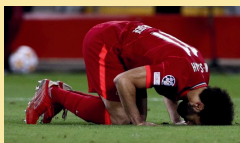


Year 7 - What does it mean to be a Muslim in Britain today?

1 Are British Muslims treated fairly?

Muslims in Britain experience **Islamophobia**, which is hostile treatment towards them, without a real reason. Some argue that Muslims are badly represented in the **media** (TV, film, online, news etc.) which makes Islamophobia worse. A charity helps to measure discrimination, called **Tell MAMA**, which stands for Measuring Anti Muslim Attacks. There are some things that help to reduce Islamophobia, such as checking if TV shows and films have fair representations of Muslims, through the **Riz Test**. This test checks whether there are Muslim characters who are terrorists, shown as randomly angry or as 'backwards' people that can't keep up with the modern world. And positive Muslim role-models reduces Islamophobia, proven by Social Science research, for example, the **Mo Salah Effect**.



2 Do all Muslims have the same core beliefs?

Many Muslims have 6 core beliefs, called the **6 Articles of Faith**. These are: Allah, Prophets, Holy Books, Angels, Life after death and Allah's divine plan.

The religion can sometimes be seen as having 3 core components: **Islam, Ihsan and Iman**.

Islam = submission; doing actions that show commitment to Allah e.g. praying, giving to charity.

Iman = beliefs; these are internal, in your head, and are normally including the 6 Articles of faith.

Ihsan = excellence; wanting to do your best for Allah, such as giving extra time to prayer or extra money to charity. Going above and beyond.

الله



3 How do Muslims make decisions?

People make decisions by following **sources of wisdom and authority**. These are the people and places we listen to for rules and guidance. For Muslims in Britain, they may have **primary** and **secondary** sources:

Primary sources are believed to be the original, direct messages of the religion:

1. The **Qur'an** is the Muslim holy book, and is believed to be the exact and direct words of Allah, given to an angel and passed on Prophet Muhammad.
2. The **Hadith** are sayings of Muhammad and records how he lived his life.

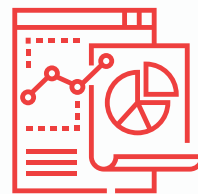
Secondary sources are ways of understanding the primary sources, and how to apply them to your life. Muslims might do this through:

1. Prayer
2. Talking to a local religious leader or teacher
3. The internet



Social Science spotlight:

Although there are some core, central beliefs and practices of Islam, each Muslim will live their life slightly. This is because their Worldview will not be exactly the same as someone else's, even if they're a Muslim too. This is why we look at the real lives of 4 British Muslims:



Sariya



Faraz



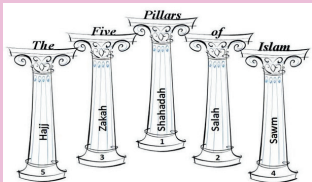
Laiqah and Seherish

4 How do Muslims show submission?

Submission, for Muslims, means being fully aware of Allah and 100% willing to love and worship him.

One of the main ways to show this is through practicing the **5 Pillars of Islam**. They are the 5 most important actions that Muslims can do regularly, to stay aware of Allah and demonstrate their commitment to him:

1. **Shahadah** = the declaration of faith. Saying out loud: There is no god but Allah, and Muhammad is his messenger.
2. **Salah** = praying 5 times a day, every day.
3. **Zakah** = giving 2.5% of your money to charity every year.
4. **Sawm** = fasting during the daylight hours in the month of Ramadan.
5. **Hajj** = going on a special religious journey, a pilgrimage, to the city of Makkah once in their life.



5 Are mosques only for prayer?

Mosques are a Muslim place of worship. The word mosque means **prostration**, which in Islam is bowing to Allah in prayer down to the ground. This means that Salah (prayer) is a very important part of a mosque.

When you enter the mosque, you must show respect by taking off your shoes and performing **wudu**: washing your hands, feet and face.

Muslims pray through **prostration**, bowing. This shows how important Allah is compared to them.

But mosques are also important places for the local **community**, the people living near to the mosque, sometimes offering a hall to use for events and getting together or a room for teaching Islam.

They can also be places to encourage people giving money to **charity**, both Zakah and extra money on top of that too.

