

# Religious Education Knowledge Organiser

## Year 4

### Spring (ii)

## What are the origins and rituals of a mosque?

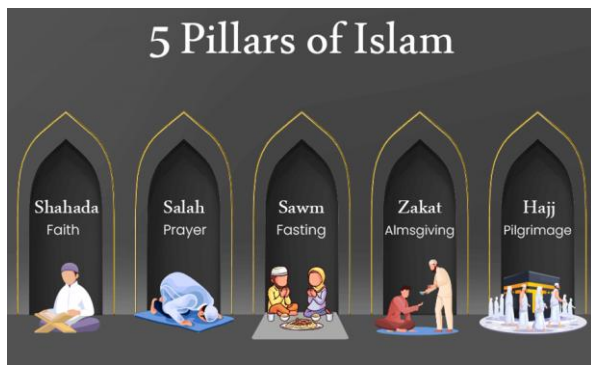
**Substantive Knowledge – Muslims worship in a mosque.**

### The Significance of Worship

Muslims believe worship is an act of self-restraint and spiritual cleansing that increases one's empathy for the less fortunate and enables bad habits to be controlled.

Public worship takes place in the mosque.

The muezzin (mu'adhhdhin) calls the people to prayer, sometimes from a minaret.



Salah (the five daily prayers which are the second Pillar of Islam) is led by the imam, a man chosen for his knowledge of the Qur'an.

At Friday prayers, also called Jumu'ah, the imam preaches a sermon using words from the Qur'an.

The Friday prayers are obligatory for men.

Before worship, Muslims must perform a ritual washing (wudu) to prepare for prayer:

Sunni Muslims wash their hands, mouth, nose, face, arms, forehead and hair, ears and feet three times - in that order.

Shi'ah Muslims wash their faces first, then arms and use the moisture to wipe their head and feet.



Upon entering the mosque, Muslims remove their shoes and sit on the floor facing the qiblah (prayer wall) which allows them to face Mecca during worship.



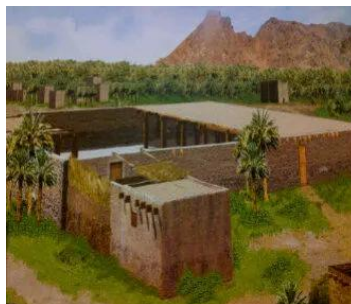
Muslim men at prayer.

Women may attend the mosque, but they must sit separately from men.

## The Mosque

The mosque is a meeting place for prayer, worship and community for Muslims.

The mosque originated in Medina and the first mosque is thought to have been the Prophet Muhammad's house.



A picture of what the Prophet's Mosque might have looked like 1400 years ago.

Feature	Symbolism/significance
Dome	This symbolises Allah's universe. It allows air to circulate, particularly in hot countries, and it is built over the prayer hall to allow one's voice to be amplified.
Minaret	This tall tower is where the call to prayer is heard from. The call to prayer begins with 'Allahu Akbar' meaning 'Allah is the greatest'. Now, recordings are used more so than the traditional method of a man (known as the muezzin) climbing to the tower to call Muslims to worship.
The star and crescent	This is sometimes seen at the top of a mosque, and is a commonly known symbol relating to Islam. The five pointed star reflects the Five Pillars of Islam which are central to the faith, and the crescent moon and stars are symbols relating to the greatness of the creator.
Prayer hall	This is simply a large hall that the men use for worship. It is a very important part of the mosque. There are no seats as Muslims worship and pray on the floor. Women will often worship on a balcony at the back of the prayer hall.
Washing area	The ritual washing, known as wudu, takes place in this area before worship. A water source will be available (sometimes a simple tap, or sometimes a fountain in a beautiful courtyard).
Mihrab	This is an alcove within the qiblah wall (prayer wall) which shows the direction of the Ka'bah at Mecca.
Minbar	This is a platform from which the imam preaches his sermon during Friday worship. There are usually three steps, and the imam will NOT go to the top as a sign of respect and humility before Allah.
Decoration	There are no images or statues of Allah in a mosque, or anywhere else. This is to stop the risk of idolatry and to allow worship of the true God, rather than representations of him. Often, calligraphy and decorative patterns will be used instead to decorate the mosque.

## Portable Knowledge – What we need to remember

Worship is important for most Muslims.

The mosque originated in Medina and the first mosque is thought to have been the Prophet Muhammad's house.

### Core Vocabulary

**fasting** – abstain from food and drink

**Charity** – raising money for those in need

**Infinite** – never ending, limitless