



Year 8 Islam – Beliefs and Practices

Key Beliefs

Topics	Beliefs
Tawhid	Both Sunni and Shi'a Muslims believe that Allah is one. This means that Allah alone should be worshipped and that Allah is unique.
Holy Books	Muslims believe that the Qur'an is the exact words of Allah, revealed to Muhammad by the Angel Jibril. These words were written down exactly. Other Holy books like the Tawrat (Torah) or Injil (Gospels) reveal some truth but they are no longer the exact words of God so aren't as reliable as the Qur'an.
Risala	The belief that all prophets revealed the same message from Allah but only Muhammad's revelation remained unchanged.
Imamate	The Shi'a belief in leadership. This idea suggests that the leaders of Islam (Imams) guide Muslims to do good. Today, the hidden Imam does this for all Shi'as.
Allah's will	In Sunni Islam there is the belief that Allah's will is supreme (best) and in Shi'a Islam there is the belief that Allah only wills what is fair/just (adalat).
Day of Judgement	The day when all will be resurrected and judged by Allah as to whether they deserve Jannah (Heaven) or Jahannam (Hell).
Sunni/Shi'a Split	When Muhammad died, Muslims felt it necessary to appoint a new leader. Some Muslims believed that Muhammad had appointed Ali, his cousin, as leader and so followed him, these are Shi'a Muslims. Other Muslims thought that there should be a vote and so Abu Bakr was voted in as leader and most followed him, even if they didn't vote for him. Today, 85% of Muslims are Sunni and most (but not all) of the others are Shi'a.

Key Practices/Impacts

Shahadah	The declaration of Faith in Sunni Islam, linking to Tawhid and Risala, "there is only one God, Allah, and Muhammad is His messenger."
Salah	The daily prayers. Sunni Muslims pray 5 times a day and Shi'a Muslims pray 3 times a day (combining some prayers). They all face Mecca while praying and perform certain actions (Rak'ahs).
Sawm	Fasting during Ramadan (a Holy month in Islam). The month ends with the Eid-al-Fitr festival.
Zakah	Giving money to charity. Muslims believe that it is good to give 2.5% of their wealth to charity so that they can help the poor. Islamic relief is a charity that uses this money to help the poor.
Hajj	The pilgrimage to Mecca (where Muhammad was born). Muslims go once in their life time and circle the Ka'aba multiple times.
Khums	The Shi'a charity on top of Zakah. An extra 25% of your disposable income, given to charity.
Jihad	The Arabic word for struggle. Shi'as believe in a greater and lesser Jihad.
Amr-bil-marof of / Nahi anil Munkar	The Shi'a belief that you should do good and forbid what's evil.
Tabarra and Tawalla	The Muslim belief that you should not associate with evil people but show love towards those who are good.



Six Articles	The key beliefs of Sunni Islam, including Tawhid.
Usal Ad Din	The five key beliefs of Shi'a Islam.
Tawhid	The belief that Allah is one.
Sunni Islam	The largest branch of Islam.
Shi'a Islam	The second largest branch of Islam.
99 names of Allah	The belief that Allah can be described in many ways but never fully understood.
Risala	The belief that there are many prophets in Islam.
Qur'an	The words of Allah, recited by Muhammad.
Five Pillars	The 5 key duties of Sunni Muslims.
10 Obligatory Acts	The 10 key duties of Shi'a Muslims.
Salah	Daily prayers. There are 5 of them for Sunni Muslims.
Zakah	Charity, giving 2.5% of wealth annually.
Sawm	Fasting during Ramadan
Hajj	Pilgrimage to Mecca.