

*JUNIOR CERTIFICATE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SUPPORT SERVICE*  
*SAMPLE LESSON PLAN RESOURCE MATERIALS FOR ELEMENTS OF SYLLABUS*  
 SECTION C: FOUNDATIONS OF RELIGION – MAJOR WORLD RELIGIONS

**PART 5: TRADITION, FAITH AND PRACTICE TODAY**

<b>Syllabus Aim</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To explore in detail a major world religion * Islam</li> <li>To examine the impact of this religion on its followers today and on other individuals and communities</li> </ul>
<b>Syllabus Objective</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>an awareness of the links between the chosen major world religion and other major world religions, including Christianity</li> </ul>
<b>Key Concepts</b>	Follower/discipleship; tradition
<b>Description of Content</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Examining the identity of the chosen major world religion – early followers and the emerging pattern of community and personal faith.</li> <li>Comparing the life-style of believers with other communities of faith</li> </ul>
<b>Methodology</b>	A variety of methodologies are used in this sample lesson plan including presentation and interpretation of data, research, self-assessment activities, discussion and group work. These methodologies were used so as to give students an opportunity to identify, explore and clarify the concepts and to structure and elaborate on their existing knowledge and understanding of the content.

**Procedure**

***Examining the identity of the chosen major world religion – follower / discipleship***

Distribute *Student Work: ISLAMIC LIFESTYLE* and allow students time to fill in as much information as they can using the words listed below:

Alcohol	Mecca	Hajj	Articles of Faith	Ramadan	Duty	Angel Gabriel	Shahadah
Qur'an	Muhammad	wudu	Hafiz	Halal	Pork	Prayer hat	Allah
Mosque	friday	Arabic	Shoes	Islamic	Imams	Five Pillars	Noon

Alternatively write the headings listed below on the chalkboard

**ISLAM**

<b>BELIEFS:</b>	<b>PRAYER:</b>	<b>PILGRIMAGE:</b>	<b>SACRED TEXT:</b>	<b>LIFESTYLE:</b>

*Assignment:* Call on individual students to describe on the chalkboard, in words or pictures, what they know about Islam under each heading.

Take feedback from the students and when they have completed the assignment discuss:

- How is the lifestyle of followers of Islam similar / different to believers in other major world religions?

***Comparing the life-style of believers with other communities of faith***

*Group Work*

Divide the class into groups. Each group will research and make a presentation on one aspect of the lifestyle of a follower of two different religions one of which is Islam.

Identify when each group will be expected to present their findings to the rest of the class and make suggestions for presentation, e.g. picture, drawings and written paragraphs.

Distribute *Student Work: GROUP WORK TASKS* and give preliminary directions as to sources of information in the school library, Internet etc. When students have completed their Group Work Tasks allow time for them to present their research to the class and display posters etc., on the classroom notice board.

*Written Assignment:*

- Islam has the Five Pillars, what are the main beliefs of Christianity or the other major world religion you have studied?
- Select an element of Islamic practice you admire. Explain what it entails and compare it to a similar practice in Christianity or the other major world religion you have studied.

3. Ritual washing and the use of relics are elements of many religions. What form do these practices take in Christianity or in the other major world religion you have studied?

Or Read CHRISTIANS AND MUSLIMS in *A Time to Live* New Christian Way Series 3 Veritas, page 156

- Discuss:
1. What are the main links between Christians and followers of Islam?
  2. What word describes both religions belief in one God?
  3. In 1985 Pope John Paul II spoke of the need for dialogue between Christians and followers of Islam. He said; “*I believe that Christians and Muslims ought to acknowledge with joy the religious values we have in common and give thanks to God for them*” What religious values do Christians and followers of Islam share?

Take feedback from students and conclude by referring to the ways in which both Christians and followers of Islam value prayer, fasting, almsgiving etc.

*Written Assignment:*

Write a paragraph describing the similarities / differences between Islam and *two* other major world religions (including Christianity) using the points:

- BELIEFS - God is referred to as.... Founder of religion
- PRAYER - Place of worship..... Day of communal prayer..... Symbol(s) used for prayer
- SACRED TEXT
- PLACE (S) OF PILGRIMAGE
- LIFESTYLE: Religious leader

Or *Poster Assignment:* Followers of Islam have a basic declaration of faith called the Shahadah, which sums up in one sentence what they believe in. When it is translated from the original Arabic, it reads: “There is no God but Allah, and Muhammad is the messenger of God”. Design a poster for your classroom illustrating the main statements of belief for followers of Islam and *two* other major world religions (including Christianity).

