

JUNIOR CERTIFICATE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SUPPORT SERVICE
SAMPLE LESSON PLAN RESOURCE MATERIALS FOR ELEMENTS OF SYLLABUS
 SECTION C: FOUNDATIONS OF RELIGION – MAJOR WORLD RELIGIONS
PART 3: RITES OF PASSAGE AND OTHER RITUALS

Syllabus Aim	To explore in detail a major world religion * Islam To examine the impact of this religion on its followers today
Syllabus Objective	As a result of studying this section the students should <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be able to identify essential elements of the beliefs and symbols of the chosen major world religions; • be able to recognise these beliefs and symbols in the words and actions of followers past and present
Key Concepts	Festivals,; pilgrimage; practice; places of worship; creed; sacred time; prayer.
Description of Content	Identifying the key elements of membership of the chosen major world religion – creed and practice
Methodology	A variety of methodologies are used in these lesson plan resource materials including presentation and interpretation of data, group work, self-assessment activities, discussion, research and case study. 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

Introduction

We all have reasons for doing things – we go to school because we want to learn, we eat because we want to live and grow. People participate in religious celebrations to express their faith. Certain beliefs and practices are part of every religion. Brainstorm students on: What are the beliefs and practices of the Islamic religion? Take feedback from the students and note their answers on the chalkboard.

Using the students answers to the brainstorming exercise refer to the Five Pillars as outlining the essential beliefs and practices of the Islamic religion. People of the Islamic tradition practise the Five Pillars because they want to be good followers of Islam. They believe that each pillar must be practiced to keep their faith strong.

Identifying the key elements of membership of the chosen major world religion – Creed

Five Pillars of Islam

Group work / Individual task: Imagine you are reporters and your newspaper has sent you to find out something about the Islamic religion. You have been very impressed with what you have seen and want to write your front-page report for ‘The Daily News’ on the Five Pillars of Islam. Your task is to write a front page newspaper account explaining in simple terms what the Five Pillars of Islam are. Remember you have only three class periods to complete this task. *Divide* students into 5 groups i.e. one for each of the Five Pillars of Islam. Allow student time to research texts or provide supplementary information e.g. Unit 8 *World Religions and Beliefs*, Ellen Fleming & Brigid O’Hara; *All About Faith 2 Foundations of Religion*. Anne Boyle and Niall Boyle. Gill & Macmillan. Part 5; *A Time to Live - The New Christian Way Series 3 – Veritas* Unit 5; www.redrc.org.uk/ *World Religions and beliefs*; *Longman Study Guide Religious Studies, GCSE Key stage 4*

Emphasise that each group/individual will be asked to present their information to the class in the form of a newspaper article. When each group has completed their task allow them time to present their newspaper article to the rest of the class and display their work on the classroom notice board.

- Discuss:
1. What did Muhammad teach his followers about Allah?
 2. Where do Muslims worship, especially on Fridays?
 3. What is the ninth month of the Islamic year called?
 4. Why is it an important month for Muslims?
 5. Where will Muslims go on pilgrimage at least once in their lives?
 6. Why do you think most Muslims love keeping the Five Pillars?
 7. Why do most Muslims not regard the Five Pillars of Islam as a burden?

As a follow up activity using *Student Work: THE FIVE PILLARS OF ISLAM - ASSIGNMENTS*

Allow students time to match the names in column A with appropriate pillar in column B and correct their answers as follows:

A	B
Creed =	Shahadah
Prayer =	Salat
Fasting =	Sawm
Alms-giving =	Zakat
Pilgrimage =	Hajj

Allow students time to complete word search and correct their assignment using the answers below:

M	E	C	C	A					S	A	W	M		
		R		L		Z	A	K	A	T		U		
	F	E		L					L			H		
	I	E		A	E		P		A		H	A	J	J
	V	D		H	C		R		T		S	M		S
P	E	R	C	E	N	T	A	G	E		H	M		I
I	T		H	W	O		Y		F		A	A		M
L	I		A	H	A		E	M	A	T	H	D		P
G	M		R	I		S	R		S		A		P	L
R	E		I	T			H		T		D		O	E
I	S		T	E				I	I		A		O	D
M			Y	C	L	O	T	H	N		H		R	R
A	L	M	S	G	I	V	I	N	G	G				E
G	R	A	M	A	D	A	N		T	E	S	N	U	S
E								E	S	I	R	N	U	S

Allow students time to categorise the words they have found under the following headings:

CREED	PRAYER	FASTING	ALMS GIVING	PILGRIMAGE
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When students have completed the assignment correct their work using the answers below:

CREED	PRAYER	FASTING	ALMS GIVING	PILGRIMAGE
Shahadah	Salat	Sawm	Zakat	Hajj
Allah	Five times	Ramadan	Charity	Simple dress
Muhammad	Washing	Sunrise	Poor	Once
	Prayer mat	Sunset	Percentage	White cloth
				Mecca

Student written assignment:

Choose one Pillar of Islam and write a paragraph describing what a follower of Islam would have to do in order to fulfil it. You may use the words you have categorised as a guide.

