



# Islam, Judaism & Christianity

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**E.Q. What are the religions of SWA and what are their origins?**

# [ Brief History ]

- **Judaism**- The Hebrew **leader Abraham** founded Judaism around 2000 B.C. Judaism is the oldest of the monotheistic faiths (religions with one God).
- **Christianity** - **Founded by Jesus Christ**, who was crucified around A.D. 30 in Jerusalem. It was after his death when his followers came to believe in him as the Christ, the Messiah.
- **Islam** - **Founded** in Arabia **by Muhammad** between A.D. 610 and A.D. 632

# [ Judaism Briefly ]

- Judaism is around **3500 years old** and is the **oldest** of the world's four great monotheistic religions (religions with only one God). It's also the **smallest**, with only about **12 million** followers around the world.
- Its **holy city** is **Jerusalem**.
- The Jewish calendar is based on 29 or 30 days therefore they have 12.13 months.

# Judaism beliefs

- Jews believe that there is a **single God** who not only created the universe, but with whom every Jew can have an individual and personal relationship.
- **They await the Messiah**, who will be an earthly king. They believe in heaven, but that God determines where they go after life on earth.
- **Give a tithe (10%)**. Ten Commandments is the basic code of law.

# Judaism Holy Book

- The most **holy** Jewish **book** is the **Torah** (the first five books of the Christian Bible). Others include Judaism's oral tradition, the written form of which is known as the Talmud.
- The Torah (**scroll of teachings**) contains the five books revealed to Moses by God on Mount Sinai.
- Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy
- **Hebrew is read right to left.**

# Judaism Place of Worship

- Jews worship in **Synagogues** or **temples**. Men and women usually sit separately.
- Worship is led by a **Rabbi**.
- **Friday evening** is time for **worship**.



Stamford Hill, London

# [ Christianity briefly ]

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- **Christianity** is the world's biggest religion, with about **2.2 billion** followers worldwide. It is based on the teachings of Jesus Christ who lived in the Holy Land 2,000 years ago.

# Christianity Beliefs

- Christians believe that **Jesus Christ was the Son of God**
- God sent his Son to earth to save humanity from the consequences of its sins
- Jesus rose from the dead on the third day after his Crucifixion (the Resurrection)
- Christians believe that **Jesus was the Messiah** promised in the Old Testament
- Christians believe that there is only one God, but that this **one God consists of 3 "persons"**
- Christians believe that God made the world.



# Christianity Beliefs continued

10 Christians believe that they can have a personal relationship with God, and that they are saved by faith, not works. Grace is the law code.

10 They believe in actual heaven and hell.

10 They believe that the Bible is the inspired word of God.

10 Their giving is a tithe or offerings.

# [ Christians Holy Book ]

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- **The Bible is the Christian holy book.** It is divided into the Old and New Testaments. Parts of the writing contained in the Old Testament are also sacred to Jewish and Muslim people.

# Christian Place of Worship

- The Christian place of **worship** is called a **Church**, which are built in the shape of a cross with the **altar facing east** towards the rising sun. Services are led by a **priest**, pastor or reverend.
- **Day of worship** is normally **Sunday** but most recently Saturday has been added.



Westminster Abbey London

# [ Islam Briefly ]

- Islam is the **second most popular religion** in the world with over a thousand million followers. Islam began in Arabia and was revealed to humanity by the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). Those who follow Islam are called **Muslims**. Muslims believe that there is only **one God**, called Allah, who speaks Arabic.
- The Muslim calendar has 354 days and is based on the 12 crescent moon cycles.

# [ Islam Holy Book ]

- The Muslim scripture is the **Holy Qur'an**. It is 'the word of God'. Muslim beliefs and practices are rooted in the Qur'an.
- Muslims treat the Qur'an with great respect because they believe that the Qur'an is from Allah, and every word and every letter is sacred.
- Muslims regard the Qur'an as the unaltered word of God.
- **It is read from right to left** and written in Arabic, the language of heaven.

# Islam Place of Worship

- The Muslim building for communal worship is called a **Mosque**. The word comes from the Arabic for "place of prostration".
- Worshippers are called to prayer **5 times a day** from minarets – towers on the mosque corners.
- They contain only designs, no people or animals or furniture.
- Normal day of **worship is Friday**.



Jamia Mosque in Derby England

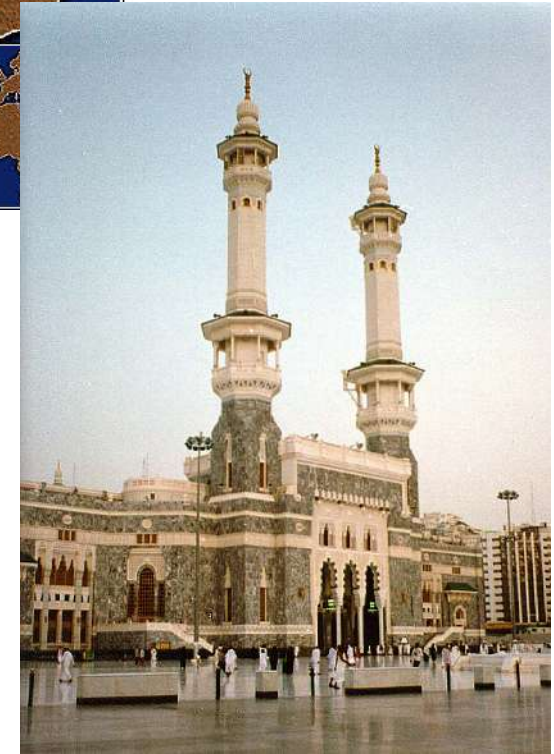
# Five Pillars Belief system/law code

- **Shahadah: declaration of faith**  
"I bear witness that there is no god, but God; I bear witness that Muhammad is the prophet of God." By reciting this, one enters Islamic faith.
- **Salah: prayer**  
Muslims are required to pray five times a day, washing themselves before prayer and facing in the direction of Mecca while praying.
- **Zakat: giving a fixed proportion to charity**  
Muslims are required to give away a percentage of their earnings to those less fortunate, regardless of their religion.
- **Saum: fasting during the month of Ramadan**  
Muslims fast for one lunar month each year, a period called Ramadan. During this time, Muslims reflect on their behaviour and strive to purify their thoughts.
- **Hajj: pilgrimage to Mecca**  
If it is financially possible, Muslims are required to travel to Mecca once in their lifetime.

# Main Festivals Continued

## ■ Hijja:

The month of pilgrimage during which all Muslims, at least once in their life, should try to make the pilgrimage to Mecca and worship at the **Kaaba**





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