Now Test Yourself: Answers

2.1.1 Core beliefs

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1. What are the six articles of faith in the Sunni tradition?
The six articles of faith are Tawhid, Angels, Books, Rasul, Akhirah and Al’Qadr.

2. What is belief in these six articles called?
Belief in these six articles is called Iman.

3. What does Usul ad-Din mean?
Usul ad-Din is the five principles of the Shi’a tradition.

4. How do the Shi’a core beliefs differ from this?
Sunni and Shi’a beliefs disagree over the leadership of the faith.

2.1.2 Tawhid

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1. What is Tawhid?
Tawhid is the belief in the Oneness of God.

2. List three Muslim beliefs about Allah.
Your answer could include that he is:
   • infinite
   • omnipotent and omniscient
   • merciful and benevolent
   • transcendent and immanent
   • fair and just.

3. Give three ways that belief in Tawhid will affect a believer.
Believers will be humble, knowing that without Allah they could do nothing, they have no reason to be boastful. It enables them to be content with their life, knowing that Allah is the provider. They do not fear death as Allah is in control of that too.

4. Which Qur’an quote demonstrates that Allah is the creator of all things?
Surah 39:62, 63 demonstrates that Allah is the creator of all things.

5. What characteristics of Allah are described in Surah 112?
Allah is merciful, compassionate, Everlasting Refuge, without equal and the only God.

2.1.3 Belief in Imams

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1. Who was the first Caliph appointed after the death of Muhammad ﷺ?
Abu Bakr was the first Caliph appointed after the death of Muhammad ﷺ.

2. How many Caliphs were there before Ali?
There were three Caliphs before him.
3. Why do Shi’a Muslims not recognise those appointed before Ali?
They do not acknowledge those before Ali as he was the first male convert to Islam and many believe he should have been the first Caliph.

4. What is the role of the Imamah?
The Imamah’s role is to preserve the religion of Islam.

5. State what Shi’a Muslims believe about the twelfth Imam.
They believe that the twelfth Imam is in occultation, waiting to reappear at Allah’s appointed time. When he appears he will come as a Messiah to bring justice, peace and coexistence at the end of the world.

2.1.4 Belief in divine justice

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1. State the way in which Allah always acts.
Allah always acts with justice.

2. What should humans use in order to act in the right way?
Humans should use their free will.

3. Give one reason that Shi’a Muslims have for rejecting predestination.
They reject predestination as it goes against the belief that humans have free will.

4. According to Sunni Muslims, what makes all that Allah does good?
Everything Allah does is right simply because he does it.

5. Do Sunni Muslims accept or reject predestination?
They accept predestination.

2.1.5 Prophethood (risalah)

Page 39
1. What is risalah?
Risalah is prophethood. This is the means of communication between Allah and humans.

2. Name three rasul.
Any number could be given here – you could include Adam, David, Jesus and Muhammad ﷺ.

3. What are rasul chosen by Allah to do?
They are chosen to give guidance on how to follow Allah, so that people can be brought back to Allah.

4. Why must they not be worshipped?
They must not be worshipped as they are human.

2.1.6 The role and importance of the prophets

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1. List five prophets from Islam, not including Muhammad ﷺ.
Choose from Adam, Ibrahim, Isma’il, Musa, Dawud and Isa.

2. Which prophet was the khalifa?
Adam was the khalifa.
3. Why was this role important?
Adam was Allah’s first creation and he acted for Allah on Earth.

4. Which prophet built the Kaaba and why is this significant?
Ibrahim and Isma’il built the Kaaba. It has become the centre of the Grand Mosque and all Muslims face in the direction towards it as they pray five times a day.

5. Who was the Zabur revealed to and what does it contain?
It was revealed to Dawud and it contains lessons of guidance for the Israelites.

6. Who was the hanif and why is this important?
Ibrahim was a hanif. It is important as he is the father of monotheism, the first person to move to belief in Allah as the one true God.

7. What is the role of Isa believed to be at the end times?
At the end times Isa will return on the Day of Judgement and bring together true Muslims. He will establish Islam, making war until all religions except Islam are destroyed.

2.1.7 Muhammad ﷺ

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1. Why is Muhammad ﷺ known as the seal of the prophets?
He is the last prophet sent by Allah.

2. List some of Muhammad’s ﷺ qualities that made him a good prophet.
He was trustworthy, truthful, honest, just and wise.

3. What happened on the Night of Power?
An angel appeared to Muhammad ﷺ in a cave while he was meditating and told him to recite. However, Muhammad ﷺ was illiterate and could not read. Three times the angel told him to recite. On the third time Muhammad ﷺ recited the words written on his heart. These were the first revealed verses of the Qur’an. The angel Jibra’il declared him the messenger of Allah.

