

# 6.5 How do beliefs shape identity for Muslims?

## Key Vocabulary

Word	Definition
Caliph	The chief Muslim civil and religious ruler, regarded as the successor of Muhammad
Hadith	The sayings, reports, statements and actions of the prophet Muhammad
Iman	Simple definition: Faith. The belief in the six articles of faith, known as arkān al-īmān
Jummah	The congregational worship during Friday midday prayer time – practiced by men, and observed by women
Mecca	The centre of the Islamic world - birthplace of both the Prophet Muhammad and the religion he founded
Medina	The place from which Muhammad established the Muslim community and is where his body is entombed
Shia	Second largest branch of Islam – belief in the bloodline of Muhammad and his descendent, Ali
Sunni	Largest branch of Islam – belief that the Islamic community were responsible for choosing a leader to succeed Muhammad

Muslims arrange their lives around the five pillars, which require deep commitment and responsibility but in turn, foster a fulfilling life and a close relationship with God

## KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER

### Key distinctions between the two main Muslim traditions (Sunni and Shia)

The main differences between Sunni and Shia Muslims are:

**Leadership:** Sunnis believe leaders should be chosen by the community, while Shias believe leaders should come from Prophet Muhammad's family, especially his cousin Ali.

**Practices:** Both follow similar beliefs, but Shia Muslims have unique rituals, like mourning Ashura for Imam Hussein, while Sunnis focus on reflecting on it.

**Religious Authority:** Sunnis follow scholars to interpret Islam, while Shias give more authority to certain leaders, called Ayatollahs.

### The role of mosques

Mosques play a significant role in shaping Muslim identities by serving as centres for religious, social, and cultural activities. Mosques are places for prayer, including the weekly Friday congregational prayer (Jumu'ah), which helps strengthen a sense of community and shared faith among Muslims. This reinforces religious practices and beliefs as part of their identity. Mosques are also gathering places where Muslims come together for social events, support, and charity work, fostering a sense of belonging and unity.



### Key Questions to ask yourself

- How do the scriptures of Islam shape the identify of Muslims?
- What are the differences and similarities between Sunni and Shia Muslims?
- How do mosques contribute to a Muslim's sense of identity?

### The 5 Pillars of Islam



### Key Muslim Celebrations

**Eid al-Fitr:** Celebrated at the end of **Ramadan**, the month of fasting. It's a time for feasting, giving charity (Zakat al-Fitr), and spending time with family and friends.

**Eid al-Adha:** Commemorates the willingness of Prophet Ibrahim (Abraham) to sacrifice his son as an act of obedience to God. It involves animal sacrifice, charity, and community prayers.

**Ramadan:** While not a celebration itself, Ramadan is a month of fasting, prayer, and reflection, and ends with Eid al-Fitr.

**Mawlid al-Nabi:** The birthday of the Prophet Muhammad, celebrated with prayers, feasts, and discussions of his life and teachings.

**Laylat al-Qadr:** The "Night of Power," which falls during the last ten days of Ramadan, when Muslims believe the Quran was revealed. It's a night of intense prayer and seeking God's mercy.