# 1.3 Introduction: Judaism, Christianity and Islam

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ **Total: 30 marks**

**KEY WORDS** Judaism • Christianity • Islam • covenant • Tawhid • Five Pillars • Eucharist • Shabbat

## Objective

Introduce three religions that trace themselves to Abraham: **Judaism** , **Christianity** and **Islam** : their beliefs about God, their sacred texts, and their main practices.

**You must be able to:**

- state the central beliefs of Judaism, Christianity and Islam
- name the sacred texts of each
- describe key practices: Shabbat, the Eucharist, the Five Pillars
- compare their ideas of God and revelation
- explain diversity within each



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## 1 Key knowledge and worked examples

| | Judaism | Christianity | Islam |
|---|---|---|---|
| God | one God, who made a **covenant** with Abraham and with Israel at Sinai | one God as Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit | one God, Allah; **Tawhid** (oneness) |
| key figures | Abraham, Moses | Jesus, believed to be the Son of God, who died and rose again | the Prophet Muhammad (c. 570–632 CE), the final prophet |
| texts | the Torah and the Hebrew Bible (Tanakh); the Talmud | the Bible: Old and New Testaments | the **Qur'an** ; the Hadith |
| practice | **Shabbat** from Friday evening to Saturday evening; Passover | prayer, baptism, the **Eucharist** (Holy Communion) | the **Five Pillars** |
| branches | Orthodox, Conservative, Reform | Catholic, Orthodox, Protestant | Sunni (the majority), Shi'a |

### The Five Pillars of Islam

1. **Shahada**: declaration of faith. 2. **Salah**: prayer five times a day. 3. **Zakat**: giving 2.5 % of qualifying wealth held for a year above a minimum (*nisab*) to those in need. 4. **Sawm**: fasting from dawn to sunset in Ramadan. 5. **Hajj**: pilgrimage to Mecca once in a lifetime if able.

**Worked example.** A Muslim has qualifying savings of 48,000 (above the nisab) held for a year. Zakat $= 48\,000 \times 0.025 = 1{,}200$.

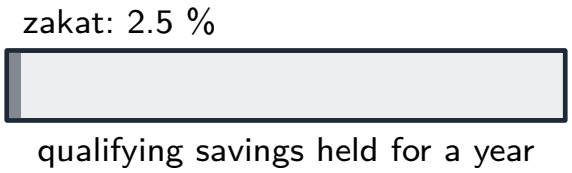
## 2 Practice

**2.1** State the meaning of **Tawhid**, and why it matters in Islam. [2]



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**2.2** A Muslim holds qualifying savings of 36,000 for a year, above the nisab. Calculate the zakat due, and explain **one** purpose of zakat. [3]




**2.3** Explain the meaning of **Shabbat** for many Jews, and **two** ways it is kept. [4]

**2.4** Compare how Judaism, Christianity and Islam understand **revelation**: how God makes himself known. [6]



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## 3 Exam-style questions

**3.1** *(Paper 1 style.)* Outline the **Five Pillars of Islam**. [7]

**3.2** *(Paper 1 style.)* Explain the meaning of the **Eucharist** for Christians, and why denominations understand it differently. [8]



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## Solutions

Marking: **M1** a correct method, **A1** the correct answer, **B1** an independent mark.

Each answer shows the steps, then the **result**.

**2.1**

Tawhid: the absolute oneness of God; it is the central belief: nothing can be equal to God, so worshipping anything else (shirk) is the greatest sin

**2.2**

$36\,000 \times 0.025 = \mathbf{900}$; it purifies wealth and reminds the giver that wealth belongs to God; it supports the poor and builds a fair community

**2.3**

Shabbat recalls God resting on the seventh day of creation and the covenant; a day of rest, family and worship; ways kept, e.g. lighting candles on Friday evening, a family meal with blessings (kiddush), synagogue services, no work; Orthodox and Reform Jews keep it in different ways (maximum 4)

**2.4**

Judaism: God revealed the Torah to Moses at Sinai; covenant; Christianity: God revealed himself most fully in Jesus, the Word made flesh; the Bible as inspired scripture; Islam: the Qur'an is God's word revealed to Muhammad through the angel Jibril; the final revelation; comparison: all three believe God speaks through prophets and scripture, but differ on Jesus and on the final revelation

**3.1**

shahada: the declaration of faith; salah: prayer five times a day, facing Mecca; zakat: giving 2.5 % of qualifying wealth; sawm: fasting from dawn to sunset in Ramadan; hajj: pilgrimage to Mecca once if able; a purpose of the Pillars, e.g. structure the life of submission to God; accurate terms used

**3.2**

the Eucharist recalls Jesus' last supper with bread and wine; "do this in remembrance of me"; Catholic view: the bread and wine become the body and blood of Christ (transubstantiation); Orthodox: a mystery of real presence; many Protestants: a memorial or spiritual presence; reasons for difference: interpretation of scripture; church history, e.g. the Reformation; clear conclusion on unity and diversity



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