Standard

They explain some ways in which Christianity shares common beginnings of faith with the other monotheistic religions (Judaism and Islam).

Content Descriptor – BEWR 8

Religious Knowledge and Deep Understanding

- The monotheistic religions (Christianity, Judaism and Islam) share common beginnings of faith which are found in the patriarchs, Moses and the prophets.

Skills

- Analyse and explain the ways in which Christianity, Judaism and Islam are connected through the stories of the patriarchs, Moses and the prophets, including Genesis 17:1-22 (Abraham and Sarah) and Exodus 13:17-14:30 (Moses).

Basic articles of faith

Muslims have six main beliefs.

1. Belief in Allah as the one and only God
2. Belief in [angels](#)
3. Belief in the [holy books](#)
4. Belief in the Prophets...

e.g. Adam, [Ibrahim](#) (Abraham), [Musa](#) (Moses), Dawud (David), [Isa](#) (Jesus).

[Muhammad](#) (peace be upon him) is the final prophet.

1. Belief in the Day of Judgement...

The day when the life of every human being will be assessed to decide whether they go to heaven or hell.

1. Belief in Predestination...

That Allah has the knowledge of all that will happen.

Muslims believe that this doesn't stop human beings making free choices.

3 Monotheistic Religions share common beginnings

All three monotheistic religions of Judaism, Christianity and Islam share common beginnings of faith through common founders or [patriarchs](#), of the faith in [Abraham](#), [Moses](#) and [The Prophets](#).

Although Judaism, Christianity and Islam do share common beginnings of faith particularly with Abraham. There are several differences in the story of Abraham between the Bible and the Qur'an. See [The Story of Abraham](#) from an Islamic perspective to see the main differences.

Moses is another key figure in all three monotheistic religions. However, again we do see differences in the story surrounding Moses between the Bible and the Qur'an. See [The Story of Moses](#) from an Islamic perspective to see the main differences.

Year 8 Achievement Standard

They explain the significance of initiation rituals in the Abrahamic religions (Christianity, Judaism, Islam) for the faith journey of believers.

Content Descriptor – BEWR 9

Religious Knowledge and Deep Understanding

- Although there is a strong connection between the 'People of the Book', there are distinct differences among their core beliefs and practices. Initiation rituals in the Abrahamic religions begin the journey of faith for believers.

Skills

- Identify similarities and differences in the core beliefs of the monotheistic religions.
- Recognise key elements in the birth rituals of the Christian, Jewish and Islamic faith traditions.
- Describe how the initiation rituals of the three religions act as the foundation for the faith journey.

Core Beliefs of Islam

Read about the core beliefs about the [Islamic faith and God](#) here.

Personal Practice of Islam

A Muslim must follow the 5 Pillars of the faith or of spiritual devotion and are initiated into each one at different times of their lives. [The 5 Pillars of Islam](#) are as follows:

- Shahadah – Bearing witness to God and His messenger Prophet Mohammad
- [Salat](#) – Daily prescribed prayers
- Zakat – alms giving
- Sawm – Fasting in Ramadan
- Hajj – Pilgrimage to Mecca

Here is a short [video](#) that outlines the 5 Pillars of Islam.

Personal Practice of Islam

When the Prophet Muhammad was once asked what the most basic of information was required to understand Islam replied; "Say, I believe in one God, and then be straight." ([See Qur'an 41:30](#)) This statement summarises the two halves of Islam, right belief and right action. "I believe in one God" asserts the [monotheism](#) of Islam, that is, the oneness and uniqueness of God; an "be straight" refers to being balanced , following the middle ground and having integrity in one's self and one's actions. The message of Islam rests on four forms of oneness:

- [Oneness of God](#)
- [Oneness of the message of God](#)
- [Oneness of the order of Prophets](#)
- [Oneness of humanity](#)

Core rituals and ceremonies of Islam

Core rituals and ceremonies of Islam

Islam practises a number of ablution ceremonies, but none of them has the character of a religious initiation rite. Belief in the **monotheism** of God in Islam is sufficient for entering in the fold of faith and does not require a specific ritual for like e.g. baptism in Christianity.

