

CASE STUDY: A SHI'A PERSPECTIVE

The akhira has a massive effect on the way I live my life as it overshadows everything I do. I am able to live my life understanding that my existence is not centred around me because there is a world greater than that which I currently experience. Belief in Mi'ad is one of five Usul ad-Din. We are taught that our purpose on earth is to worship Allah and the reward for worship is paradise, which is determined on the Day of Resurrection. The Twelve Imams taught that worship is not simply limited to praying, but mostly includes how one conducts oneself. Therefore, following the Imams as well as the Prophets is essential as they also guide us in how to live so that when Mi'ad arrives we are satisfied with how we lived our lives. (Asad, Shi'a Muslim)



CASE STUDY: A SUNNI PERSPECTIVE

As a Sunni Muslim, one of my key beliefs is that of the afterlife. I wholeheartedly believe everything I do during my time on earth will affect my standing with Allah, the Most High, and, in turn, my eternal fate. This life is a test. As a result of this, I try my best to live my life in accordance with Islam, following the five pillars and trying to do good for the world around me. I know that every action will be weighed on the Day of Judgement and so I have tried to do things in my life that will help me be the best I can be for this life and the next. This is one of the reasons why I became a teacher. I also enjoy, and take great pride in, charity work – this is encouraged in Islam and holds great reward with Allah. As a mother, Islam tells me that my children may well be my pathway into jannah and so it is important to me to give them a religious upbringing. (Shehina, Sunni Muslim)



COMPARE AND CONTRAST

Christianity is the main religious tradition of Great Britain. In your exam, you could be asked to **compare and contrast** Muslim beliefs about life after death with Christian beliefs about life after death. Create a table that explains the similarities and differences between them.

BUILD YOUR SKILLS

- How might belief in the Day of Judgement impact the life of a Muslim? Explain in no more than 50 words.
- Can Allah be both merciful and send someone to hell? Refer to your own views and different Muslim views in your answer.

SUMMARY

- Muslims believe that all humans will be judged in the afterlife.
- Every person will enter either paradise (jannah) or hell (jahannam), based on how they have lived their life.
- Some Muslims consider resurrection to be physical and spiritual, while others believe it is only spiritual and that souls will be provided with new bodies in the afterlife.

EXAM STYLE QUESTIONS

- Describe two differences between Islam and the main religious tradition of Great Britain about the beliefs of paradise and hell. (4)
- If there is no akhira, religious teachings are meaningless. Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against. In your response you should:
 - refer to Muslim teachings
 - points of view
 - reach a justified conclusion. (15)

Revision

BUILD YOUR SKILLS

Look at the list of 'I can' statements below and think carefully about how confident you are. Use the following code to rate each of the statements. Be honest!

Green – very confident. What is your evidence for this?

Orange – quite confident. What is your target? Be specific.

Red – not confident. What is your target? Be specific.

kerboodle

A self-assessment revision checklist is available on kerboodle

I can...

- List the six beliefs, making reference to Hadith from Kitab al-Iman 1:4
- Explain how the six beliefs are understood and expressed in Sunni and Shi'a Muslim communities today
- Explain the importance of the six beliefs for Muslims
- List the five roots of 'Usul ad-Din and explain where they came from, including reference to Surah 112
- Explain why the five roots of 'Usul ad-Din are important for Sevener and Twelver Shi'a communities
- Describe the characteristics of Allah as shown in the Qur'an. Tawhid, immanence, transcendence, omnipotence, beneficence, mercy, fairness and justice, and Adalat in Shi'a Islam, referring to sources of wisdom and authority
- Explain why the characteristics of Allah are important
- Explain what Risalah (prophethood) is and why it is important for Muslims, including reference to Surah 2: 136
- Explain what the prophets – particularly Adam, Ibrahim, Ismail, Musa, Dawud, Isa and Muhammad – teach Muslims
- List the Muslim holy books and explain their significance, referring to sources of wisdom and authority
- Give divergent Muslim views about the importance of the holy books for Muslims today
- Explain the nature and importance of malaikah (angels) for Muslims
- Describe how angels Jibril, Izrail and Mikail are shown in the Qur'an, including reference to Surah 19, 32: 11 and 2: 97-98
- Explain the significance of angels for Muslims today
- Explain what al-Qadr (predestination) is and why it is important for Muslims
- Explain how al-Qadr and human freedom relate to the Day of Judgement, including reference to Sahih Al-Bukhari 78: 685
- Explain divergent understandings of predestination in Sunni and Shi'a Islam
- Explain the implications of belief in al-Qadr for Muslims today
- Explain Muslim teachings about akhira (life after death)
- Describe the nature of judgement, paradise and hell, and how these are shown in the Qur'an, including reference to Surah 17: 49-72
- Explain divergent ways in which Muslim teachings about life after death affect the life of a Muslim today
- Compare and contrast Muslim beliefs about life after death with Christian beliefs about life after death