



EAST PRESTON ISLAMIC COLLEGE

Islamic Studies.

Term One Holiday Homework.

Grade Six: CK, FM and SA.

Student Name _____

Teacher: Mr. Bilal Nachabe.

Due Date: 24th April 2019.

Parents Signature: _____

Parents Comments: -----

Teacher's comments: -----

Why Islam? What is Islam?

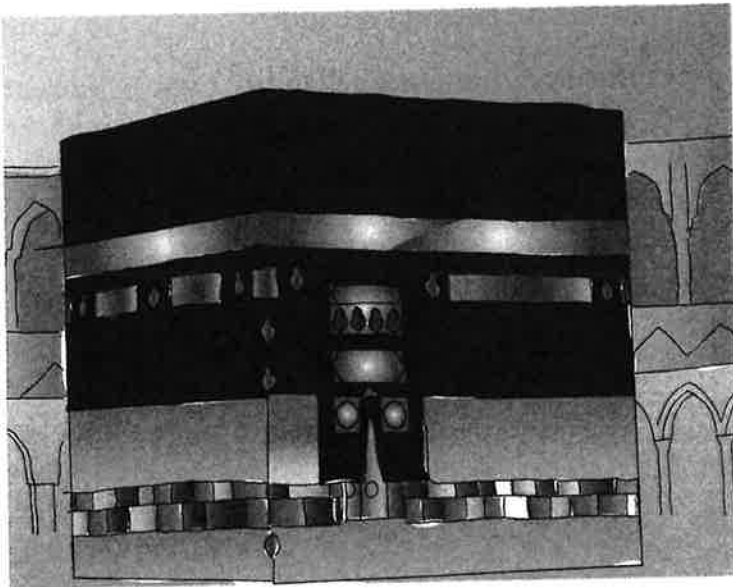
Objective of the Lesson:

Students will be introduced to the beauty of Islam to help them understand that Islam is the chosen religion of Allāh. They will learn that Islam is not just a religion to believe and follow, but it is a complete way of life.



We often think that Islam is a religion just like Christianity, Hinduism, Judaism, or many other religions in the world. If we want to explain the word “religion,” we might use the definition given in most dictionaries. For example, Webster defines religion as the service and worship of God or the supernatural, or a personal set and an organized system of religious beliefs and practices. If we rely on this definition, we find that religion is:

- (a) the service of God or the supernatural
- (b) the worship of God or the supernatural
- (c) a set of beliefs
- (d) a set of practices

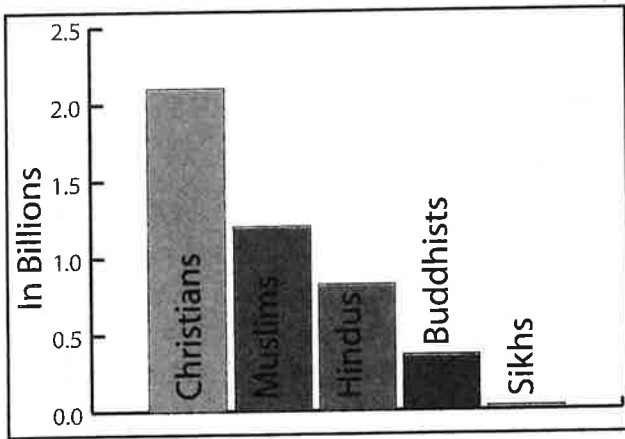


What is Islam?: Unfortunately, the scope of the above definition is too limited to fully explain or understand Islam. There is much more to Islam than just the religion. Islam is a complete code of conduct for Muslims. It is a complete way of life from birth until death. Islam is a system that explains relationships among people living within a society. It is established upon faith in One God.

Meaning of “Islam”: The word Islam means “submission” or “surrender to Allāh.” Islam is a religion of submission to the will of Allāh. The word “Muslim” means one who submits to Allāh. Since everything in nature submits to

Allāh, everything is Muslim. The Qur'an says the birds glorify Allāh, ^{24:41} and so do the mountains. ^{21:79;} ^{34:10} How do they glorify Allāh? They do this by submitting to His laws. In fact, the entire universe is Muslim because everything follows the laws of Allāh. ^{67:3-4}

Why Islam?: Today over 1.2 billion people in the world follow Islam. One out of every six people is a Muslim. Islam is the natural religion, therefore, a complete way of life. In nature, everything submits to Allāh. Everything in nature follows a uniform law—the Law of Nature. It is Allāh who made the law of nature. The sun rises from the east and sets in



Followers of major religions in the world

the west. This is due to the law of nature. Science, technology, nor human power can make the sun rise from the west or set in the east.

In the Qur'an, Allāh says He has created human beings and the jinn to worship Him.

﴿٥٦﴾ وَمَا خَلَقْتُ الْجِنَّ وَالْإِنْسَ إِلَّا لِيَعْبُدُونِ

And I have not created the jinn and mankind but that they should worship Me. (51:56)

This means human beings should not worship anything or any being other than Allāh. The mention of the word "mankind" indicates that every human being, not just the Muslims, should worship Allāh and only Allāh. To follow the rules of Allāh is a form of worship. Even people who are not Muslims cannot help but follow the rules of Allāh.

