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
• 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Creed =</td>
<td>Shahadah</td>
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<td>Prayer =</td>
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<td>Fasting =</td>
<td>Sawm</td>
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<td>Alms-giving =</td>
<td>Zakat</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pilgrimage =</td>
<td>Hajj</td>
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Allow students time to complete word search and correct their assignment using the answers below:

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</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CREED</th>
<th>PRAYER</th>
<th>FASTING</th>
<th>ALMS GIVING</th>
<th>PILGRIMAGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

When students have completed the assignment correct their work using the answers below:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>CREED</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shahadah</td>
<td>Salat</td>
<td>Sawm</td>
<td>Zakat</td>
<td>Hajj</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allah</td>
<td>Five times</td>
<td>Ramadan</td>
<td>Charity</td>
<td>Simple dress</td>
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<tr>
<td>Muhammad</td>
<td>Washing</td>
<td>Sunrise</td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>Once</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prayer mat</td>
<td>Sunset</td>
<td>Percentage</td>
<td>White cloth</td>
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<td>Mecca</td>
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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:
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.
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

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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
Student Work: THE MOSQUE

This is where the followers of Islam worship. The mosque is square with a doomed 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.