

RE, Philosophy and Ethics (RPE) –

Closure work for Year 9

Well done for completing the knowledge quiz last week! I hope you were able to access your feedback, directly after the quiz, to give you an indication on why your answers were correct/ incorrect. We are now moving into a new topic, looking at Islam, Beliefs and Teachings. Today, we are going to look at the nature of Allah.

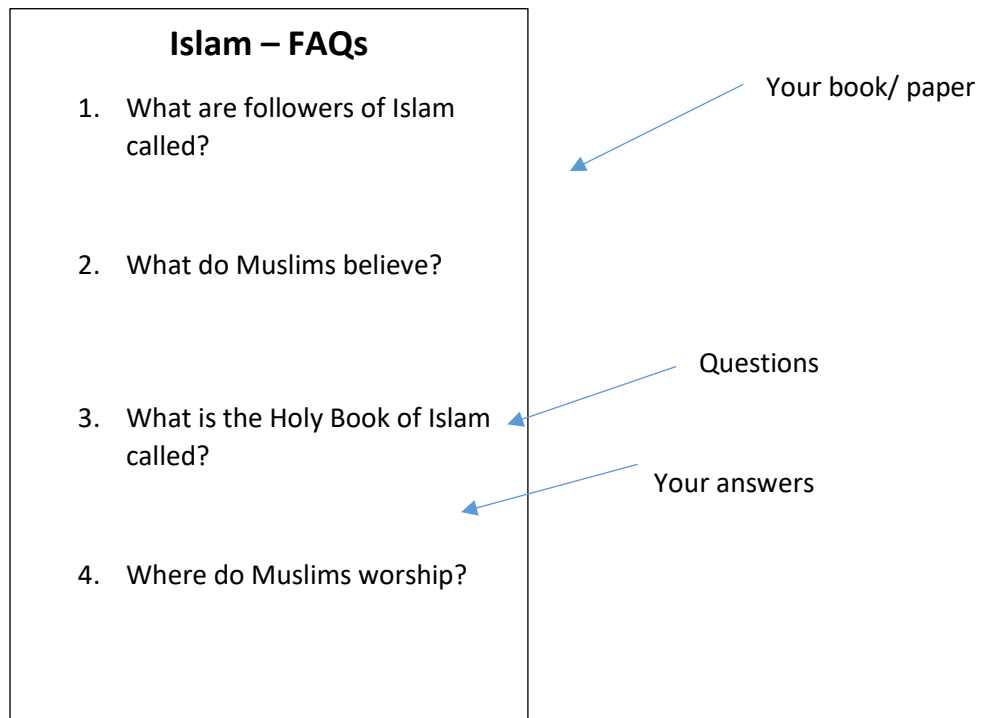
Tasks:

1. Using this link,

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zpdtbkb/articles/zrxxgwx> ,

summarise the knowledge, which introduces basic beliefs of Muslims (followers of Islam), some key words in Islam and some Muslim beliefs

2. Create an FAQ (Frequently Answered Questions) page for people who don't know much about Islam. Example, below



3. Read the information, below

Nature of God

Allah is the Arabic word used by Muslims for God. Islam teaches that Allah is the one true God, and only Allah is worthy of worship. Allah is the supreme being who created and sustains the world. Therefore, Muslims believe he should be treated with the utmost respect and given praise.

Tawhid

The single most important belief in Islam is Tawhid, the oneness and unity of God. There is one God (Allah) who is the universal God of all humanity. Tawhid is the word used to express the Islamic belief in the **oneness** of Allah (God). Muslims believe that there is only one God, who is not divided in any way into parts: Allah Himself witnesses that there is no God except Him. (Qur'an 3:18)

Confirming that Allah is the only God is the first part of the Shahadah (statement of faith). Shirk (blasphemy) means believing in more than one God or holding up anything or anyone as equal to Allah. Muslims believe that shirk is the worst of all sins.

The characteristics of Allah

Muslims believe that Allah has shown 99 characteristics (sometimes called attributes) to human beings to help them better understand his nature, eg "He is Wise" or "The Great Forgiver". Muslims call these attributes the 99 names of Allah. Some Muslims use subhah (prayer beads) when praying to remember these names.

Muslims believe that Allah is:

- Transcendent – Allah is above and beyond anything that exists in the world.
- Fair and just - Allah judges everyone equally.
- Immanent - Allah is close to every human and within all things on Earth.
- Omnipotent - Allah is all-powerful.
- Beneficent - Allah is all-loving.
- Merciful - Allah shows compassion and mercy, and he forgives people.

The Al-Fatihah

The al-Fatihah is the first surah (chapter) in the Qur'an. It means 'the opening' and many Muslims learn to recite it from memory in their daily prayers

99 names

In Islam, God is not to be confused with any living creature; he is beyond all things and cannot be pictured as a physical being. God is outside of human understanding, but for Muslims he lies at the very centre of everything they think and do. So, how do Muslims 'see' God? The Qur'an and the Hadith have many different 'names' for God, not as a person, but using words that describe his qualities and attributes. They use names like: King, Protector, Wise, Eternal, Light, etc. These are known as the 99 beautiful names of God.

4. To summarise the knowledge learnt today, please write and respond to all questions:

- a. What is the most important belief in Islam and what does it mean?**
- b. Describe the nature of Allah, according to Muslims (try and include at least 5 pieces of descriptive knowledge).**
- c. What is The Al-Fatihah and why is it important to Muslims?**
- d. Why do Muslims have 99 names for Allah?**