Allāh says Islam is the only religion acceptable to Him. No other religion can save mankind and no other religion can lead people to Heaven.

﴿٣٩﴾ إِنَّ الدِّينَ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ الْإِسْلَامُ

Decidedly the religion with Allāh is Islam (3:19).

Do they then seek other than Allāh's Religion? And to Him submits whoever is in the heavens and the earth willingly or unwillingly; and to Him they will be returned (3:83).

﴿٣٥﴾ وَمَنْ يَبْتَغِ غَيْرَ الْإِسْلَامِ دِينًا فَلَنْ يُقْبَلَ مِنْهُ وَهُوَ فِي الْآخِرَةِ مِنَ الْخَاسِرِينَ

And whoever seeks a religion other than Islam, then never will it be accepted from him, and he will in the Hereafter be of the losers (3:85)

The "Test" of Islam: Why Islam? Why not other religions? We can simplify this lengthy debate by testing Islam's validity. All these tests are performed on the Qur'an. Since the Qur'an is the source of guidance, if the Qur'an is proved to be authentic, then Islam automatically becomes the authentic religion. Two of these tests are:

1. Test of internal reliability and
2. Test of external reliability

The test of **internal reliability** tests the content of one part of the book against another part of the book. There must not be any contradictions between the parts of the book. When we carefully analyze the contents of the Qur'an, we can find no contradictions in its contents. No other religious book, except the Qur'an, passes this test.

The test of **external reliability** means that no statement made in the Qur'an can contradict established facts or proven science. Whether it is physics, chemistry, biology, geography, geology, astronomy, and so forth, the Qur'an does not

contradict any facts. No other religious book, except the Qur'an passes this test.

There are three other validity tests. These are the tests of:

3. **Genuineness,**
4. **Comprehensiveness,** and
5. **Universality.**

The following is a brief analysis of these three tests.

Test of genuineness: The test of genuineness is performed to determine if the Qur'an is as genuine



and reliable as when it was revealed and preserved. This test must also prove if the message was preserved in its original form without any corruption or editing. A study of the history shows that the present Qur'an is exactly the same as the one that was revealed to Rasūlullāh (S) more than 1,400 years ago. There has not been any alterations, modifications or deletions of a word or even a letter in the Qur'an. The Qur'an is the only religious book to pass the test of genuineness.

Test of comprehensiveness: The fourth test of validity of the Qur'an is the test of comprehensiveness. This test determines if the message in the Qur'an is complete, comprehensive and designed for all of mankind for all periods of time. In every age, the Qur'an solved moral, ethical, spiritual, political, economic and other problems of people and guided them towards the right path. Its message was as relevant in the past as it is today. Its message is applicable not only for the Arabs, but also for non-Arabs living in other parts of the world.

This test proves the Qur'an is truly the most comprehensive religious book in the world.

Test of universality: The test of universality determines if the message is universal or regional. This test proves the message of the Qur'an applies to all people and every community in the world—it is not specific to Arab people. The message is true for all periods of time in history. It made sense at the time of Rasūlullāh (S), and it still makes sense today.

Since Islam is the most authentic, the most comprehensive, and the most universal religion, we must follow it. Islam is also the most reliable religion.

So if someone asks "Why Islam?," we need not become confused. We can say, "Why *not* Islam?" In summary, Islam is the only religion approved by Allāh.

Interesting Facts:

Several religions celebrate festivals related to harvesting. People in the northern and southern hemispheres do not harvest at the same time of year. Therefore, religions that base their festivals on harvesting seasons cannot be universal, because the harvesting holiday may be at the time of seeding in another part of the world!

The Christmas holiday in the Northern hemisphere relates to snow and Santa Claus's red winter coat. Although this holiday is in December, it is summer in Australia!

The timing of Ramadan and Eid changes throughout the year. Muslims enjoy these activities without any relation to a specific season. The festivals of Islam are examples of the universality of the religion.

homework **weekend 1**

1. What is the meaning of the word "Muslim"?

2. In the lesson "Why Islam? What is Islam?," how many tests are suggested to determine if Islam is the best religion?

- A. One.
- B. Three.
- C. Five.
- D. Ten.

3. The lesson "Why Islam? What is Islam?," mentions that there are no contradictions in the Qur'an. Under which test is this point covered?

- A. Test of internal reliability.
- B. Test of genuineness.
- C. Test of comprehensiveness.
- D. Test of universality.

4. Read verse 4:82 in Arabic or in an English translation. What is the reason the Qur'an cannot be from anyone other than Allāh?

5. Write a sentence explaining why we should believe in Islam.

6. According to the Qur'an, who should all of mankind and jinn worship?

- A. Jinns may worship natural forces; man should worship only Allāh.
- B. Only Allāh.
- C. Any god of any religion.
- D. Any god or goddess as long as one believes in Allāh.

7. Read verse 3:85. What will not be accepted from people? What will happen to those who violate the message?

A. _____

B. _____