Identifying the key elements of membership of the chosen major world religion – Practice Five Pillars of Islam

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 Muslims venerate the Ka'aba?
4. Why is Abdul the envy of his friends now?
5. Describe the stages of the Hajj.

Assignment: Design a postcard or write a letter that Abdul might have sent after his pilgrimage telling his friends about the experience.

Or Read *Student Work: THE MOSQUE* and give students time to answer the following questions:

- Who attends the mosque on Fridays?
- Who is a muezzin?
- How does a follower of Islam prepare for prayer when he arrives at the mosque?
- Who leads the prayer?
- Why do followers of Islam have the same prayer format?

Written Assignment:

Imagine you are an Islamic boy, write a diary entry outlining your experience of Friday prayer in the Mosque.

Or Write a paragraph on the key elements of membership of the Islamic religion. Use four of the following statements in your paragraph. (Adapted from *World Religions and Beliefs, E. Fleming & B. O’Hara*)

- The devout follower of Islam responds to the call of the muezzin from the mosque’s minaret (tower) five times daily.
- Both faith and action are essential to salvation.
- Allah is the Arabic word for God – Followers of Islam pray to God in Arabic.
- The chief obligations for followers of Islam are Prayer, Fasting, Almsgiving, and Pilgrimage.
- The mosque is the sacred house of prayer.
- The Imam or mosque leader is chosen by the community
- The Qur’an teaches the power and unity of God, honour for parents and virtues such as patience and honesty: it forbids lying, stealing, adultery and murder.

Resources teachers have suggested include:

A Time to Live New Christian Way Series 3 Veritas, pages 148, and 153-154.

All About Faith 2 Gill and Macmillan Series, pages 177-184, 190-192, and 204-216.

Community of Faith Veritas, pages 64-66, 68-69, 71-72, 75-77, and 82.

Community of Hope Veritas, pages 50-72.

Cyberclass Teachers Manual 3 Scholastech

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

Logos.

Show Us The Way New Christian Way Series 2 Veritas, pages 130-138.

World Religions and Beliefs, Ellen Fleming & Brigid O’Hara

Student Work: THE FIVE PILLARS OF ISLAM – ASSIGNMENTS

Match the name in column A with appropriate Pillar of Islam in column B

A	B
Creed	Zakat
Prayer	Shahadah
Fasting	Sawm
Alms-giving	Salat
Pilgrimage	Hajj

Find the following words in the word search below:

CREED	WHITE CLOTH	PERCENTAGE	SUNSET	PRAYERMAT
SIMPLE DRESS	SUNRISE	ONCE	POOR	WASHING
CHARITY	RAMADAN	FIVETIMES	SALAT	PRAYER
FASTING	SWAM	SHAHADAH	PILGRIMAGE	ZAKAT
ALMS GIVING	HAJJ	ALLAH	MECCA	MUHAMMAD

M	E	C	C	A	Q	W	E	R	S	A	W	M	T	Y
U	I	R	O	L	P	Z	A	K	A	T	A	U	S	D
F	F	E	G	L	H	J	K	L	L	X	Z	H	C	V
B	I	E	N	A	E	M	P	Q	A	W	H	A	J	J
E	V	D	R	H	C	T	R	Y	T	U	S	M	I	S
P	E	R	C	E	N	T	A	G	E	O	H	M	P	I
I	T	A	H	W	O	E	Y	U	F	I	A	A	F	M
L	I	S	A	H	A	D	E	M	A	T	H	D	G	P
G	M	D	R	I	H	S	R	Y	S	K	A	Q	P	L
R	E	F	I	T	J	C	H	H	T	L	D	W	O	E
I	S	G	T	E	K	V	B	I	I	J	A	E	O	D
M	J	H	Y	C	L	O	T	H	N	H	H	R	R	R
A	L	M	S	G	I	V	I	N	G	G	S	T	Y	E
G	R	A	M	A	D	A	N	G	T	E	S	N	U	S
E	R	Z	X	C	L	K	V	E	S	I	R	N	U	S

Place the words you found under one of the following Pillars of Islam with which it is associated:

CREED	PRAYER	FASTING	ALMS GIVING	PILGRIMAGE

Student Work: THE MOSQUE



This is where the followers of Islam worship. The mosque is square with a domed roof. It has a tall narrow tower called minaret with a small balcony. A muezzin (prayer caller) stands on the balcony and calls people to pray. Islamic women usually stay at home to pray, whereas Islamic men gather at the mosque on Fridays at midday. When followers of Islam arrive at the mosque they remove their shoes at the entrance and cover their heads with a skullcap. They make themselves holy by washing their face, hands and feet before entering the mosque.

Inside the mosque there are no seats, statues, pictures or candles. The walls are covered with patterned tiles. Mats are spread on the floor. The followers of Islam face towards Mecca, as indicated by a mithrab, i.e. a recess in one wall of the mosque. The Imam leads the prayers. He reads from the Qur'an. All followers of Islam have the same prayer format as a reminder that they form one worldwide community of faith in Allah. A different position is taken as each part of the prayer is said.