

## TOPIC: Being a British Muslim ...

What is British Islam and what are the key beliefs Muslims are expected to follow. Are all Muslims the same and what are the similarities and differences between Sunni and Shi'a Muslims? What is good and what is challenging about being a Muslim in Britain today.



Key Beliefs (Evidence)		Key beliefs	
<b>The Night of Power</b>	The Night of Power, marks the night in which the Qur'an was first revealed to the Prophet Muhammad by Allah. Muslims regard this as the most important event in history, and the Qur'an says that this night is better than a thousand months (97:3), and that on this night the angels descend to earth.	<b>Sunni and Shi'a divide</b>	When the Prophet Muhammad died there was a disagreement as to who should be Muhammad's successor. Shi'a Muslims believed the leader (Caliph) should be a descendent of Muhammad. Sunni Muslims believe that the leader should be chosen by the community.
<b>5 Pillars of Islam</b>	It is a duty for Muslims to follow the 5 Pillars, they are the foundation of the religion. <b>Shahadah – Declaration of faith</b> ' <i>there is no God but Allah, and Muhammad is the messenger of Allah</i> ' <b>Salah</b> – Muslims <b>pray</b> 5 times a day (Dawn, Noon, Mid-afternoon, sunset and nightfall) <b>Zakat – Almsgiving</b> , giving money to charity. 2.5% of spare income <b>Sawm – Fasting</b> , Muslims fast during the daylight hours during the month of Ramadan <b>Hajj – Pilgrimage</b> , Muslims must go to Mecca once in their lifetime	<b>The six articles of Faith (Sunni Islam)</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Tawhid</b> – Allah is the one and only God</li> <li>2. <b>Angels</b> – Angels are messengers sent to the prophets by Allah</li> <li>3. <b>The Holy Books</b> – The Qur'an is the main holy book of Islam. Muslims believe The Bible and the Torah are also holy because they contain revelations from God.</li> <li>4. <b>Prophets</b> – The prophets are the proclaimers of Allah's will</li> <li>5. <b>The day of Judgement</b> – All humanity will be judged by Allah after death</li> <li>6. <b>The Supremacy of God's Will</b> – Allah knows about, and controls, everything that happens.</li> </ol>
<b>99 Beautiful names of Allah</b>	There are 99 names for Allah listed in the Qur'an, all of which are an indication of Allah's attributes; for example, <b>Al- Rahman (the Compassionate) and Al-Adl (the Just).</b>  It is a shirk to draw any images of Allah and so Muslims use words to describe him. It is a shirk due to Allah being outside of human understanding.	<b>The Five Roots of Usul ad-Din (Shi'a Islam)</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Tawhid</b> – Allah is the one and only God</li> <li>2. <b>Divine justice</b> – Allah is just a fair in his judgement</li> <li>3. <b>Prophets</b> – Receive messages from Allah and follow god's will</li> <li>4. <b>The Imamate</b> – Imams are the leaders of Islam; the successors of Muhammad</li> <li>5. <b>The resurrection</b> – After deaths, humans will be resurrected and judged by God</li> </ol>

KEY VOCABULARY:		KEY VOCABULARY:	
<b>Allah</b>	Arabic for God, there is only one God.	<b>Shi'a</b>	Main branch of Islam. 10% - 15% of Muslims are Shi'a
<b>Islam</b>	Submission to peace. The religion of Muslims	<b>Sunni</b>	Main branch of Islam. 85% - 90% of Muslims are Sunni.
<b>Haram</b>	Any action which is forbidden in Islam	<b>Halal</b>	Actions that are permitted within Islam
<b>Mecca</b>	The holy city for Muslims in Saudi Arabia.	<b>Eid ul Fitr</b>	A celebration to mark the end of the month of Ramadan
<b>Mosque</b>	The place of worship, holy building, for Muslims	<b>Eid ul Adha</b>	A celebration of Ibrahim's willingness to sacrifice his son to God, marking the end of Hajj.
<b>Muhammad</b>	Muhammad is the final prophet who received the revelation of the Qur'an	<b>Shirk</b>	Sin; worshiping anything other than Allah
<b>Muslim</b>	Followers of Islam / followers of peace	<b>Tawhid</b>	The 'oneness' of God and nothing compares to him
<b>Qur'an</b>	The holy book for Muslims; believed to be the direct word of Allah	<b>Ummah</b>	The worldwide community of Muslims
<b>Imam</b>	Muslim leaders; will often lead the Friday prayers in the Mosque	<b>Kab'ah</b>	The black box in Mecca, Muslims pray in the direction of the Kab'ah