- Birth
- Marriage and weddings
- Coming of age/Rites of passage
- Death and burial

Year 9 Achievement Standard

*They examine the divergent understandings of God (Allah, God, G*d) in the monotheistic religions (Islam, Christianity, Judaism).*

Content Descriptor – BEWR 10

Religious Knowledge and Deep Understanding

- Christianity, Judaism and Islam are monotheistic religions that share a belief in the one God (Allah, God, G*d). The three monotheistic religions have divergent understandings of God that are reflected in their beliefs and practices.

Skills

- Explain why Christianity, Judaism and Islam can be defined as monotheistic religions.
- Examine and discuss the understanding of God/Allah/G*d in the monotheistic traditions that is reflected in the core beliefs and practices of the religion.

Islamic Understandings of God / Allah

Who is Allah? Understanding God in Islam

Concept of God in Islam

The following information is taken from "101 Questions you asked about Islam". By Mehmet Qzlap. 2014. Brandl & Schlesinger, page 27-28.

The concept of God in Islam is described concisely in one of the short chapters in the Qur'an; *"Say: He is God, the one and only); God, the Eternal, Absolute, He begets not, nor is He begotten; And there is none like unto Him."* ([Qur'an 112:1-4](#)) In this verse the Qur'an gives a very clear idea of God. At the same time, it tells us what God is and what He is not.

The central concept in Islam is the absolute unity of God. No other entity, human or non-human, has any share in God's Lordship, Attributes or Divinity. He alone has created and governs the universe, to Him belongs all attributes of perfection, and to Him should all devotion and worship be offered.

God in Islam is both transcendent and personal. He is transcendent because in His essence He is not like anything in His creation. We cannot know God's essence as he is beyond human comprehension. In this respect the Prophet Muhammad gave us a rule of thumb, saying that "*whatever mental picture you have for God, God isn't that*". ([Qur'an 42:11](#)) God has no gender. He is neither male or female. The pronoun "He" is sometimes used because the word "it" does not exist in Arabic.

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The word for "God" in Arabic is "Allah". Since the Qur'an was originally revealed in Arabic, the name "Allah" was used to mean "the God". The word "Allah" is special in that it does not have plural forms (like "gods" in English) or female or male connotations (e.g. goddess) or miniature connotations (e.g. "demigod"). In this respect, Muslims consider the word "Allah" as the most appropriate name for God.

Year 10 Achievement Standard

They analyse core beliefs and practices of the major world religions (Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism and Buddhism) and explain how these reflect the human understanding of God or the 'Other'.

Content Descriptor – BEWR 11

Religious Knowledge and Deep Understanding

- The religions of the world contribute valuable insights into the idea of God or the 'Other'. The core beliefs and practices of the major world religions (Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism and Buddhism) reflect this mystery of God/Other which is beyond human understanding.

Skills

- Identify the core beliefs of the major world religions and the religious practices that reflect these beliefs.
- Interpret how the importance of the founding figures is reflected in the celebrations of the world religions, including Islam, Buddhism or Hinduism.
- Explain how the diversity of the beliefs and practices of the major world religions reflects the human understanding of God or the 'Other'.

Core Beliefs of Islam

Read about the core beliefs about the [Islamic faith and God](#) here.

Shari'ah and interpretations of Islam

Shari'ah or Sharia is simply the fundamental aspect of the Islamic faith's **law**.

Main sects of Islam

Jihad

The following information is taken from "101 Questions you asked about Islam". By Mehmet Qzlap. 2014. Brandl & Schlesinger, page 313.

What is Holy War? What is jihad?

There is no concept of “holy war” in Islam. The phrase “holy war” is not used anywhere in the Qur’an, in the authentic saying of the Prophet Muhammad or in the early Islamic literature. The Arabic word *jihad* literally means “to struggle” or “strive” and applies to any effort exerted by anyone. In the religious context, the broadest definition of *jihad* is the inner and outer struggle in proactively confronting adverse circumstances that one might find oneself in. In the words of the Prophet Muhammad, there are *greater* and *lesser* aspects of jihad.

Resources

101 Questions you asked about Islam". By Mehmet Qzlap. 2014. Brandl & Schlesinger.

"Islam Between Tradition and Modernity: An Australian Perspective." By Mehmet Ozalp. 2012. Barton Books.

[Jewish Virtual Library – Religion: **Islam**](#)

[BBC – World Religions – Islam](#)

[Islam: Basic Beliefs](#)

For more information

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