

# Religious Education Knowledge Organiser

Year 5

Spring (ii)

## Why is Ramadan a significant Muslim festival?

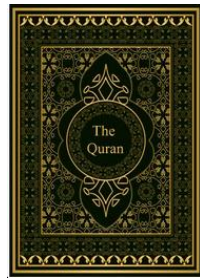
**Substantive Knowledge – Ramadan is the Muslim holy month of worship, study of the Qur'an, prayer, and fasting. It is a joyous celebration for Muslims.**

### Ramadan

Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar. The exact dates of Ramadan change every year. This is because Islam uses a calendar based on the cycles of the Moon.

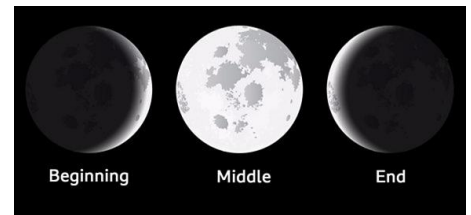


Prophet Muhammad



The Qur'an

Ramadan starts when the new Moon first appears in the night sky. Full moon marks the middle of Ramadan. As the moon wanes to the other side, Ramadan finishes.



Ramadan remembers the month the Qur'an (the Muslim holy book) was first revealed to the Prophet Muhammad. The actual night that the Qur'an was revealed is a night known as Lailut ul-Qadr ('The Night of Power').

Almost all Muslims try to give up bad habits during Ramadan. It is a time for prayer and good deeds. They will try to spend time with family and friends and help people in need.



### 5 Pillars of Islam



### Five Pillars of Islam

Ramadan and fasting (Sawm) is one of the five Pillars of Islam. The purpose of fasting is to purify and focus the mind and soul, and to increase one's piety and devotion to Allah. It is also a time for Muslims to come together and share in their faith.

### Fasting

During the month of Ramadan, Muslims won't eat or drink during the hours of daylight. This is called fasting. Children are not expected to fast until they reach puberty, usually around the age of 14. Most Muslims fast between dawn and sunset. Fasting allows Muslims to devote themselves to their faith. It is thought to teach self-discipline and reminds them of the suffering of the poor. The call to prayer signals the end of fasting each day.

## The Qur'an

The Qur'an contains quotes about fasting.

*Fasting is prescribed for you as it was prescribed for those before you, that you may attain taqwa (Q2:183)*



*Oh you who believe! Fasting is prescribed to you as it was prescribed to those before you, that you may learn piety and righteousness (Q 2:183)*

## Allah

Muslims consider Ramadan a time to focus on Allah, being a good Muslim and thinking of those who have less. Muslims fast during Ramadan to purify and focus the mind and soul and to increase one's piety and devotion to Allah.



It is also a time when Allah blesses his followers with increased guidance and mercy.

During Ramadan, it is common to have one meal (known as the suhoor), just before dawn and another (known as the iftar), directly after sunset.



## Eid-ul-Fitr

The end of Ramadan is marked by a big celebration called 'Eid ul-Fitr' (the Festival of the Breaking of the Fast).

Muslims are not only celebrating the end of fasting but thanking Allah for the strength he gave them throughout the previous month.

Mosques hold special services and a special meal is eaten during daytime (the first daytime meal for a month).

During Eid ul-Fitr, Muslims dress in their finest clothes, give gifts to children and spend time with their friends and family. Muslims will also give money to charity at Eid.

## Portable Knowledge – What we need to remember

Ramadan is the Muslim month of fasting and abstaining from pleasure during daylight hours in order to become closer to Allah.

Fasting is the giving up of food.

The Call to Prayer signals the end of the fasting each day.

Eid-ul-Fitr is the Muslim festival marking the end of Ramadan.

### Core Vocabulary

**Ramadan** – Ramadan is a Muslim holy month of worship, study of the Qur'an, prayer, and fasting.

**Fasting (Sawm)** – the giving up of food

**Eid-ul-Fitr** – the Muslim festival marking the end of Ramadan

**Zakat-al-Fitr** - a charitable donation of food before Eid prayer