4. What effect did the Night of Power have on Muhammad ﷺ?
Muhammad ﷺ became a messenger for Allah and followed his will.

5. What happened on the Night Journey?
An angel woke Muhammad ﷺ from his sleep and took him to Jerusalem on a winged horse. His heart was removed and purified from doubt, idolatry and error, and he was filled with faith and wisdom. He went up through seven heavens and was shown paradise and hell. He met and spoke with prophets that had lived before him. It was on this journey that Musa and Muhammad ﷺ talked and agreed that prayer should happen five times a day. Muhammad ﷺ was in Allah’s presence before he returned to Makkah.

6. How do some Muslims understand the importance of the Night Journey?
Some Muslims think it was a spiritual journey, not a physical one.

7. What does AH mean?
AH means ‘in the year of the Hijrah’. This is the time from which Islamic calendars date.

8. What did Muhammad ﷺ achieve during his time at Medinah?
He ruled Medinah and led the people to follow the will of Allah. All the idols at Makkah were destroyed and the city was reclaimed as a Muslim holy city.
9. List three things Muhammad ﷺ reminded Muslims about during his farewell speech.

Three things he reminded them of are:

- to live in peace
- to respect one another’s rights
- to remain true to the Qur’an.

10. What does the quote from the Qur’an 33:21 teach about Muhammad ﷺ?

The quote teaches that he was an excellent role model.

2.1.8 Books – Kutub

Page 44
1. What does the angel command Muhammad ﷺ to do in Surah 96?

He tells him to recite.

2. What is unique about the Qur’an compared with all the other books in Islam?

It is the only true word of Allah, it is in Arabic, the language in which it was revealed to Muhammad ﷺ.

3. What other sources of authority and wisdom are used within Islam?

The Tawrat, the Zabur, the Injil and the Suhuf-i-Ibrahim are other sources of authority and wisdom.

4. What source might Shi’a Muslims refer to that Sunni Muslims may not?

The Hadith of Ali is a source for Shi’a Muslims.

2.1.9 Angels (malaikah)

Page 45
1. Name three angels.

Jibra’il, Izra’il, Israfil and Mika’il – any of these would be correct.

2. What are angels made from?

They are made from divine light, Nur.

3. How are the angels different to humans?

Angels, unlike humans, are not free beings.

4. What did Allah create the angels to do?

They were created to carry out the will of Allah and to be completely obedient to him.

5. How may a person’s behaviour be affected by the recording angels?

A person may be made more aware of their behaviour knowing that the good and bad are being recorded. They would want to do more good to please Allah and to receive a favorable judgement.

2.1.10 Eschatological beliefs and teachings

Page 47
1. Which group of Muslims taught that humans have no free will at all?

Jabrites taught that humans have no free will.

2. What do the Mutazilites teach about predestination?

They teach that there could be no predestination.
3. Which Muslims today accept the Mutazilites’ teachings?
Shi’a accept the Mutazilites’ teachings.

4. How do Sunni beliefs on al-Qadr differ from Shi’a beliefs?
Sunni beliefs are that 120 days after conception, a baby receives its soul in the womb. It is then recorded what sex it is, its lifetime earnings and whether it will enter paradise or hell. Shi’a Muslims believe that Allah may change anything he wants at any time he wills it.

5. Summarise a quote from the Qur’an that talks about the separation of people at Judgement Day.
The righteous will be sent to live happy lives in paradise but disbelievers will be sent to a place of torment. This summarises Surah 30:14–16.

2.1.11 Life after death – Akhirah

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1. Who will be the first person to be judged?
Muhammad ﷺ will be the first person to be judged.

2. What leads to a good judgement?
Being good and obedient to Allah, living out a Muslim life will bring a good judgement.

3. What is the impact of a bad judgement?
A bad judgement leads to a place of punishment and eternal suffering in Jahannan. It is a place of darkness and fear. For sinful believers it is a place of purification until Allah chooses to move them on to heaven.

4. What is the period of time between death and the Day of Judgement called?
Barzakh is the time between death and the Day of Judgement.

5. State two ways these beliefs impact upon the lives of Muslims.
They will aim to lead obedient lives and not become obsessed with outside appearances or possessions. It may cause some Muslims to share their faith so that others convert to Islam and avoid bad judgement after death.

6. What Qur’an quote supports the belief that martyrs will go straight to be with Allah?
Surah 3:169 supports the belief that martyrs will go straight to be with Allah.