

GCSE



CCEA GCSE GLOSSARIES
Religious Studies

Unit 8: Islam



For first teaching from September 2017

GCSE Religious Studies Glossary

Abu Bakr	This term refers to the first Caliph, who was the successor to the leadership of the Muslim community after the death of the Prophet Muhammad.
Adhan	Literally means 'announcement' but has come to refer to the traditional call to prayer.
Aishah	One of the wives of the Prophet Muhammad and daughter of Abu Bakr. She was born in 612 AD and died in 678 AD in Saudi Arabia.
Afterlife	This refers to belief in life after death.
Ali	This was the cousin and son-in-law of the Prophet Muhammad.
Allah	The Islamic name for God in the Arabic language.
Analysis	This refers to the detailed examination of the elements or structure of something.
Attribute	This refers to a quality or feature which is regarded as a characteristic or inherent part of someone or something. Is commonly used when speaking about the characteristics of God.
Caliph	This is the chief Muslim civil and religious leader who is regarded as the 'successor' of Muhammad. The Caliph ruled in Baghdad until 1258 AD and then in Egypt until 1517. The Caliphate (area ruled over by the Caliph) was abolished in 1924.
Charity	A fund or organisation set up to provide help and raise money for those in need.
Community	This refers to a group of people living in the same area or having attitudes or interests in common.
Conversion	The process of a person changing from one religion to another, e.g. from being a Christian to becoming a Muslim.
Existence	This term means the state or fact of living. Used frequently when talking about God.
Faith	When a person has belief and/or trust in God.
Fasting	Abstaining from food for religious reasons.
Fatwa	The legal guidance of a pious, just, knowledgeable Muslim scholar and jurist, based on the Qur'an, Sunnah and Islamic Shari'ah.

Four-Rightly Guided Caliphs	The first four successors to Muhammad as leaders of the Muslim community.
Free Will	This is the belief that God has given each person the power to perform actions for which he or she is fully responsible; the ability to choose and act on the basis of one's freedom.
Hadith	'Saying; report; account': the sayings of the Prophet Muhammad, as recounted by his household, family and companions. These are a major source of Islamic law. Some Hadith are referred to as Hadith Qudsi (<i>sacred Hadith</i>) having been divinely communicated to the Prophet Muhammad.
Hajj	Annual pilgrimage to Mecca, which each Muslim is required to undertake at least once in a lifetime if he or she has the health and the wealth. A Muslim male who has completed Hajj is called Hajji, and a female Hajjah
Halal	Is the Arabic word for 'permissible.' Halal food meets the standards of Islamic law as required by the Qur'an.
Haram	This refers to anything which is unlawful or forbidden for a Muslim to do.
Hijrah	Means 'Departure, exit, emigration': commonly used to refer to the emigration of the Prophet Muhammad from Mecca to Medina in 622 CE. The Islamic calendar commences from this event.
Hijab	This is a head covering which is worn in public by many Muslim women.
Hira	This is the name of a place near Mecca, where the Prophet Muhammad went for solitude and worship. It was there that he received the first revelation of the Qur'an.
Id-ul-Adha	This refers to the Islamic celebration of the sacrifice, commemorating the time when the Prophet Ibrahim's willingness to sacrifice his son Ishma'il for Allah; also known as Id-ul-Kabir - <i>the Greater Id</i> .
Id-ul-Fitr,	This refers to the celebration of the breaking the fast on the day after Ramadan ends, which is also the first day of Shawal, the tenth Islamic month. It is also known as Id-ul-Saghir - <i>the Lesser Id</i> .

Imam	'Leader': a person who leads the communal prayer, or a founder of an Islamic school of jurisprudence. In Shi'a Islam, Imam is also the title of Ali and his successors.
Jihad	This term refers to the struggle against evil within one's self and in the community; it can also be used to refer to the physical defence of the Islamic state or community.
Ka'bah	A cube-shaped structure in the centre of the grand mosque in Mecca. The first house built for the worship of the one true God.
Mecca	This is the city in Saudi Arabia where the Prophet Muhammad was born, and where the Ka'bah is located. It is also sometimes called Makkah and is located about 70 km from Jeddah.
Medina	This is where the Prophet Muhammad migrated to in 622 AD and founded the first Islamic state.
Mihrab	The term describes a niche or alcove in a mosque wall, indicating the Qiblah - the direction of Mecca, towards which all Muslims face to perform salah.
Miracle	This is an extraordinary event that cannot be explained by natural or scientific laws. It is usually regarded as a direct action of God and provides evidence for his existence.
Monotheism	This refers to the belief in one God.
Mosque	This is a Muslim house of worship which will have at least one minaret that is used to call the faithful to prayer.
Muhammad	Name of the final Prophet.
Muslim	One who claims to have accepted Islam by professing the Shahadah.
Qiblah	Direction which Muslims face when performing salah - towards the Ka'bah.
Qur'an	That which is read or recited. The divine book in Islam which Muslims believe was revealed to the Prophet Muhammad.
Rakah	A unit of salah, made up of recitation, standing, bowing and two prostrations.

Ramadan	The ninth month of the Islamic calendar, during which fasting is required from just before dawn until sunset, as ordered by Allah in the Qur'an. The majority of Muslims will follow this.
Salah	Prescribed worship of Allah, performed under specific conditions, in the manner taught by the Prophet Muhammad and recited in the Arabic language.
Sawm	This term refers to the practice of fasting from just before dawn until sunset. Abstinence is required from all food and drink (including water) as well as smoking and conjugal relations.
Shahadah	Declaration of faith, which consists of the statement, 'There is no god but Allah, Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah'.
Sharia	This is Islamic law based upon the Qur'an and Sunnah. Some Muslims believe it has more authority than the law of the country in which they live.
Shirk	'Association': regarding anything as being equal or partner to Allah. Shirk is forbidden in Islam.
Status	This term refers to the relative social or professional position of a person. When used in Islam it can refer to the role and position of women in society.
Sunnah	Model practices, customs and traditions of the Prophet Muhammad. These are verbally transmitted teachings or deeds of the prophet Muhammad.
Surah	Division (chapter) of the Qur'an (114 in all).
Tradition	Generally is associated with beliefs or practices that have been passed on from generation to generation.
Vision	A vision refers to something which is seen in a dream and involves a supernatural appearance which conveys a revelation. Visions generally have more clarity than dreams.
Zakat	This term refers to the purification of wealth by payment of an annual welfare gift. An obligatory act (of worship) within the Islamic religion.