

What does it mean to be a Muslim in Britain today? 2

This guide continues where the last one left off – we have included the same background information so you do not need to keep switching between them. This guide will focus on the remaining pillars: Zakah and Hajj.

Background information on Islam

Islam is the second largest religion in the world after Christianity, with approximately 1.8 billion Muslims worldwide. Although its roots go back further, the date of creation is typically the 7th Century – this makes it the youngest of the major world religions.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zpdtbkk/articles/zrxgwx>

- The word 'Islam' means 'submission to the will of God'.
- Muslims worship one, all-knowing God, who in Arabic is known as **Allah**.
- Islam teaches that Allah's word was revealed to the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) through the angel Gabriel.
- Muslims believe several prophets were sent to teach Allah's law. They respect some of the same prophets from Judaism and Christianity, including Abraham, Moses, Noah and Jesus.
- Muslims worship in places called **mosques**.
- The **Qur'an** is the major holy text of Islam. The **Hadith** is another important book.
- Followers worship Allah by praying and reciting the Qur'an. They believe there will be a Day of Judgement and life after death.



The Five Pillars of Islam

The Five Pillars of Islam are essential to the daily lives of Muslims. Over the next couple of weeks, we will be looking at how each of them impacts on their lives.

The pillars of Islam provide **structure** for Islamic daily life – Islam is like a house that is held up by five strong pillars with central themes of purification and sharing with others. Muslims must not only believe in the five pillars, but **ACT** upon their beliefs.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c5c9-1zxPeA&list=PLCvEcrsF_9zJxDHG9JtcCmiAgwVFRW3uK&index=13

How is charity important to Muslims? Zakah

Zakah (sometimes seen as Zakat) refers to making an annual charitable donation to help the poor. Use this link to find the answers to these questions (some of the questions are answered in the FAQs at the bottom): https://www.islamic-relief.org.uk/about-us/what-we-do/zakat/?gclid=EALaIQobChMlUf0alui6QIVxLHtCh1g-QULEAAYyAAEglH2_D_BwE

- What is Zakah / Zakat?
- How much money is given to charity by each person?
- When is the money given away?
- Who is the money given to (beneficiaries)?
- Why is given away by Muslims?

Use the information you have found from the website and the information on the next page to create a guide to Zakah – this could be a poster or a fact sheet.

You need to include:

1. Why pay Zakah?
2. Who does it go to?
3. How is it paid?

EXT: What is the difference between Zakah and Sadaqah?

Information on Zakah

Zakah is the giving of alms (charity) to those in need. It isn't enough to make occasional donations to good causes – Muslims regularly donate a proportion of their wealth to charity.

Most Muslims will pay Zakah annually (every year). It is calculated by adding together all of the person's wealth (from savings, property, their job) and then taking off the cost of necessities (e.g. paying bills or supporting their family). The amount that is left over is above their living expenses – if this is below a small threshold (called **nisab**) you do not pay Zakah. If it is above the nisab, then 2.5% of all the remaining money must be donated to charity. You can probably imagine that doing this calculation is quite complicated and so charity groups (like Islamic Relief) provide online Zakah calculators to help people calculate how much they should pay.

Not everyone will pay Zakah – those who have no money left after necessities are deducted from their wealth are not required to pay it, nor if the left over money is below the nisab. This prevents Muslims being placed in money troubles. Once it has been paid, Zakah is distributed to the needy. A quote from the Qur'an says:

"They ask you (O Muhammad) what they should spend in charity. Say: 'Whatever you spend with a good heart, give it to parents, relatives, orphans, the helpless, and travellers in need. Whatever good you do, God is aware of it.'" – Qur'an 2:215.

Muslims believe it is important to pay Zakah and it is a religious duty. There are several reasons why they believe this:

1. It is commanded in the Qur'an
2. Muslims believe all things belong to Allah and so any wealth they have is only on loan – so it should be used responsibly and in a way Allah would approve
3. Paying money to help others is the right thing to do
4. Paying money helps to bond the community together and ensure everyone is looked after
5. Paying Zakah purifies their wealth – as it prevents becoming greedy and keeping money

In some Muslim countries, Zakah is collected and distributed by the government. In the UK, this is done by local mosques or charity groups – but it is the responsibility of each individual Muslim to work out how much this should be. Although it could be lied about, a devout Muslim would not do this as they know Allah will know they had sinned.

Muslims are also encouraged to give to charity voluntarily – this is known as **Sadaaah** and can be done at any time. For example, if a Muslim wanted to donate to a charity such as Comic Relief, it would fall under this category.

Why do Muslims want to go on a pilgrimage? Hajj

A **pilgrimage** is a journey where someone goes to search for a new or expanded meaning about themselves through experience.

Hajj commands for Muslims to attend the pilgrimage to Makkah (sometimes seen as Mecca) once in their lifetime. Muslims believe that the Hajj is only compulsory when they have enough money and can provide for their family whilst they are away.



These images show the clothing men and women wear on pilgrimage. They wear these to show equality as they are wearing very similar attire (two un-sewn white sheets for men and white dresses for women). It also acts as a reminder that they should be willing to give up everything for Allah.

TASK 1

This video guides you through the pilgrimage to Makkah – you will need to watch it **TWICE**:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/religious-education-ks2-my-life-my-religion-muslim-pilgrimage-hajj/zndfcct>

1. First, make a note of the route Muslims take when on Hajj (where they visit and in the correct order) – leave space to write what happens (next step)
2. Write down notes of what happens at each site. Try to include why it happens; why is what they do at each site important or significant to them?

TASK 2

Using TASK 1, on the map below (printed or draw your own) draw the route followed by pilgrims. Use arrows to show the directions. Annotate your map to describe what happens at each of the following:

- | | |
|----------|--------------|
| • Makkah | • Muzdalifah |
| • Arafah | • Mina |

CHALLENGE: Include why Muslims perform each action and/or the purpose of it.