### ***Comparing the life-style of believers with other communities of faith -tradition***

Read the account of the Hajj referred to in *World Religions and Beliefs*, Ellen Fleming & Brigid O’Hara pages 79-83 and discuss:

1. Where did Abdul visit?
2. Why did Abdul and his family decide to go to Mecca?
3. Why do followers of Islam venerate the Ka’aba?
4. Why is Abdul the envy of his friends now?
5. Describe the stages of the Hajj.

Read the account of the Lough Derg Pilgrimage in *The Christian Way* Book Two Teacher-guide pages 74-75 and discuss:

- 1 Why do people go on pilgrimage to Lough Derg?
- 2 Describe the stages of the pilgrimage.
- 3 What would you see as the most difficult aspects of the pilgrimage?
- 4 What do pilgrims see as the most worthwhile aspects of the pilgrimage?

*Written Assignment:* Write a paragraph comparing the Islamic experience of pilgrimage to Mecca with the Christian experience in Lough Derg or another pilgrimage with which you are familiar.

Or design a postcard that could be sent to Abdul describing the similarities and differences between his experience of pilgrimage and that of another major world religions.

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*Resources teachers have suggested include:*

A Time to Live New Christian Way Series 3 Veritas, page 156.

All About Faith 2 Gill and Macmillan Series, pages 158 and 218.

Cyberclass Teachers Manual 3 Scholastech

<http://www.islamicity.org/mosque/pillar.htm>

Logos

*Teach Me Your Way –The Light of the World Series Unit 6*

*The Qur’an* - Heinemann Chapter 21

*World Religions and Beliefs*, Ellen Fleming & Brigid

**Student Work: ISLAMIC LIFESTYLE**

Complete the following statements using the words listed below:

**BELIEFS:** I am a follower of the .....tradition. The main beliefs of my religion are The ..... P..... and the ... A..... of Faith. We accept that there is only one God. We call God .....

**PRAYER:** Our most important prayer is the ..... We pray ..... times each day. When we pray we face towards..... Our place of worship is the ..... We always worship as a community on ..... At..... When we arrive at the ..... we remove our..... and cover our heads with a .....The prayer is lead by ....., there is no priesthood in Islam.

**PILGRIMAGE:** All followers of Islam hope to go on pilgrimage to.....at least once . This pilgrimage is called the..... It takes place two months after ..... , the ninth month of our year. During ..... we fast each day. The fast celebrates the first time the prophet ..... received messages from the.....

**SACRED TEXT:** Our sacred book is the ....., it is written in..... We believe that the ..... Is the word of God, exactly as the ..... revealed it to ..... People who can recite it all are called .....Reading and understanding the ..... is the first..... of all .....for it is the guide to our lives. Children usually attend..... classes in the..... Before starting to read, followers of Islam need to be in a state of ritual cleanliness known as.....

**LIFESTYLE:** We do not eat .....Our meat is bought at a .....butcher shop as we only eat meat that has been butchered in a certain way. We do not drink .....

Alcohol	Mecca	Hajj	Articles of Faith	Ramadan	Duty	Angel Gabriel	Shahadah
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**Student Work: GROUP WORK TASKS**

**Group 1:** Your task is to design a poster that outlines the main beliefs of Islam and the main beliefs of Christianity, or another major world religion.  
What similarities and differences can you find?

**Group 2:** Your task is to design a poster that compares prayer in the life of a Muslim, with prayer in the life of a Christian, or someone in another major world religion.  
What similarities and differences can you find?

**Group 3:** Your task is to design a poster that compares pilgrimage in the life of a follower of Islam, with pilgrimage in the life of a Christian, or someone in another major world religion. What similarities and differences can you find? - Places of pilgrimage; rituals; how often people go on pilgrimage etc.

**Group 4:** Your task is to design a poster that compares special observances of Islam with those of Christianity or another major world religion. e.g. Holy days; Dress code for worship; Dietary laws etc.

**Group 5:** Your task is to design a poster that compares the sacred text of Islam with that of Christianity or another major world religion. e.g. Who wrote it? How is it read? What language is it written in? Etc.